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A NEWLY DISCOVERED DEDICATION TO ZEUS LABRAUNDOS
I.Labraunda 135

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Introduction

A short inscription, bearing a dedication to Zeus Labraundos, was found in Karian Labraunda during the archaeological campaign of 2007.¹ The inscription, which is cut onto a marble colonnette, was excavated from inside a concrete wall in the so-called South Thermae (Fig. 1). To serve as building material, the colonnette had been removed from where it was originally displayed, and there are no archaeological data available to identify the initial location.

The South Thermae, where the inscription was found, constitute the largest building complex inside the hieron, and appear to have been placed directly on top of the south-western section of the classical temenos wall.² The thermae are thought to date in the late-Roman period, possibly constructed in connection with an overall increase of activity recorded at Labraunda around 300 A.D.³

The appearance of the colonnette is rather coarse and the surface has not been smoothened. There are still clear visible marks from a toothed chisel. The dimensions of the colonnette are 14.3 cm in diameter and 22 cm in preserved height. It is not possible to estimate the original height.

Date and layout of the letter-forms

The letter-forms seem to belong in the early Imperial period. The letters are fairly even in size and measure 2–2.5 cm in height and c. 2 cm in width. The height of the inscription is 11 cm and the preserved length is 18 cm. The interlinear intervals are c. 1 cm. The disposition of the inscription is well made with uniform lines and consistent interspaces between the letters (c. 1 cm wide). The number of letters per line is not fixed, and based on the restoration of lines 2–4, the number of letters vary between 7–10.

The letters are cut with moderate to large apices but on *alpha*, *epsilon*, *eta*, *iota* and *psi-lon* they are particularly enlarged. Comparisons are available in *I.Labraunda* 20, 34, 106–107, 110–113, 130, all dated by J. Crampa to the (early) Imperial period; predating the middle of the first century A.D.⁴

[]νσ[]
Διὶ Λα[β]ρα[ύ]-
δῷ εὐχὴν [ἀ]-
4 νέθηκ[εν]

- -]ys[made (the) dedication to Zeus Labraundos.

¹ For discussions on the inscription I thank Wolfgang Blümel and Luise and Malcolm Errington. For a preliminary report on the results of the excavation in 2007, see Blid 2008, 126, 128.

² Blid 2006–2007, 246.

³ A. Westholm suggested a construction date in the late fourth century, see *Labraunda* I:2, 95; this date has been changed by more recent studies on the activity at Labraunda in late antiquity, Blid 2011.

⁴ *Labraunda* III:2, pls. 4:20, 10:34, 27:106–107, 28:110–113, 31:130.

Commentary

The name of the dedicant has in large parts been damaged. The consistent form of the lines and letters makes it, however, convincing that the remaining *yspsilon* and the dotted *sigma*, which is rather certain, constitute the third and fourth letters of the first line. At Labraunda there are two names known from inscriptions, dating to the Imperial period, which could match this letter-combination. The name Χρυσάωρ⁵, which is a very common name in the region in the period⁶, and the feminine name Χρύσιον, known only from one other inscription at Labraunda.⁷

To my knowledge, *I.Labraunda* 135 is the only inscription recorded at Labraunda, which has been cut onto a colonnette or column. I suggest that this particular colonnette once formed a freestanding monument, perhaps serving as a base for a small statue or statuette. A location within a larger architectural context should probably be ruled out due to the colonnette's small dimensions.

Literature cited

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Özet

2007 yılının Labraunda kazıları sırasında Güney Hamamları'nda yazıtlı bir küçük sütun bulundu. Geç antik devirde bir hamam duvarında ikinci kez kullanılmış ve tahrif olmuş olan bu sütuncuk üzerinde, erken imparatorluk dönemine ait, Zeus Labraundos için kısa bir adak yazısı yer almaktadır: “(filanca kişi) bu adağı Zeus Labraundos'a (sundu)”.

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⁵ *I.Labraunda* 20 and 65. *I.Labraunda* 35 also mentions a certain Ἰως Εὐτύχου. Crampa has dated this inscription to the Hadrianic period.

⁶ *Labraunda* III:2, 134.

⁷ *I.Labraunda* 76.

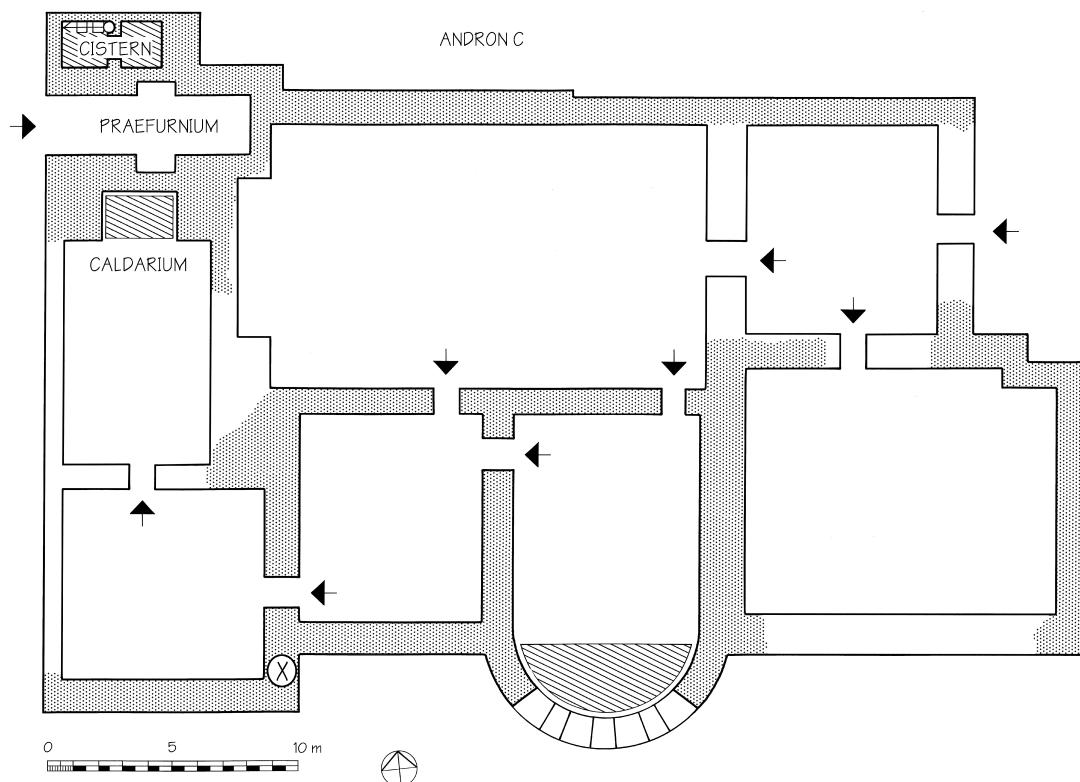


Fig. 1. Plan of the South Thermae, X marks the findspot of *I.Labraunda* 135



Fig. 2. Photograph of the colonnette



Fig. 3. Impression of *I.Labraunda* No. 135