

TOLGA ÖZHAN

TWO INSCRIBED PEDESTALS FROM ASSOS

aus: *Epigraphica Anatolica* 44 (2011) 170–172

© Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn

TWO INSCRIBED PEDESTALS FROM ASSOS

The two inscribed statue pedestals introduced in this article were found in the *bouleuterion* of Assos during the course of the 2005 field season¹. It seems that these two pedestals were moved to the *bouleuterion* in the Byzantine period from the agora where they must have been first erected. They must have been re-used to build the diagonal walls inside the *bouleuterion* in the Byzantine period².

1. Honour to a city patron

A large pedestal of gray marble with upper mouldings. It is damaged on all sides. The inscription is engraved on the narrow face of the pedestal. There is a large mortise on its top. Measurements including the moulding: h. 0.385; w. 1.05; th. 1.83. Available measurements of the register: h. 0.20; w. 0.46. The measurements of the register determined from the undamaged side: h. 0.20; w. 1.02. Height of the letters: 0.02 to 0.035.

Date: early Imperial period

ὁ δῆμος καὶ οἱ πραγμ]ατευόμενοι Ῥωμαῖοι
[ca. 20 δημαρχικῆς ἐξουσίας
[ca. 15 καὶ π]άτρωνα τῆς πόλεως

³ The phrase καὶ π]άτρωνα τῆς πόλεως was probably preceded by τὸν εὐεργέτην or τὸν σωτήρα³. The only known city patron at Assos is Sextus Appuleius, the proconsul of Asia in the late 20s B.C.⁴

“The people and the Roman business-men (honoured) ... (holding) the tribunician power ... the patron of the city.”

The mention of *tribunicia potestas* (δημαρχικῆ ἐξουσία) makes it clear that the honorand was an emperor. In Assos, in most of the honorary inscriptions where the people and the *negotiatores* collaborate in honoring somebody are datable to the reign of Augustus⁵. It is difficult to know which emperor was honoured by our inscription. However, one may think of a date in the Julio-Claudian period, a consideration which is also supported by the letter forms.

For πραγμ]ατευόμενοι Ῥωμαῖοι (*negotiatores*) at Assos see R. Merkelbach, *Die Inschriften von Assos* (I.K. 4), 1976 (= *IvAssos*), nos. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28 and J. Hatzfeld, *Les trafiquants italiens dans l'orient hellénique* (1919) 161–163 (cf. also the following inscription).

¹ I am indebted to Professor N. Arslan for granting me the permission to work on and publish these two inscriptions.

² For another inscription “found walled into the very large diagonal masonry at the north-east corner of the *bouleuterion*” at Assos see J. R. S. Sterrett, *Inscriptions of Assos*, in *Papers of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens 1882–1883* (1885), 30–31, no. 13 = *IvAssos*, no. 13.

³ For similar examples see C. Eilers, *Roman Patrons of Greek Cities* (2002), 191ff., Appendix I, *passim*.

⁴ *IvAssos*, no. 24a = C. Eilers, *op. cit.* 222, no. C63.

⁵ On emperors as patrons of cities see C. Eilers, *op. cit.*, 170 and 185–6. J. Nicols argues that the decline of patronage in the Greek East began with the edict of Augustus in 11 A.D.: *ZPE* 80 (1990), 81–100.

2. Honour to Germanicus and Agrippina the Elder

Right upper piece of a marble pedestal. Above the stone there are footprints and mortises for connecting two statues. Measurements: h. 0.45; w. 1.64; th. 0.63; Height of the letters 0.025 to 0.03.

Date: 18 A.D.

vac. ὁ δῆμος καὶ οἱ Ῥωμαῖοι vac.
[Γερ]μανικὸν Καίσαρα vac. θεὰν Ἀγριππείνα[v]

“The people and the Romans (honoured) Germanicus Caesar and the Goddess Agrippina.”

The inscribed pedestal, which probably bore the statues of Germanicus and Agrippina, should be dated to 18 A.D., the year when Germanicus visited Ilion and Assos in the Troad⁶. Though she was not deified by the Senate, in some inscriptions and coins from Mytilene, Methymna, Kos and Klazomenai (?), as in the case of our inscription, Agrippina the Elder is qualified as θεά⁷. In fact, we know some other female members of the Julio-Claudian family who were also honoured in Assos as goddesses: Iulia (the wife of Agrippa) as Aphrodite⁸ and Livia (the wife of Augustus) as *Thea Nea Hera*⁹.

Özet

Makalede, Bizans döneminde Assos agorasından bouleuterion'a taşınan iki adet mermer kaide üzerindeki onurlandırma yazıtları tanıtılmaktadır. Kuşku yok ki, bu kaidelerin üzerinde yazıtlarda adı geçen kişilerin heykelleri bulunmaktaydı.

Yazıtlardan ilkinde, adını bilmediğimiz, *tribunus* yetkisine sahip bir imparator, Assos halkı ve burada yaşayan Romalı işadamları (*negotiatores*) tarafından onurlandırılmaktadır. Benzeri yazıtlardan ve harf karakterinden hareketle, yazıtın İ.S. I. yüzyılının ilk yarısına tarihlenmesi mümkündür. Yazıtın korunmuş kısmının çevirisi şöyledir:

“Halk ve Romalı işadamları ... *tribunus* yetkisine sahip olan, kentin patronu ...'yı (onurlandırdılar)”.

İkinci yazıtta ise, Romalı ünlü komutan Germanicus Caesar ile karısı Büyük Agrippina onurlandırılmaktadır. Germanicus'un İ.S. 18 yılında Assos'u ziyaret ettiği bilindiğinden, onurlandırmanın bu ziyaret vesilesiyle gerçekleştirilmiş olması büyük bir olasılıktır. Yazıtı şöyle çevirmek mümkündür:

“Halk ve (kentte yaşayan) Romalılar, Germanicus Caesar ile Tanrıça Agrippina'yı (onurlandırdılar)”.

Çanak kale

Tolga Özhan

⁶ For this visit see Tacitus, *Annales* II. 54 and *IvAssos*, no. 26.15-17: ... καθὼς καὶ αὐτὸς (sc. Caligula) μετὰ τοῦ πατρὸς Γερμανικοῦ ἐπιβὰς πρώτως τῆι ἐπαρχείαι τῆς ἡμετέρας πόλεως ὑπέσχετο. Note however that Ulrike Hahn qualifies most inscriptions and coins honouring Agrippina Maior as θεά as posthumous and datable to the reign of Caligula (37–41 A.D.): *Die Frauen des römischen Kaiserhauses und ihre Ehrungen im griechischen Osten anhand epigraphischer und numismatischer Zeugnisse von Livia bis Sabina* (1994), 141.

⁷ For Agrippina Maior see U. Hahn, *op. cit.*, 130–150.

⁸ *IvAssos*, no. 16.

⁹ *IvAssos*, no. 19.



Inscription no. 1



Inscription no. 2