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## Re-discovered and new grave inscriptions from the necropoleis of Assos, Part I

*Tolga Özhan*

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TOLGA ÖZHAN

## Re-discovered and new grave inscriptions from the necropoleis of Assos, Part I

This article examines 16 grave inscriptions from the western and eastern necropoleis of the ancient city of Assos in the Troad. Of these, 13 inscriptions (nos. 1-5, 7-8, 11-16) were found at the western necropolis during the second term of the Assos excavations by a joint team of Turkish and German archaeologists between 1989 and 1994.<sup>1</sup> Three more were found either in secondary use or at the eastern necropolis (nos. 6 and 9-10, respectively) during the third term of excavations at Assos, and are presented here for the first time. Two grave inscriptions from the second campaign were included in the annual excavation reports of R. Stupperich published in *Asia Minor Studien*. Stupperich referred to inscription no. 13 in his report on the 1993 excavations, mentioning the name of the deceased and the stone's find spot.<sup>2</sup> Inscription no. 16 was briefly mentioned in the 1990 excavation report.<sup>3</sup> It made another appearance in Stupperich's 1996 article on the results of the archaeological excavations between 1989 and 1994.<sup>4</sup>

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1. The second term excavations between 1981 and 2005 were directed by Ü. Serdaroglu. Apart from inscriptions briefly mentioned in R. Stupperich's excavation reports (see n. 4, below), the only epigraphic publication regarding the funerary inscriptions discovered during these excavations is Abmeier 1990 (*BE* 1993, 440; *SEG* 40, 1112). It is a pleasure to thank Nurettin Arslan, the director of Assos excavations since 2006, for permitting me to publish these inscriptions, and Caner Bakan and Seçkin Akçiçek for their help taking photographs of the gravestones during nocturnal field work. I am also grateful to Elias Sverkos and René Hodot for their helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper and the editorial board of *Tekmeria*, especially Christina Kokkinia, for their additional suggestions and help at the earlier stages of the publication. Lastly, I would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments, corrections and additions, which significantly improved the final manuscript. Of course, all remaining mistakes are my own.

2. Stupperich 2006, 12 and 16.

3. Stupperich 1992, 8, plates 6, 3 and 5.

4. Stupperich 1996, 68. Several other grave inscriptions are mentioned in Stupperich's annual excavation reports; Ἀριστόλοχος Εὐαγόρα, see Stupperich 1993, 3 plate

With the exception of nos. 2 and 4, grave inscriptions found in the western necropolis during the second term of excavations (nos. 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 11-16) are also published in the catalogue of J. Freydank's doctoral dissertation on the Classical and Hellenistic periods of the western necropolis at Assos. Freydank transcribed the inscriptions in majuscule letters in his dissertation.<sup>5</sup> As for inscriptions nos. 2 and 4, I observed both stones lying in the western necropolis in 2006, when the third excavation term started under the direction of N. Arslan; hence, they must have been found during the second term of excavations. However, there is no record of them in Freydank's dissertation. Either Freydank saw the stones but overlooked the inscriptions or the stones were discovered after the joint Turkish-German project at Assos had ended in 1994.

Stupperich and Freydank refrained from commenting on these grave inscriptions, except for Freydank's onomastic discussion on inscription no. 16. Furthermore, a comparison between Freydank's readings and the inscriptions we identified at the site made it apparent that most of his transcriptions needed significant corrections and additions. It should be noted that Freydank's dissertation incorporates the texts of inscriptions unearthed at the western necropolis of Assos during the second term, as well as some that were found during the first term of excavations at the site, conducted by the Archaeological Institute of America between 1881 and 1883. Despite a time-consuming quest to identify the location of the inscriptions in the western necropolis alluded to in Freydank's notes, not all of them could be located.<sup>6</sup> Other grave

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4.2 (Hellenistic); cf. *SEG* 43, 875.1 (4th/3rd century BC ?); *LGPN* VA s.v. Ἀριστόλοχος (10) and Εὐαγόρας (9) (4th/3rd century BC); Ξενοδίκα, see Stupperich 1993, 26, plate 4.5 (Χενοδίκα in the publication); cf. *SEG* 43, 875.2; *LGPN* VA s.v. Ξενοδίκα (4th/3rd century BC).

5. No. 1: Freydank 2000, 296 no. 15; No. 3: Freydank 2000, 301 no. 43; No. 5: Freydank 2000, 304 no. 65; No. 7: Freydank 2000, 295 no. 2; No. 8: Freydank 2000, 295 no. 7; No. 11: Freydank 2000, 300 no. 34; No. 12: Freydank 2000, 299 no. 27; No. 13: Freydank 2000, 304 no. 60; No. 14: Freydank 2000, 299 no. 29; No. 15: Freydank 2000, 303 no. 56; No. 16: Freydank 2000, 137-138, 305.

6. Over time, many of these inscribed blocks became scattered around the necropolis and they now occupy different locations from where they were originally found. Some of the stones were deliberately removed from their original location and placed on the sarcophagi at the side of the necropolis street to make them more visible to visitors. I located some stones close to their original find spot but was unable to find some

inscriptions waiting to be re-discovered in the western necropolis will therefore be studied in a future paper.

These large gravestones, or “name blocks” (*Namensblöcke*) as Freydank<sup>7</sup> called them, were made of local andesite and are striking in their shape and function.<sup>8</sup> Freydank classified them into two primary groups. The first group consists of blocks with plain decoration referred to as “simple name blocks” (*einfache Namensblöcke*). This group consists of three subgroups.<sup>9</sup> Type A includes plain stones in the shape of a rectangular cuboid. Type B has a cubic shape with a “round bar” decoration engraved close to the upper edge of all faces. The characteristic feature of Type C is a protrusion that appears to form a base that takes up one-third of the block on all four sides.<sup>10</sup>

Name blocks “with coffer-like decoration” constitute the second main group.<sup>11</sup> This group is characterized by the shallow sunken rectangular panels on the stones. Freydank subdivided this group into four subgroups (Types A, B, C, and D), which mainly differ from each other in size and decorative style. Type D is distinguished from the others through its horizontal form and *kymation* decoration on the cornice.<sup>12</sup> With the exception of the marble grave stele

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of the others. That is not to say these stones are now missing; it is possible I was unable to see the inscription on some blocks due to their awkward position on the ground. Additionally, the rough surface of the local Assos stone sometimes makes it difficult to see the inscription in natural daylight, hence our nocturnal excursions.

7. Freydank (2000, 128) called these gravestones “name blocks” because they only bear the name of the deceased.

8. Sterrett 1885, 72: “The gravestones of Assos are peculiar. I have seen nothing like them elsewhere in Asia Minor, if I except a single stone at Tralleis.” Freydank (2000, 135-136) argues that block-like or flat rectangular gravestones are found in different parts of the Greek world and that the gravestones simply bearing the name of the deceased person, as those seen in Assos, were known in Boeotia in the late Classical and Hellenistic period.

9. Freydank 2000, 129.

10. Other typical examples of this subgroup at Assos are those found at the burial enclosure of “The Larichos family”, see *I.Assos* 48-54.

11. Freydank 2000, 133: “mit kassettenartiger Verzierung.”

12. Freydank (2000, 133, 134) identifies the *kymation* as Doric, but it is more likely Ionic. See also inscription no. 5 in this paper.

bearing inscription no. 16, the inscribed gravestones studied in this paper are all “name blocks”. The blocks numbered 1-4, 6-9, and 10 belong to the Type A subgroup of the “simple name blocks”, while 11, 12, 14, and 16 are included in the Type C subgroup of the same group. Gravestones 5, 13, and 15 fall into the category of gravestones “with coffer-like decoration”.

The discovery, during the Archaeological Institute of America’s 1881-1883 excavations, of two gravestones in their original place in the Larichos burial enclosure provided significant evidence on how these gravestones were used (fig. 1).<sup>13</sup> Further discoveries from the western necropolis during the second term of excavations have confirmed this practice. These large blocks were placed at ground level above the sarcophagi and stone urns – which were buried underground – but never directly on top of the lid. The blocks were supported by a layer of soil (covering the sarcophagus/stone urn), small stones or a flat pedestal (see inscription no. 9).<sup>14</sup> Therefore, the only visible component of a burial to a passer-by would have been the gravestone itself at ground level. Aside from the blocks’ primary function as grave markers, Freydank suggested that their upper surface may have served as an altar for dedications to the deceased.<sup>15</sup>

### 1. Grave inscription of Eratophanes

According to Freydank’s report, this large rectangular block, classified as belonging to the Type A subgroup of “simple name blocks”, was found in the debris in section D X a/5 of the western necropolis in 1991.<sup>16</sup> The block is intact and measures 49.5 cm high, 65 cm wide, and 60 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 3 cm and 5.5 cm (fig. 2).

Freydank’s transcription reads EPATΟΓΕΝΕΙ|A EMMI, which requires some corrections. The letter after the *omicron* in the first line is not a *gamma* but a *phi* with a vertical bar slightly protruding out of the circle and, instead of Freydank’s *epsilon*, the letter following this *phi* is an *alpha*, with a bar sloping to the right. Therefore, the transcription ought to be:

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13. Clarke, Bacon, Koldewey 1902, 280-281. These stones belong to Alektra, daughter of Larichos (*I.Assos* 51) and Larichos, son of Aikleidas (*I.Assos* 52).

14. See Stupperich 1996, 61; Freydank 2000, 127, 129, 130.

15. Freydank 2000, 136.

16. Freydank 2000, 296 no. 15.

Ἐρατοφανεί-  
α ἐμμί.

Translation: “I am of Eratophanes.”

The gravestone itself speaks by presenting its owner’s name as an adjective, i.e. Ἐρατοφανεία, which is formed from the anthroponym Ἐρατοφάνης with the -ειος suffix.<sup>17</sup> What is noteworthy about this inscription is that this is the first documented use of an adjective of possession in the Lesbian dialect.<sup>18</sup> Graves and other monuments that “speak” in the first person were common in the Greek world, especially during the Archaic period.<sup>19</sup> The typical formula for “speaking” funerary monuments is the use of the owner’s name in the genitive, usually accompanied by εἰμι.<sup>20</sup> However, in some instances the name of the deceased is given in the adjectival form instead of the genitive, as is the case in this inscription in Lesbian. This trait is also shared by other members of the Aeolic group, namely, Thessalian and Boeotian, where a patronymic adjective can be used as an adjective of possession.<sup>21</sup> In his monograph on the Lesbian dialect, Hodot pointed out the competition between the patronymic adjective and the genitive in private and public inscriptions.<sup>22</sup> The patronymic adjective and the genitive were simultaneously used in the Lesbian dialect beginning in the sixth/fifth century BC.<sup>23</sup> However, the patronymic adjective

17. On the construction of patronymic adjectives of personal names ending in -φάνης, see Hodot 1990, 215. The female counterpart of Ἐρατοφάνης, i.e. Ἐρατοφάνεια, is known from a grave inscription in the western necropolis of Assos, dated to the second half of the 4th century BC, see Abmeier 1990, 25 no. 2 (BE 1993, 440; SEG 40, 1112.2); LGPN VA s.v. Ἐρατοφάνεια (2nd half of the 4th century BC).

18. Without completely rejecting the possibility of its existence, Hodot (1990, 228) cautiously stated that there was no attestation of the adjective of possession in the Lesbian dialect.

19. On “speaking” artefacts, in general, see Burzachechi 1962, 3-54.

20. This was a popular formula used not only for funerary monuments but for any object “speaking” in the first person, see Jeffery 1961, 62; Guarducci 1967, 568 s.v. oggetti “parlanti”; Guarducci 1974, 601 s.v. oggetti “parlanti”.

21. See Bechtel 1921, 199, 297; cf. Hodot 1990, 228. On Thessalian patronymic adjectives, see Morpurgo-Davies 1968, 85-106.

22. See Hodot 1990, 224-229.

23. See Hodot 1990, 224.

dominated in the Troad and on the island of Lesbos until the beginning of the Hellenistic period.<sup>24</sup> As for the Aeolis, the use of the patronymic adjective disappeared almost completely from the fourth century BC onwards. Unlike its regular use in the Lesbian dialect, the distinctive purpose of the patronymic adjective (*Ἐρατοφανεία*) in the present inscription and of the patronymic adjective peculiar to Assos in general (cf. inscription no. 7), is that it also serves as an adjective of possession.

In this inscription, *Ἐρατοφανεία* is a feminine adjective in the nominative singular. It could be assumed that the adjective *Ἐρατοφανεία* referred to a word such as *στάλλα*, as in a grave inscription from the ancient city of Kebren in the Troad.<sup>25</sup> However, based on two unpublished grave inscriptions on cubic blocks at Assos, which probably date to the Late Archaic period, it is proposed here that the omitted word is *τρόπεζα*, the Lesbian equivalent of the Attic *τράπεζα*, references to which were provided by only a few ancient writers.<sup>26</sup>

Date: The lettering suggests that the inscription dates to the fifth century BC; the tailed *rho* is prominent.<sup>27</sup> This form has not been previously attested in the inscriptions of Assos. However, it has been seen elsewhere in the Troad; it is attested in an inscription on a statue base from Neandreia, dating from the fifth century BC.<sup>28</sup>

## 2. Grave inscription of Simmeia

This large rectangular “simple name block” was initially discovered in 2006 at

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24. See Hodot 1990, 225, table VIII.5.

25. See Collitz 1884, 114 no. 307; Buck 1955, 213 no. 24; Schwyzer 1961, 306 no. 638; Jeffery 1961, 362 no. 11; Hodot 1990, 304 TRO 302; Miller 2014, 234 no. 20.2.

26. To my knowledge, such an early epigraphic reference to funerary *trapezai* was unknown prior to the discovery of these two soon-to-be-published grave inscriptions from Assos. Although Freydank failed to notice the word *τρόπεζα* on the gravestones in Assos, he rightly identified these gravestones as *trapezai*; see Freydank 2000, 136. An epigraphic attestation of the term *trapeza* in a funerary context from the Roman Imperial period comes from Lycian Idebessos: TAM II 846; cf. Kubinska 1968, 40, 42, 117, 123. On funerary *trapeza*, see e.g. Kurtz, Boardman 1971, 168, 179, 235; Kosmopoulou 2002, 22–23; Palagia 2016, 379.

27. On the tailed rho, see Jeffery 1961, 34.

28. Schwertheim 1994, 40, no. 2, with references to earlier editions.

the western necropolis.<sup>29</sup> The block is undamaged, and the inscription was engraved on the flat top. It measures 30 cm high, 70.5 cm wide, and 68 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 2.5 cm and 5 cm (fig. 3).

### Σιμμεία

This is the first documented appearance of the name Σιμμεία, which could be a female name derived from the patronymic adjective of Σίμιος.<sup>30</sup> It is the only known name related to σιμός (*snub-nosed*) documented in Assos at present. Nonetheless, variants are epigraphically attested in the Troad, spanning a wide range of dates between the third quarter of the fourth century BC and the first century BC. Examples are Σίμαλος<sup>31</sup> in Ilion and Lampsakos, Σιμίας<sup>32</sup> in Lampsakos and Scepsis, Σίμος<sup>33</sup> in Abydos and Parion and Σίμων<sup>34</sup> in Alexandreia Troas, Abydos and Rhoiteion. Additionally, not far off the coast of Assos, on the island of Lesbos, the names Σιμίας and Σίμων were found in Mytilene and Σιμμίνας in Methymna.<sup>35</sup> Other personal names in Assos formed with expressive gemination<sup>36</sup> are Φίλικκα,<sup>37</sup> Μόρμωττος,<sup>38</sup> Ασίννω,<sup>39</sup> Αμεννάμενος,<sup>40</sup>

29. On this block, see introduction above.

30. For Σίμιος, see Masson 1986, 222 = Masson 1990, 554; Masson 1989, 65 = Masson 2000, 59. For related names derived from σιμός, see Bechtel 1898, 25; Bechtel 1917, 490-491. For expressive gemination in the Lesbian dialect, see Hodot 1990, 88-89; Hodot 2021, 40.

31. LGPN VA s.v. Σίμαλος (3, 4).

32. LGPN VA s.v. Σιμίας (8, 9, 10).

33. LGPN VA s.v. Σίμος (45, 46, 47).

34. LGPN VA s.v. Σίμων (24, 25, 26).

35. LGPN I s.v. Σιμίας (29) (Roman Imperial period), Σιμμίνας (1: Hellenistic; 2: 3rd/2nd century BC), and Σίμων (37) (7th/6th century BC).

36. Cf. Hodot 2018, 464.

37. I.Assos 59; cf. Hodot 1990, 307 ASS 316 (beginning of the 2nd century BC); LGPN VA s.v. Φίλικκα (Hellenistic); Hodot 2021, 40.

38. I.Assos 68; cf. Hodot 1990, 89, 306 ASS 307 (3rd century BC?); LGPN VA s.v. Μόρμωττος (1) (Hellenistic).

39. I.Assos 49; cf. Hodot 1990, 89, 306 ASS 304 (3rd century BC); LGPN VA s.v. Ασίννω (3rd century BC); Hodot 2021, 40.

40. I.Assos 53; cf. Hodot 1990, 89, 307 ASS 314 (beginning of the 2nd century BC); LGPN VA s.v. Αμεννάμενος (3rd/2nd century BC).

Ἄμυννάμενος<sup>41</sup>, Δικάπφω,<sup>42</sup> Ὄννίδας,<sup>43</sup> Κλεοθθίς,<sup>44</sup> and Μικκύλος.<sup>45</sup>

Date: The lettering can be compared to that on a statue base from Neandria, mentioned in the previous inscription (no. 1) and the excessive outer slanting strokes of the *sigma* and *mu* suggest a date in the fifth century BC.

### 3. Grave inscription of Aigidaia

This large rectangular Type A block was discovered in section A VII of the western necropolis in 1994.<sup>46</sup> Although it was found in the debris, the block is intact. The stone measures 47 cm high, 75 cm wide, and 74.5 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 3 cm and 5.5 cm (fig. 4). Freydank's reading is correct: ΑΙΓΙΔΑΙΑ.

Aīgidaía

The female name Αīgidaía was previously unattested. It should be compared to the second element of the compound name Φιλαιγίδης, which is attested epigraphically in a name catalogue from Imbros(?), dating from the fourth/ third century BC.<sup>47</sup> Another Philaigides comes from Anaphylostos, a deme of Athens.<sup>48</sup> Due to its second element, Φιλ-αιγίδης finds a place among the names related to ὄαξ (goat) on Bechtel's list, along with the names Αīγίτας and Αīγίων.<sup>49</sup> Most likely this is a female name derived from Αīγίδας, the dialectal variant of Αīγίδης (cf. the female name Αīπαία<sup>50</sup> from Assos and Αīμφηρ[ει]δαία or Αīμφηρ[ι]δαία in inscription no. 5).

Date: Probably fifth century BC

41. *I.Assos* 61; cf. Hodot 1990, 307 ASS 317 (2nd century BC); *LGPN* VA s.v. Ἄμυννάμενος (Hellenistic).

42. Abmeier 1990, 26 no. 4; cf. Hodot 1999, 383 no. 1 (beginning of the 4th century BC?); *LGPN* VA s.v. Δικαπφώ (3rd century BC?); Hodot 2021, 38, 40.

43. Abmeier 1990, 27 no. 6; cf. Hodot 1999, 383 no. 2 (beginning of the 4th century BC?); *LGPN* VA s.v. Ὄννίδας (4th century BC?).

44. See inscription no. 6 in this paper.

45. See inscription no. 16 in this paper.

46. Freydank 2000, 301 no. 43.

47. *LGPN* I s.v. Φιλαιγίδης.

48. *LGPN* II s.v. Φιλαιγίδης.

49. Bechtel 1917, 24.

50. Abmeier 1990, 24 no. 1; cf. BE 1993, 440.

#### 4. Grave inscription of Phaeia

This formerly-overlooked inscribed rectangular block was found lying upside down on the side of the street marking the western necropolis in 2006.<sup>51</sup> It belongs to the Type A subgroup of “simple name blocks”. There is a large depression at the bottom of the block. This entire block measures 33.5 cm high, 73 cm wide, and 71.5 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 5.8 cm and 6.4 cm (fig. 5 and fig. 6).

Φάεια

Φάεια is a previously unrecorded hypocoristic of the female counterparts of male compound names ending in -φάης, such as Ματροφάης, Ξενοφάης, and Σκαμανδροφάης, attested in the Troad: Ματροφάεια, Ξενοφάεια and Σκαμανδροφάεια, none of which have been epigraphically attested yet.<sup>52</sup> At Assos, we have encountered the male name Δαφάης in a grave inscription from the Hellenistic period.<sup>53</sup>

Date: The letter *phi* with a vertical bar slightly protruding from the circle, which can be compared with the *phi* in inscription no. 1, suggests that this inscription dates to the fifth century BC.

#### 5. Grave inscription of Amphereidaia or Ampheridaia

As Freydank reported, this rectangular gravestone with “kassettenartiger Verzierung” was found in sector B VII b/10 in 1994.<sup>54</sup> It was reused in the foundation of Roman grave no. CBK XIX. Freydank describes the stone as follows: “Der querformatige Stein ist auf mindestens einer Seite mit einer zweistufigen Kassette verziert. Die angearbeitete Basisplatte ist in drei horizontale Ebenen gegliedert. Das Gesims ist wohl umlaufend mit einem dorischen Kymation geschmückt. In der innersten Kassette befinden sich die Reste einer Inschrift.”<sup>55</sup> The gravestone’s height is 58 cm, and the width is 60.5 cm. The depth of the stone is unmeasurable and the height of the letters varies between 2.5 cm and 3.5 cm (fig. 7).

51. On this block, see introduction above.

52. Names ending in -φάης were common in the Aeolis, see Robert 1966, 64. Cf. Masson 1996, 89 = Masson 2000, 245. Also, see Hodot 1990, 123.

53. *I.Assos* 67; *LGPN* VA s.v. Δαφάης (Hellenistic).

54. Freydank 2000, 304 no. 65.

55. On the erroneous identification of the type of *kymation*, see n. 12.

Freydank's reading is -ΝΗΣ-. However, the following letters can be read:

ΑΜΦΗΡ[<sup>ca. 2</sup>]ΔΑΙΑ

After *rho*, there is a damaged area that could fit two letters, at most. If my eyes do not deceive me, a severely-worn *delta* follows the damaged area. The left-hand slanting stroke of the *delta* is more apparent than the other strokes.

Considering the faint *delta*, this ought to be a female name derived from a name ending in -ίδας (cf. inscription no. 3). Names beginning with Ἄμφηρ- and ending in -ίδης can be found in the *LGPN*: Ἄμφηρείδης (from the mythological name Ἄμφηρης), and Ἄμφηρίδης (probably, from Ἄμφηρις).<sup>56</sup> The only known Ἄμφηρείδης was an Athenian who was recorded in a name list from 138/7 BC.<sup>57</sup> There are four entries for the name Ἄμφηρίδης in the *LGPN*.<sup>58</sup> Of these, three individuals are attested in inscriptions dating between the early fifth century BC and the third century BC on the island of Thasos and another Ἄμφηρίδης is recorded on a stele from the fourth(?)/third century BC on Paros. Most likely, we have the name Ἄμφηρ[ει]δαία or Ἄμφηρ[ι]δαία on this gravestone in Assos.

In his study, Freydank listed a total of twenty gravestones with “*kassettenartiger Verzierung*”.<sup>59</sup> Only five (including the stone described above) bear a grave inscription, and all these inscriptions belong to women.<sup>60</sup>

Date: Fourth century BC

## 6. Grave inscription of Kleotthis

In 2019, this large Type A block was found embedded in the Byzantine wall during trial-trenching at the location where the current visitor centre was later constructed, opposite the western necropolis. The stone is undamaged and in good condition. Its height is 30 cm with a depth of 57 cm, and a width of 57,5 cm. The height of the letters varies between 4 cm and 6 cm (fig. 8).

56. On Ἄμφηρείδης and Ἄμφηρίδης, see Minon 2010, 305 and n. 100.

57. *LGPN* II s.v. Ἄμφηρείδης.

58. *LGPN* I s.v. Ἄμφηρίδης.

59. Freydank 2000, 302-305.

60. Grave inscription of Timantha, daughter of Eratogenes (3rd century BC): *I.Assos* 58; cf. Hodot 1990, 307 ASS 312 (ca. 200 BC?); grave inscription of Xenodika: Stupperich 1993, 26, plate 4.5 (SEG 43 875.2); Grave inscription of Peristera, daughter of [<sup>2</sup>]stratidas: see inscription no. 15 below; grave inscription of Phileia: see inscription no. 13 below.

### Κλεοθθίς

App. crit.: An upside-down reversed *lambda* (V) and a traditional *lambda* (Λ) were engraved over each other. The mason appears to have erroneously engraved the reversed *lambda* then without razoring, corrected it by engraving the conventional *lambda* over the wrong one.

The only previous epigraphic attestation of the name Κλεοθθίς was found in a grave inscription from Methymna on the island of Lesbos; it dates to the third century BC(?).<sup>61</sup> Based on the fact that the male name Κλέομης is the hypocoristic of Κλεομένης, Hodot counted Kleotthis (Κλέοθθίς) as a male name, which is the hypocoristic of a compound of Κλεο- and a second element beginning with *theta*: e.g. Κλεόθεμις.<sup>62</sup> However, the editors of the first volume of the *LGPN* preferred to leave this name's gender unspecified (Κλεοθθίς).<sup>63</sup> On the other hand, unlike the entry in the hard copy, the name Kleotthis is counted as a female name (Κλεόθθίς) (*sic.*, certainly a typographical mistake) on the website of *LGPN*.<sup>64</sup> In our case, however, it is not possible to determine the gender of Kleotthis of Assos.

Regarding the spelling θθ in Κλέοθθίς and Κρήθθιος (genitive), both from Methymna, Hodot pointed out that:<sup>65</sup> “Il se pourrait que dans ces hypocoristiques la consonne géminée notée par -θθ-, en contraste avec celle de Κίτθω Ερμωνεία MYT 104 (III<sup>e</sup> s. également), ne soit plus une occlusive. On devrait alors conclure qu’au III<sup>e</sup> s. en lesbien le processus de spirantisation des aspirées était commencé, au moins sur une partie du domaine, et au moins pour l’ancien /tʰ/.”

Date: Fourth century BC

### 7. Grave inscription of Oligidas and Agasikles

This Type A rectangular block was discovered in the debris in the excavation

61. *IG XII* (2) 534; cf. Hodot 1990, 297 MAT 101; *LGPN* I s.v. Κλεοθθίς.

62. Hodot 1990, 64 n. 77, 78, 89, and 113. Hodot 1990, 105-106: “Les thèmes en -ις, -ιδος recouvrent diverses catégories de lexèmes: noms d’agents et adjectifs feminins, noms de déesses, noms de personnes (composés ou hypocoristiques, masc. aussi bien que féminins)....”

63. *LGPN* I s.v. Κλεοθθίς.

64. Entry ID: V1-42608, available at: [http://clas-lgpn2.classics.ox.ac.uk/cgi-bin/lgpn\\_search.cgi?id=V1-42608](http://clas-lgpn2.classics.ox.ac.uk/cgi-bin/lgpn_search.cgi?id=V1-42608) (Accessed 13 February 2021).

65. Hodot 1990, 78.

of section A VII of the western necropolis in 1994.<sup>66</sup> The block's dimensions are 35 cm in height, 79.5 cm in width, and 79.5 cm in depth. The height of the letters varies between 5 cm and 8.5 cm (fig. 9).

Freydank's transcription of this inscription as ΑΙΓΙΔΑΣ | ΑΓΑΣΙΚΛΕΙΑ | ΕΜΜΙ | Δ, which is not entirely correct. Freydank overlooked the first letter on the first line; this is an *omicron*, abraded with time but still readable. The subsequent letter is not an *alpha* because there is no straight bar (compare with the *alpha* before the last *sigma*). It is a *lambda*. The *delta* read by Freydank on the fourth line is also problematic; its shape does not look like a *delta*, instead, it is a *gamma*. It could be the first letter of the name of another deceased individual whose engraving was abandoned. My reading is:

Ὀλιγίδας  
Ἀγασικλεία  
Ἐμμί. <sup>vac.</sup>  
4 Γ <sup>vac.</sup>

App. crit.:1 A scratch on the stone before the second *iota* is deceptive, causing the *iota* in the photograph to look like an *eta* with a partially worn left vertical bar.

Translation: “Oligidas. I am of Agasikles.”

The sarcophagus to which this inscribed gravestone belonged contained the remains of two male individuals named Oligidas and Agasikles. The lettering of the inscription on the first line is unlike the second and third lines. This suggests that Oligidas was the first owner of the stone and the inscription for Agasikles was added later.<sup>67</sup> This gravestone is not the only one in Assos bearing multiple names; several others are known.<sup>68</sup> The second term excavations at the western necropolis confirmed the existence of sarcophagi containing multiple burials; this practice was not uncommon at Assos.<sup>69</sup>

66. Freydank 2000, 295 no. 2.

67. Cf. Freydank 2000, 295: “Auf der flachen Seite, also offenbar der Oberseite des Steins befand sich eine vierzeilige Inschrift, von der die erste Zeile nach Buchstabenform und Zeilenführung älter zu sein scheint.”

68. See *I.Assos* 59 and inscription no. 9 in this paper.

69. See Freydank 2000, 124-127.

’Ολιγίδας is the only personal name found in the whole Aeolic domain of Asia derived from the adjective ὄλιγος (*little, small*). Simple and compound names associated with ὄλιγος are uncommon in the Greek world in general.<sup>70</sup> We have ’Ολίγος<sup>71</sup> (late archaic period, Elis?), ’Ολιγήδας<sup>72</sup> (fifth century BC, Boeotian Thespiae), ’Ολι(y)ανθίδης<sup>73</sup> (third century BC(?), Athens), and ’Ολιγαιθος<sup>74</sup> (ancestor of ’Ολιγαιθίδαι, Corinth).

Αγασικλεία is the adjective of possession for the name Ἀγασικλῆς (Αγασικλῆς with Lesbian barytonesis) in the feminine singular nominative, (cf. inscription no. 1). As suggested in the discussion of inscription no. 1, this feminine adjective may have referred to the omitted word τρόπεζα. Before this inscription was found, the name Ἀγασικλῆς was unattested in Assos. Moreover, it is uncommon in Asia Minor; only four individuals from Erythrai in Ionia, one from Heraclea Pontica, and one from Halicarnassos in Caria bearing the name have been documented.<sup>75</sup> It appears that names ending in -κλῆς were not popular at Assos. The only other known name with -κλῆς from Assos was Βρησικλῆς, father of Amynamenos, who was a judge sent to Stratonikeia in Caria.<sup>76</sup>

Date: Fourth century BC

## 8. Grave inscription of Nikasis

This block classified as Type A by Freydank was discovered in the debris in section C IX h/8-9 of the western necropolis in 1991.<sup>77</sup> The large stone measures 30.5 cm high, 65 cm wide, and 62 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 3.6 cm and 3.9 cm (fig. 10).

70. Cf. Bechtel 1917, 347.

71. *LGPN* III.A s.v. ’Ολίγος. For the same Oligos, there is another entry in *LGPN* IIIB s.v., based on the discussion of L. Dubois in *BE* 1992, 265, who reads the patronymic of Oligos as Ἀπριχίδας, rather than ’Ολιπριχίδας, and counts this name as Boeotian, cf. *SEG* 42, 382.

72. *LGPN* IIIB s.v. ’Ολιγήδας.

73. *LGPN* II s.v. ’Ολιανθίδης.

74. *LGPN* IIIIA s.v. ’Ολιγαιθος.

75. See *LGPN* VA and VB s.v. Ἀγασικλῆς.

76. *I.Assos* 8, ll. 16 and 24. Cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Βρησικλῆς.

77. Freydank 2000, 295 no. 7.

Freydank's transcription is NIKAΣΟΣ. However, the letter preceding the last *sigma* is not an *omicron* but an *iota*. Therefore, the transcription should read:

Νικασις

A name that occurs sproradically, Nikasis is the hypocoristic of a male compound name beginning with Νικαστ- or a female name.<sup>78</sup> Another Nikasis from Assos is Tiberius Claudius Nikasis (Τι. Κλ. Νείκασις), a man who acquired Roman citizenship and is recorded in an inscription dated to the Roman Imperial period.<sup>79</sup> The name Nikasis was found at two other places in the Aeolic domain of Asia: Νίκασις (Νείκασις on the stone) from Methymna on the island of Lesbos and Νικασίς (Νεικασίς on the stone) from Myrina in the Aiolis; both individuals were female.<sup>80</sup>

Date: Fourth/third century BC

#### 9. Grave inscription of Sphodrias and Agias

This rectangular Type A block belongs to a sarcophagus from the eastern necropolis of Assos, that was illegally excavated by smugglers of antiquities in 2017. It was found with its unsophisticated rectangular pedestal supporting the block above the buried sarcophagus. The gravestone is undamaged. Its dimensions are 34 cm in height, 68 cm in width, and 68 cm in depth. The height of the letters is 3.5 cm. The pedestal's height is 18 cm with a width of 74 cm, and a depth of 71 cm (fig. 11).

Σφοδρίας  
Ἄγιας

This is the first epigraphic attestation of the names Sphodrias and Agias in Assos.<sup>81</sup> Σφοδρίας is not very common; there are only fifteen entries for this

78. Cf. Bechtel 1917, 330. On personal names ending in -ις, see above n. 62.

79. *IAssos* 28 ll. 6 and 17; *LGPN* VA s.v. Νίκασις.

80. Methymna: *LGPN* I s.v. Νίκασις (Roman Imperial period); Myrina: *LGPN* VA s.v. Νικασίς (2nd/1st century BC).

81. On the -ίας suffix forming a sobriquet, see Chantraine 1968, 93; cf. Masson 1981, 10 = Masson 1990, 382.

name in the *LGPN*, predominantly dating to the Hellenistic period.<sup>82</sup> Another Sphodrias from the Aeolic domain of Asia appears in a grave inscription from Mytilene dating to the Imperial period.<sup>83</sup>

Agias is epigraphically found in several cities of Asia Minor.<sup>84</sup> In the Troad, Agias was recorded as the name of a freedman in a fragmentary sale contract from Alexandreia Troas dating to the second half of the first century BC. In addition, an Agias from Methymna on the island of Lesbos, which is directly opposite Assos, is found in an inscription from the early third century BC that lists the names of mercenaries.<sup>85</sup> A grave inscription from Mytilene dated to the second century BC (?) also records this name.<sup>86</sup>

Date: Fourth/third century BC

#### 10. Grave inscription of Soter

This rectangular Type A block was found southeast of the sarcophagus mentioned in the previous section at the eastern necropolis of Assos in 2018 during a visit to assess the damage from the illegal excavation. The block is slightly broken on the right edge, but the inscription is in good condition. It measures 30 cm high, 50 cm wide, and 39 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 2 cm and 3 cm (fig. 14).

Σωτήρ

Prior to the discovery of this inscription, the name Soter was unattested in Assos.<sup>87</sup>

Date: Fourth/third century BC

#### 11. Grave inscription of Kydrantha

Found in 1993, this Type C block was used as a cornerstone in the wall of a Roman grave in section C VIII b/7.<sup>88</sup> It still stands upside-down where

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82. See *LGPN* I-VA s.v. Σφοδρίας. For related names, see Bechtel 1917, 413.

83. *IG* XII (2) 420; cf. *LGPN* I s.v. Σφοδρίας (1).

84. For the appearance of this name in Asia Minor, see *LGPN* VA-C s.v. Ἀγίας.

85. *IG* II2 1956 l. 109; cf. *LGPN* I s.v. Ἀγίας (14).

86. *IG* XII (2) 336; cf. *LGPN* I s.v. Ἀγίας (15).

87. For this name in Asia Minor, see *LGPN* VA-C s.v. Σωτήρ.

88. Freydank 2000, 300 no. 34.

archaeologists found it. To reuse this block, the base, which is characteristic of Type C blocks, was cut off. The stone's surface bearing the inscription is untouched but slightly weathered with time. Its height is 49 cm, its width is 60.5 cm, and its depth is 61 cm. The height of the letters varies between 1.9 cm and 2.9 cm (fig. 13).

Freydank's reading is KY-ΠΥΝΠΑ | -Σ-Δ-

Corrections and additions are needed to understand the above reading. A *delta* is visible after the first *upsilon* in the first line. The following letter is not *pi*, as Freydank stated, but a *rho* with a small loop. The subsequent letter was misread as well; it is an *alpha* with a straight bar, not an *upsilon*. The next problematic letter is the *rho* standing before the last *alpha* in Freydank's reading. The letter has a circular form, and the dot in the middle of the letter is visible. Hence, this is a *theta*. The first letter on the second line is an *iota*. Although the letter following the *sigma* is very faint, it can be identified as an *omicron*. The subsequent letters are *delta*, *iota*, *kappa* (the slanting bars of which are slightly worn), and a clear *omega*. With the proposed corrections and additions, the transcription of the inscription now reads:

Κυδράνθα  
'Ισοδίκω

Translation: "Kydrantha, daughter of Isodikos"

This is the first epigraphic attestation of the name Κυδράνθα at Assos and in general. In the Troad, we encounter some compound names beginning with Κυδρ(o)- (from the adjective κυδρός "glorious, noble").<sup>89</sup> These are Κυδρογέννης<sup>90</sup> from Ilion and Κυδρόλαος<sup>91</sup> from Alexandreia Troas.

Another name from Assos ending in -άνθα is Τιμάνθα, which has been recorded on a gravestone dating from the third century BC.<sup>92</sup> Furthermore,

89. For related names, see Bechtel 1917, 271.

90. *Ilion* 53 ll. 43-44 (2nd century BC); cf. LGPN VA s.v. Κυδρογέννης (2nd century BC).

91. *Alexandreia Troas* 9 l. 2 (Late Hellenistic period); cf. LGPN VA s.v. Κυδρόλαος (2nd/1st century BC).

92. *Assos* 58; cf. Hodot 1990, 307 ASS 312 (ca. 200?); LGPN VA s.v. Τιμάνθα (3rd century BC). On the ending -άνθα, see e.g. Morpurgo-Davies 2000, 28 n. 26.

several names in Assos are composed of -άνθης, including Ἀναξάνθης,<sup>93</sup> Ἐπάνθης,<sup>94</sup> Κλεάνθης,<sup>95</sup> and Λάνθης.<sup>96</sup>

Ισοδίκω is the genitive singular of Ἰσόδικος.<sup>97</sup> This is the first record of the name Isodikos at Assos. Despite being an uncommon name (only fifteen entries are found in the *LGPN*), another Ἰσόδικος from the Troad is found in an inscription recording a list of new citizens.<sup>98</sup> Compound names ending with -δικος were popular in Assos during the Hellenistic era, including Πρόδικος,<sup>99</sup> Φανόδικος,<sup>100</sup> Ἀνάδικος,<sup>101</sup> and Λάδικος.<sup>102</sup>

Date: ca. 300 BC (?)

## 12. Grave inscription of Euandros

This Type C gravestone was found in the burial precinct wall in section B IX h/5 in 1991.<sup>103</sup> At present, it stands on the side of the western necropolis street. The base of the block was cut out, presumably to be reused in the construction of a structure (compare with the gravestone in no. 11). The condition of the inscription is not very good due to erosion on the stone's surface, but it is still readable. The stone is 49.5 cm high, 48 cm wide, and 46.5 cm deep. The height of the letters varies between 2 cm and 2.5 cm (fig. 14).

The text as transcribed by Freydank is —ANΔPO— | Σ—ΓENOY.

The first letter on the first line is a partially abraded *epsilon*; the middle bar

93. *I.Assos* 65; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Ἀναξάνθης (Hellenistic).

94. *I.Assos* 28 ll. 3 and 4; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Ἐπάνθης (1st/2nd century AD).

95. *LGPN* VA s.v. Κλεάνθης (3) (331-232 BC).

96. *I.Assos* 9 l. 1; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Λάνθης (second half of the 2nd century BC).

97. On the genitive singular of name with -o- stem in Lesbian dialect, see Blümel 1982, 238; Hodot 1990, 93.

98. *Illion* 64 l. 19; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Ἰσόδικος (2) (3rd/2nd century BC). On names related to δίκη, see Arnaoutoglou 2010, 582-600.

99. *I.Assos* 9 l. 1; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Πρόδικος (4) (second half of the 2nd century BC).

100. *I.Assos* 11a l. 39; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Φανόδικος (4) (ca. 80-70 BC).

101. *I.Assos* 4 l. 6; 5, l. 4; 11b; 49; *Illion* 10 l. 9; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Ἀνάδικος (1-6) (3rd century BC – 77 BC). Another possible explanation for the name Ἀνάδικος comes from Arnaoutoglou (2010, 589), who argued that it may have derived from the noun ἀνόδια.

102. *Illion* 10 l. 9; cf. *LGPN* VA s.v. Λάδικος (77 BC).

103. Freydank 2000, 299 no. 27

is shorter than the lower one (compared to the *epsilon* in the second line). The subsequent letter is an *upsilon*, whose V-shaped form and the lower part of the vertical bar survive. The last letter on this line is a *sigma* with missing slanting bars. On the second line, the letter following *sigma* is a horseshoe-shaped *omega* with small slanting apices. The subsequent letter is badly worn but can be identified as a *sigma*, of which only the horizontal straight bars have survived. Next to this *sigma* stands a short *iota*, which was squeezed between the *sigma* and *gamma*, as if the mason forgot to engrave it and added it later.

Εὔανδρος  
Σωσιγένου

Translation: “Euandros, son of Sosigenes”

Instead of the known types Σωσιγένη and Σωσιγένεος for the genitive singular of Σωσιγένης in the Lesbian dialect, we have, here, the koine type Σωσιγένου, which fits the date of the inscription suggested by the lettering.<sup>104</sup> Before the discovery of this inscription, both of these names were unknown in the personal name repertoire of Assos. The name Euandros, however, is known in the Troad through two Hellenistic inscriptions.<sup>105</sup> Although epigraphic attestations of the name Sosigenes are numerous in Asia Minor, there was no record of it in the Troad before the discovery of this inscription.<sup>106</sup> However one Sosigenes, a Mytilenean recorded on a funerary stele from the third century BC,<sup>107</sup> is attested on the neighbouring island of Lesbos.

Date: Third century BC

### 13. Grave inscription of Phileia

In his article describing the 1993 field season at the western necropolis of Assos, Stupperich reported that this gravestone was discovered *in situ* on the

104. For the genitive singular of personal names ending in -ης, see Hodot 1990, 121-122.

105. Euandros, son of Hagemon, of Abydos, 272 BC, see LGPN VA s.v. Εὔανδρος (26); Euandros, son of [- -]sias, from the Troad, 3rd/2nd century BC, see LGPN VA s.v. Εὔανδρος (27).

106. On the presence of the name Sosigenes in Asia Minor, see LGPN VA-C s.v. Σωσιγένης.

107. IG XII Supplementum 79; cf. LGPN I s.v. Σωσιγένης (17).

sarcophagus marked as B VIII GR 2, in which the remains of a middle-aged couple and of a young girl were found, buried in two different layers alongside several objects such as coins, strigilis, unguentaria, etc.<sup>108</sup> Classifying this gravestone as Type C of “*Kassettengrabsteine*” (fig. 15 and fig. 16), Freydank described it as follows:<sup>109</sup> “Der hochformatige Stein besitzt eine flache Basis in mehreren gekehlten Stufen über einer nahezu quadratischen Grundfläche. Eine separate Basisplatte führt die Kehlen in zwei Stufen weiter. Die Oberseite ist plan. Der Stein zeigt auf allen Seiten eine dreistufige quadratische Kassette. Analog zur Basis wird der Stein an der Oberkante von einem gestuften Gesims abgeschlossen. Auf der Frontseite befindet sich auf der obersten Kassettenleiste eine einzeilige Inschrift.”

Freydank’s transcription is accurate: ΦΙΛΕΙΑ

The gravestone remains in the same location where archaeologists found it in the western necropolis. The height of the stone is 72.5 cm, the width is 68 cm, and the depth is 63 cm. The height of the letters varies between 2.5 cm and 3.5 (Φ) cm.

### Φιλεία

This is the first attestation of the name Φιλεία at Assos and in Asia Minor.<sup>110</sup> Other names related to φίλος (*beloved/friend*) are also attested in the onomastic repertoire of Assos: Φιλώτας,<sup>111</sup> Φίλικκα,<sup>112</sup> Φιλέταιρος,<sup>113</sup> and Φιλόμουσος.<sup>114</sup> Additionally, the compound name Δαμόφιλος is known from a grave inscription found in the western necropolis of Assos.<sup>115</sup> Stupperich assumes that Phileia was the name of the middle-aged woman whose remains were placed in the urn together with those of the girl, probably because Phileia and

108. Stupperich 2006, 12 and 16. See also Freydank 2000, 276 and 304 no. 60.

109. Freydank 2000, 304 no. 60.

110. For this name, see LGPN I-IV s.v. Φίλεια. For related names, see Bechtel 1917, 446-453.

111. LGPN VA s.v Φιλώτας (24) (3rd century BC).

112. See n. 37 above.

113. I.Assos 15, 16, 17, 18; LGPN VA s.v. Φιλέταιρος (23) (16 BC-14 AD).

114. I.Assos 26; LGPN VA s.v. Φιλόμουσος (8) (37 AD).

115. Abmeier 1990, 25 no. 3 (SEG 40, 1112.3); LGPN VA s.v. Δαμόφιλος (6) (?4th/3rd century BC).

the girl died from the same disease at roughly the same time, but later than the man buried in a different layer in the same sarcophagus.<sup>116</sup> However, there is a discrepancy between the date of the grave goods, which points to the end of the first century BC, and that indicated by the lettering of the inscription, which suggests a date in the fourth(?)/third century BC). Hence, this inscribed stone probably did not originally belong to this sarcophagus but was moved onto it at a later time.

#### 14. Grave inscription of Zoila

Re-discovered on the side of the western necropolis street in 2019, this inscription may have been the one engraved on the gravestone documented as no. 29 in Freydank's dissertation.<sup>117</sup> The evidence for this is the similarities between my transcription and that of Freydank on specific points. According to the information provided by Freydank, this Type C stone was found in the burial precinct wall of section B IX i/6 in 1991. The base is partially damaged, but the block is otherwise in good condition. The height of the stone is 36 cm, its width is 44.5 cm, and its depth is 45 cm. The height of the letters varies between 1.9 cm and 2.7 cm (fig. 17).

Freydank transcribed the inscription as follows: ΕΠ-ΕΤΙΔΑ- Σ----ΑΛΑ

Below, my transcription is given without discussing Freydank's reading.

Ζωΐλα

Σωτάδα

Translation: "Zoila, daughter of Sotadas"

Both names are attested for the first time in Assos. The masculine form of Ζωΐλα, which is Ζωΐλος, appears in Assos between the third century BC and the third century AD.<sup>118</sup> Σωτάδα is the genitive singular of the male name Σωτάδας.<sup>119</sup> Another Sotadas from the Aeolic domain of Asia is found in Mytilene on the island of Lesbos.<sup>120</sup> This name is not widespread in Asia Minor, but

116. See n. 108 above.

117. Freydank 2010, 299 no. 29 (without dimensions).

118. *LGPN* VA s.v. Ζωΐλος (113-116). On the name Ζωΐλος, see Mathys 2017, 362.

119. On the genitive singular of -α stem masculine name in the Lesbian dialect, see Blümel 1982, 234; Hodot 1990, 94. Also, cf. inscriptions no. 15.

120. *LGPN* I s.v. Σωτάδας (34) (Hellenistic).

instances of a dialectal variant, i.e., Σωτάδης, are found in relatively large number.<sup>121</sup>

Date: Third/second century BC

### 15. Grave inscription of Peristera

Freydank reports that this rectangular gravestone, classified as Type B of the “kassettengrabsteine” group, was found in the foundation of a Roman grave in 1994.<sup>122</sup> Freydank described it as follows: “Der hochformatige Stein ist auf allen Seiten mit einer zweistufigen Kassette und einer Rosette in der Mitte verziert. Der Stein trägt auf der Front zwischen der Kassette und dem Gesims eine zweizeilige Inschrift.” Today, it remains in the same location where archaeologists originally discovered it. Because of damage on the upper left-hand side of the front face, the first 1-2 letters of both lines are lost. The lower moulding of the gravestone is also partially damaged. The height of the stone is 58.5 cm, the width is 37 cm, and the depth is 40 cm. The letters vary in height between 2 cm and 2.5 cm (fig. 18 and fig. 19).

Freydank reads the inscription as -ΕΡΙΣΤΟΡΑ | --ΣΤΡΑΤΙΔΑ. A minor correction is required here. The letter read as an *omicron* on the first line is in fact an *epsilon*. Therefore, the transcription ought to be:

[Π]εριστερά  
[-<sup>1-2</sup>-]στρατίδα

Translation: “Peristera, daughter of [ ]stratidas”

Περιστερά, meaning “domestic dove”, is a female name which was not widespread in antiquity. Five epigraphic attestations are found in Asia Minor (all from Caria, except for one individual from Ilion in the Troad).<sup>123</sup> The other two come from Athens and Oropos.<sup>124</sup>

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121. LGPN VA-B s.v. Σωτάδας.

122. Freydank 2000, 303 no. 56.

123. LGPN VA-B s.v. Περιστερά. For female names related to dove, see also Robert 1971, 90-91. Cf. Masson 2000, 70. For female names derived from animal names, in general, see Bechtel 1917, 589-592.

124. LGPN II and III.B s.v. Περιστερά.

[-<sup>1-2</sup>-]στρατίδα is the genitive singular of [-<sup>1-2</sup>-]στρατίδας.<sup>125</sup> There are three possibilities for restoring this name: [Εν]στρατίδας, [Λα]στρατίδας, or [Σω]-στρατίδας.

Date: Third/second century BC

### 16. Grave inscription of Anaxagoras

Stupperich reported that this gabled marble stele with acroteria, engraved wreath and profiled base was found in section KVIII/IX,<sup>126</sup> and provided only the translation of the inscription. Freydank transcribed the text in majuscule letters and discussed the stele in his dissertation.<sup>127</sup> The stele is now held in the new Troia Museum that opened in 2018 at Teşvikiye, Inv.-Nr. E.10843 (fig. 20 and fig. 21). Freydank's description: "Die aus gelblichem Marmor gefertigte flache Stele war in mehrere Stücke zerbrochen, konnte aber fast vollständig wieder zusammengesetzt werden. Sie stand auf einer kleinen Basis mit flach profiliertem Rand, die von ähnlich blockhafter Gestalt ist wie die älteren Namensblöcke. Die Stele ist als flache Platte gestaltet und wird von einem niedrigen Giebel bekrönt, der mit Akroterien verziert ist. Im Giebelfeld befindet sich eine Rosette. Die geglättete Vorderseite der Stele zeigt einen Kranz aus zwei Olivenzweigen, der einen relativ großen Durchmesser besitzt."

Dimensions as recorded by Freydank: height 110 cm, width 40 cm, thickness 7 cm. The base is 22.5 cm high, 40.5 cm wide, and 35.5 cm deep.

Ἀναξαγόρας

Μικκύλου

Translation: "Anaxagoras, son of Mikkylos"

This is the first occurrence of the name Ἀναξαγόρας in Assos.<sup>128</sup> Another name from the ancient city, beginning with Ἀναξ- is Ἀναξάνθης, recorded in a Hellenistic grave inscription from the western necropolis.<sup>129</sup>

125. Cf. inscription no. 14.

126. Stupperich 1992, 8 taf. 6, 3 and 5; Stupperich 1996, 68.

127. Freydank 2000, 137-138, 305.

128. For the epigraphic appearance of the name Anaxagoras in Asia Minor, see LGPN VA-B s.v. Ἀναξαγόρας.

129. I.Assos 65; cf. LGPN VA s.v. Ἀναξάνθης (Hellenistic). Hodot (1990, 104 and n. 77) provides a list of compound names from the Aeolic domain of Asia, beginning with Ἀναξ(i)- and ending in -αναξ.

Μικκύλος is the diminutive of Μῖκος, a synonym of μικρός (*small*), and is formed with the expressive gemination of *kappa* and a -υλος suffix.<sup>130</sup> In the LGPN, there are thirteen entries for the name Μικκύλος and most of the attestations come from Central Greece: Boeotia, Doris, Lokris, Phokis, and Thessalian Phitiotis.<sup>131</sup> Additionally, there are two records on the island of Chios<sup>132</sup>, and another Mikkylos was found in Aetolia.<sup>133</sup> Prior to the discovery of this inscription, the only epigraphic attestation to Mikkylos in Asia Minor was a dedication to Zeus Anpeleites from Phrygian Appia.<sup>134</sup>

Date: Freydank estimates the date of the stele as the end of the second century BC/beginning of the first century BC.

Tolga Özhan  
Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University  
tolgaoezhan@gmail.com

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130. Freydank (2000, 137) incorrectly takes this name to be non-Greek. For the name Μικκύλος, see Masson 1986, 221-222, 228 = Masson 1990, 553-554, 560. See also Mathys 2017, 352. For Μῖκος and related names, see Bechtel 1917, 485-486.

131. LGPN IIIB s.v. Μικκύλος.

132. LGPN I s.v. Μικκύλος.

133. LGPN IIIA s.v. Μικκύλος.

134. LGPN VC s.v. Μικκύλος (Roman Imperial period).

### Summary

This article presents 16 grave inscriptions from Assos in the Troad, dating between the fifth century BC and the end of the second century BC. Thirteen of these inscriptions were discovered between 1981 and 2005 and 3 were found in the third excavation term (2006 – ongoing). Two of the inscriptions discovered between 1989 and 1994 are mentioned in R. Stupperich's excavation reports and all but two are printed in majuscules in J. Freydank's doctoral dissertation (published 2000). None, however, have been the subject of a comprehensive evaluation. From the dialectal point of view, these inscriptions greatly contribute to the epigraphic corpus of Assos. The composition of the inscriptions that display specific features of the Lesbian dialect is unremarkable in most cases; they usually consist only of the deceased's name in the nominative case, while in five cases a patronymic follows in the genitive. Nevertheless, two inscriptions are remarkable since they document for the first time the use of an adjective of possession in the Lesbian dialect. In addition, these inscriptions add several new names to the onomastic repertoire of Assos and Asia Minor: Eratophanes, Simmeia, Aigidaia, Phaeia, Amphereidaia/Ampheridaia, Kleotthis, Oligidas, Agasikles, Nikasis, Sphodrias, Agias, Soter, Kydrantha, Isodikos, Euandros, Sosigenes, Phileia, Zoila, Sotadas, Peristera, [...]stratidas, Anaxagoras, and Mikkylos.

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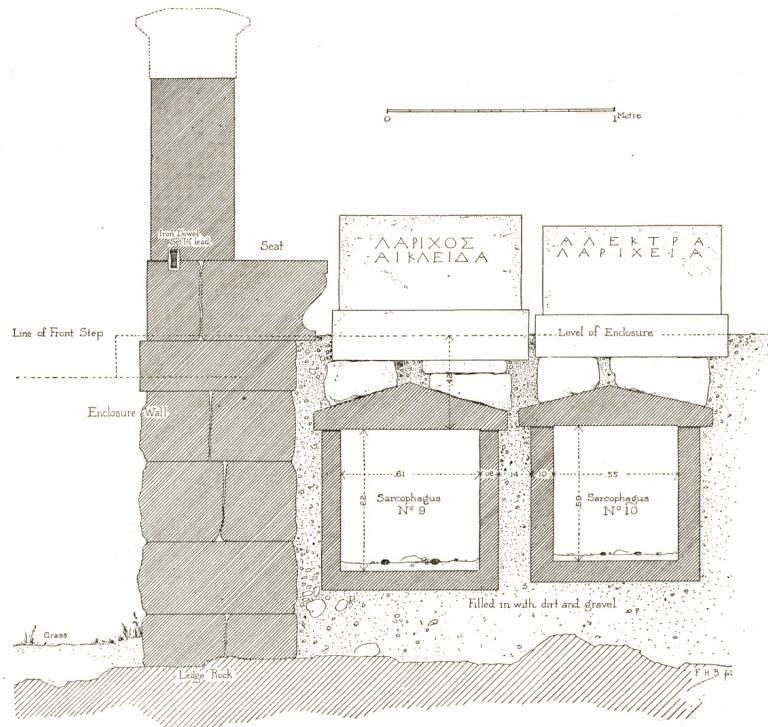


Fig. 1. Gravestones belonging to Alektra and Larichos standing above two sarcophagi (from Clarke, Bacon, Koldevey 1902, 281, fig. 2: Section through Sarcophagi 9 and 10).

NEW GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE NECROPOLEIS OF ASSOS, PART I



Fig. 2. No. 1: Gravestone of Eratophanes (photo by C. Bakan)

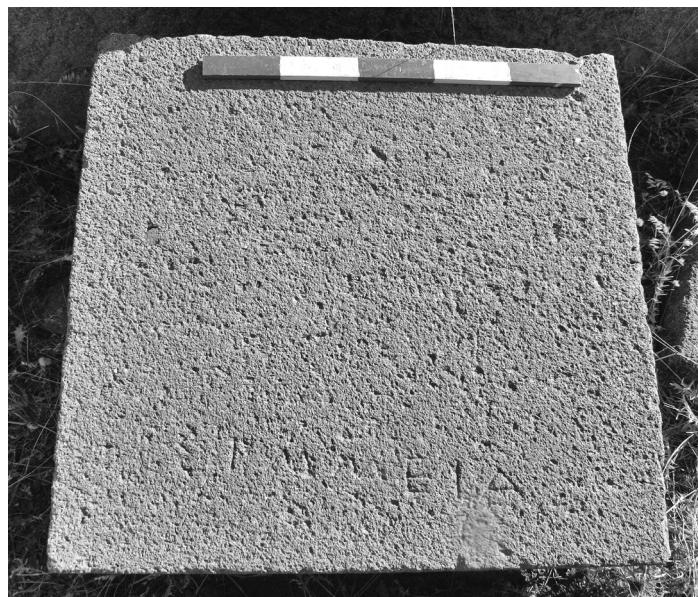


Fig. 3. No. 2: Gravestone of Simmeia (photo by C. Bakan)

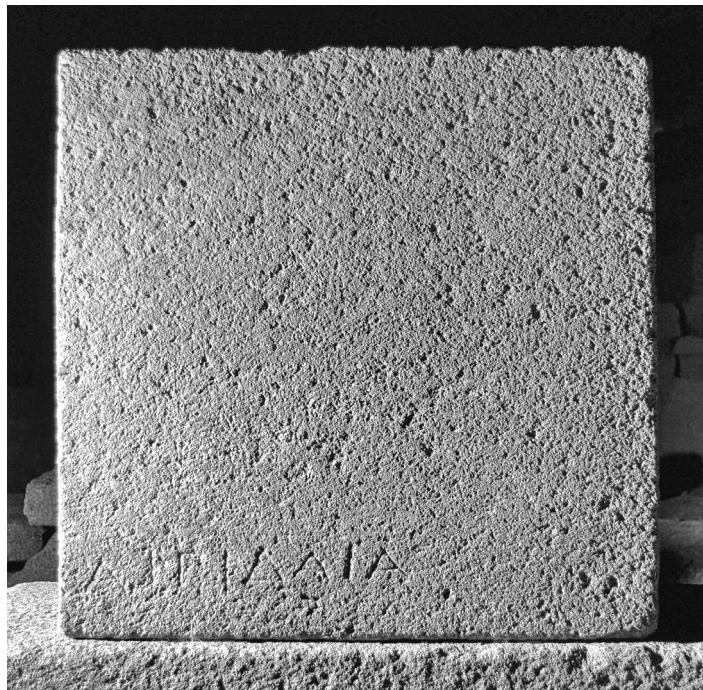


Fig. 4. No. 3: Gravestone of Aigidaia (photo by C. Bakan)



Fig. 5. No. 4: Gravestone of Phaeia (photo by C. Bakan)

NEW GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE NECROPOLEIS OF ASSOS, PART I



Fig. 6. No. 4: Gravestone of Phaeia (from a different angle) (photo by C. Bakan)



Fig. 7. No. 5: Gravestone of Amphereidaia or Ampheridaia (photo by C. Bakan)



Fig. 8. No. 6: Gravestone of Kleoththis (photo by S. Akçiçek)

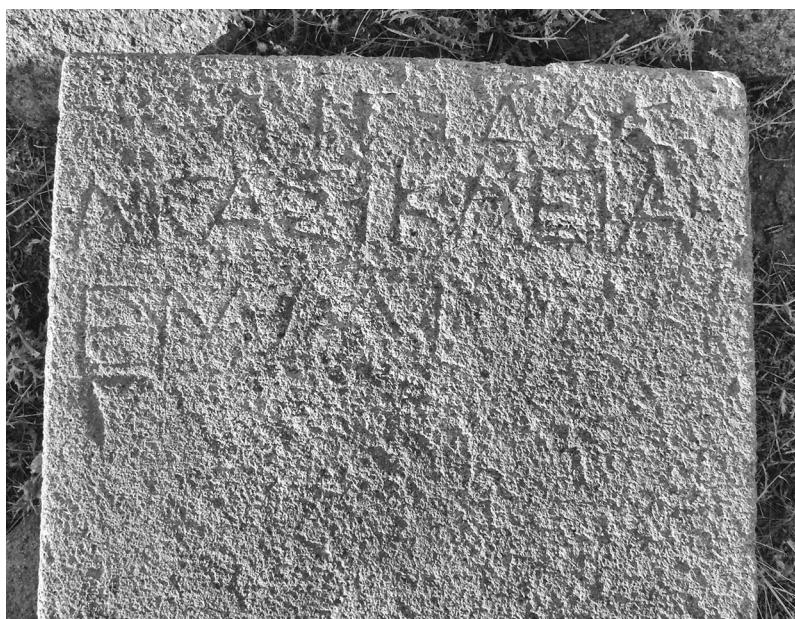


Fig. 9. No. 7: Gravestone of Oligidas and Agasikles (photo by the author)

NEW GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE NECROPOLEIS OF ASSOS, PART I



Fig. 10. No. 8: Gravestone of Nikasis (photo by C. Bakan)



Fig. 11. No. 9: Gravestone of Sphodrias and Agias (photo by S. Akçiçek)



Fig. 12. No. 10: Gravestone of Soter (photo by S. Akçiçek)



Fig. 13. No. 11: Gravestone of Kydrantha (photo by C. Bakan)

NEW GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE NECROPOLIS OF ASSOS, PART I



Fig. 14. No. 12: Gravestone of Euandros (photo by C. Bakan)

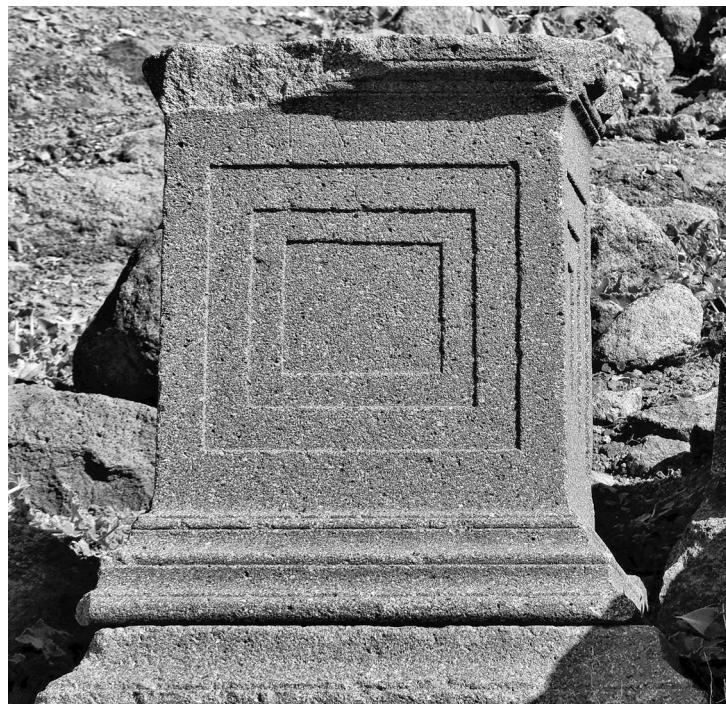


Fig. 15. No. 13: Gravestone of Phileia (photo by S. Akçiçek)

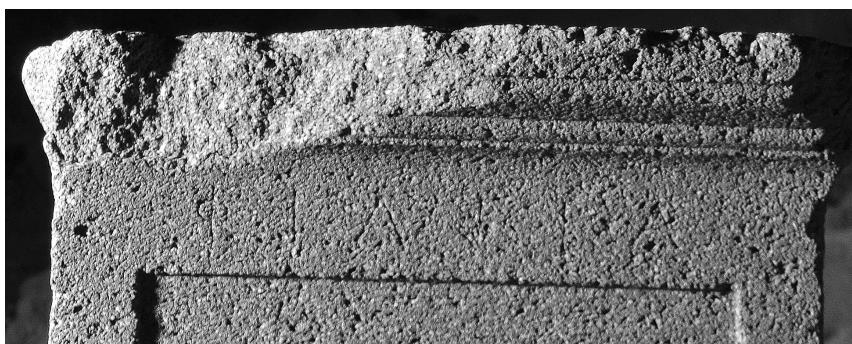


Fig. 16. No. 13: Detail from gravestone of Phileia (photo by C. Bakan)

NEW GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE NECROPOLIS OF ASSOS, PART I

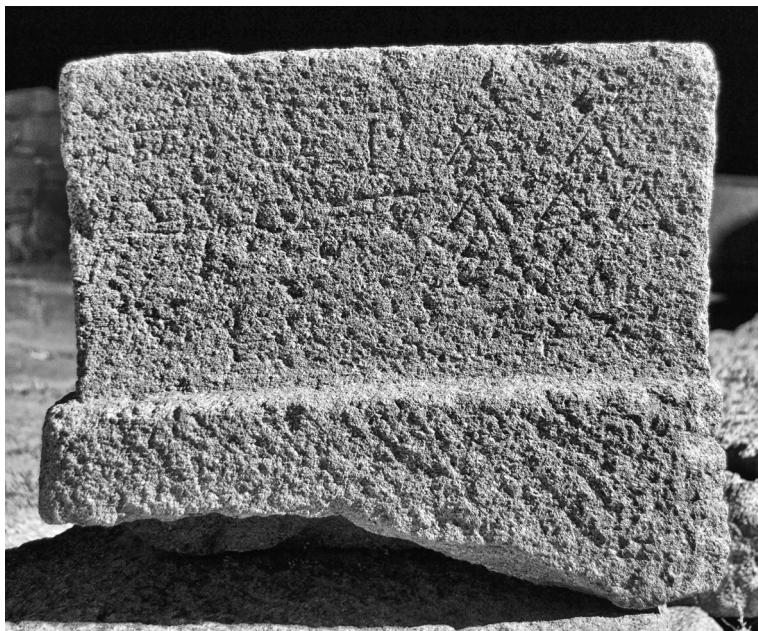


Fig. 17. No. 14: Gravestone of Zoila (photo by C. Bakan)

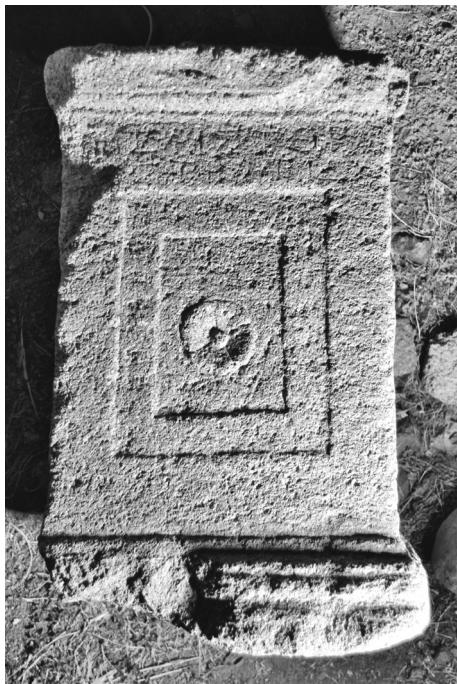


Fig. 18. No. 15: Gravestone of Peristera (photo by C. Bakan)



Fig. 19. No. 15: Detail from gravestone of Peristera (photo by C. Bakan)

NEW GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE NECROPOLEIS OF ASSOS, PART I

Fig. 20. No. 16: Stele of Anaxagoras  
(photo by Ö.C. Yıldırım)



Fig. 21. No. 16: Grave inscription of  
Anaxagoras (photo by Ö.C. Yıldırım)



