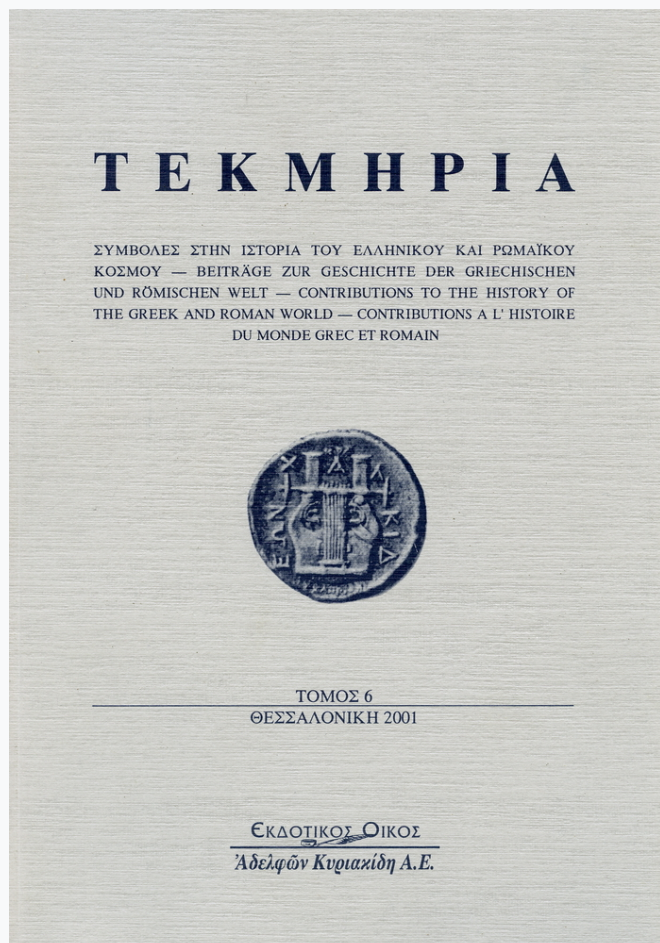


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An Epitaph from Nipiditos in Crete

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ΣΥΜΜΕΙΚΤΑ/MISZELLEN

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AN EPITAPH FROM NIPIDITOS IN CRETE

A fragment of a block or stele made of sandstone, broken on all sides except for the right side, was seen and copied in the late 19th century by C. De Sanctis and A. Oliverio in the house of Ἐμμανουὴλ Παπαδάκης near the village of Νιπιδιτὸς Πεδιάδος. M. Guarducci recognized that this is an epitaph plausibly suggested a date in the second century A.D., and presented the following text (*I.Cret.* I V 49, with photograph):

Ἀθην[---]
ἐνξο[--Πτ]-
ολεμ[αί---]
4 ἐὺψυχ[ε[---]]
vacat

The stone is, to the best of my knowledge, not kept in the Museum of Herakleion and it may be lost. On the photograph published by Guarducci one can clearly see that the first letter of the second line is not an E, but a lunate C. The text may, therefore, be restored as follows:

Ἀθην[αῖ]-
ς Νεο[πτ]-
πολέμ[ου],
4 ἐὺψυχ[ε[ι]]
vacat

Athenais, daughter of Neoptolemos, be of good courage.

The name Athenais was already attested in Crete (*I.Cret.* III IV 10, Itanos), but Neoptolemos was hitherto unattested on the island.

Guarducci has included the few inscriptions found in Nipiditos (four epitaphs of the Imperial period) in the inscriptions of the community of the

Arkades (*I.Cret.* I V 47-50)¹, obviously because of the vicinity of Nipiditos to Ἀρρατί. But one cannot exclude the possibility that this area or the cemetery where these stones come from belonged in fact to the territory of Lyttos.

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1. J. F. Sanders, *Roman Crete*, Warminster 1982, 149 does not record any other finds in this area.

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

ΕΝΑ ΕΠΙΤΑΦΙΟ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΝΙΠΙΔΙΤΟ (ΚΡΗΤΗ)

Στὴν ἀποσπασματικὴ ἐπιγραφὴ ποὺ δημοσίευσε ἡ Μ. Guarducci, *I. Cret* I V 49 ἀναγνωρίζεται τὸ ἐπιτάφιο τῆς Ἀθηναΐδος, κόρης τοῦ Νεοπτολεμαίου. Τὸ ὄνομα Ἀθηναῖς εἶναι ἤδη γνωστὸ στὴν Κρήτη, ἐνῶ γιὰ πρώτη φορὰ ἀπαντᾷ τὸ ὄνομα Νεοπτόλεμος.

Ἡ Guarducci περιλαμβάνει τὶς ἐπιγραφὲς τοῦ Νιπιδιτοῦ (τέσσερα ἐπιτάφια τῆς αὐτοκρατορικῆς ἐποχῆς) στὴν κοινότητα τῶν Ἀρκάδων, προφανῶς ἐξαιτίας τῆς γειτνίασης τοῦ Νιπιδιτοῦ μὲ τὸ Ἀφρατί. Δὲν ἀποκλείεται ὥστόσο ἡ περιοχὴ ἢ τὸ νεκροταφεῖο ἀπ' ὅπου προέρχονται οἱ ἐπιγραφὲς αὐτὲς νὰ ἀνήκουν στὰ ἐδάφη τῆς Λύττου.