

ADAM ŁAJTAR

A WEIGHT FROM SMYRNA(?) AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW

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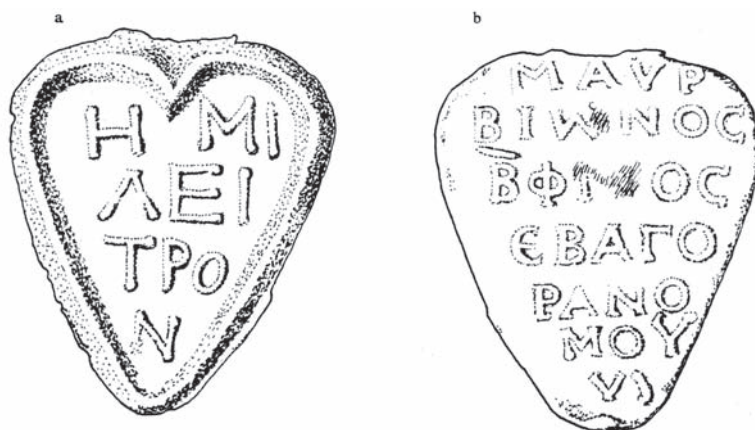


## A WEIGHT FROM SMYRNA(?) AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW\*

The weight under discussion is kept at the National Museum in Warsaw, Department of Ancient Art, inv. 199670. It is made of lead and shaped in the form of a heart. It measures 8.4 cm in height and 7.2 cm in width. A loop which was formerly at the top has broken away. The present weight of the object amounts to 146.80 g. Originally it must have been somewhat heavier. The weight is inscribed in Greek on both of its sides.

The weight was published by Wanda Zdrojewska, *Odważniki z okresu rzymskiego* [Weights from the Roman period], *Rocznik Muzeum Narodowego w Warszawie* [Annual of the National Museum at Warsaw] 24, 1980, pp. 139–140. Mrs. Zdrojewska provided a detailed description of the object together with a drawing showing both sides of it, and the transcript of the inscription in Greek majuscules. As far as I can see, her publication, delivered in Polish, went unnoticed while it deserves a closer look from an epigraphic point of view.

Here is the drawing of the weight after Zdrojewska and the reading of the inscription:



| side (a) | side (b)            |
|----------|---------------------|
| ήμί-     | Μ(άρκου) Αὐρ(ηλίου) |
| λει-     | Βίωνος              |
| τρο-     | β' φιλοσ-           |
| 4 ν      | εβ(άστου) ἀγο-      |
|          | ρανό-               |
|          | μου                 |
|          | Υ()                 |

(b) 3. ΒΦ . . ΟC Zdrojewska

(a) *Half a libra.*

(b) *Under Marcus Aurelius Bion, son of Bion, loving the Augusti, the agoranomos [- - -].*

I assume that the letter Y followed by an incurved line in (b) 7 is the beginning of an abbreviated word, but what the abbreviation stands for is obscure to me.

\* I would like to thank G. Petzl and Th. Corsten for their help.

The finding place of the weight is unknown and its provenance may be a matter of controversy. According to Mrs. Zdrojewska, weights taking a shape other than a rectangular plaque occur only in Syria. In consequence, she assigned the piece in question to a Syrian city. She did not take into account the inscription on side (b), which mentions a city *agoranomos* Marcus Aurelius Bion, who bore the title of φιλοσέβαστος = “loving the Augusti”. This man may quite probably be identified with Μ(ἄρκος) Α( ) Βίων φιλοσέβαστος who is mentioned in a fragmentary inscription from Smyrna as γραμματεὺς δήμου<sup>1</sup>. There are several factors speaking in favour of this identification: 1) Both men have the same *praenomen* and *cognomen*. 2) Both of them are designated φιλοσέβαστος. 3) They belong to the buleutic class; the different offices ascribed to them in the two inscriptions may be interpreted as testimony of a municipal cursus: the man was first γραμματεὺς δήμου and then ἀγορανόμος (or inversely). Provided the above identification is correct, the *gentilicium* of the man mentioned in I. K. 24,1 [Smyrna II,1], no. 678 should be read Α(ὐρήλιος)<sup>2</sup>. If we accept this identification, we have to conclude that the weight from the National Museum in Warsaw originated most probably from Smyrna. It is true that heart-shaped weights have not been attested for Smyrna so far, however, we know some pelta-shaped weights, which shows that the plaque was not a compulsory form for this kind of object in this Ionian city<sup>3</sup>.

The nomenclature of the man and the lettering suggest that I. K. 24,1 [Smyrna II,1], no. 678 and the weight from the National Museum in Warsaw are most likely to be dated to the second half of the 2nd cent. A.D.

### Özet

Yazıda, şimdi Vaşova Müzesi’nde bulunan ve 1980 yılında yayımlanan, kalp şeklindeki bir kurşun ağırlık üzerindeki yazı yeniden ele alınmaktadır. Ağırlık üzerinde şu ifadeler yer almaktadır:

Ön Yüzde: “Yarım birim (*libra*)”.

Arka Yüzde: “Bion oğlu, imparatorsever Marcus Aurelius Bion’un Pazaryeri görevlisi (*agoranomos*) olduğu dönemde”.

Yazar, İ.S. II. yüzyıla tarihlenmesi gereken bu ağırlık üzerinde adı geçen pazaryeri görevlisinin, Smyrna kökenli bir yazıtta adı geçen kişiyle özdeş olabileceğini ve bu nedenle eserin Smyrna’ya maledilebileceğini ileri sürmektedir.

Warsaw

Adam Łajtar

<sup>1</sup> I. K. 24,1 [Smyrna II,1], no. 678. This inscription is known only through a squeeze kept in the Kleinasiatische Kommission in Vienna. The stone itself seems to be lost.

<sup>2</sup> In his edition of I. K. 24,1 [Smyrna II,1], no. 678, G. Petzl hesitates between Α(ἴλιος) and Α(ὐρήλιος).

<sup>3</sup> An example from a German private collection with the inscription reading Μ(άρκου) Α(ὐρηλίου) Κλαδέρωτος ἀγορανόμου was recently published by P. Weiß, *Epigr. Anatol.* 34, 2002, pp. 141–146. The author cites (p. 144, notes 4 and 5) four further items of the same kind; cf. also eundem, *Asia Minor Studien* 1, 1990, p. 135, note 41.