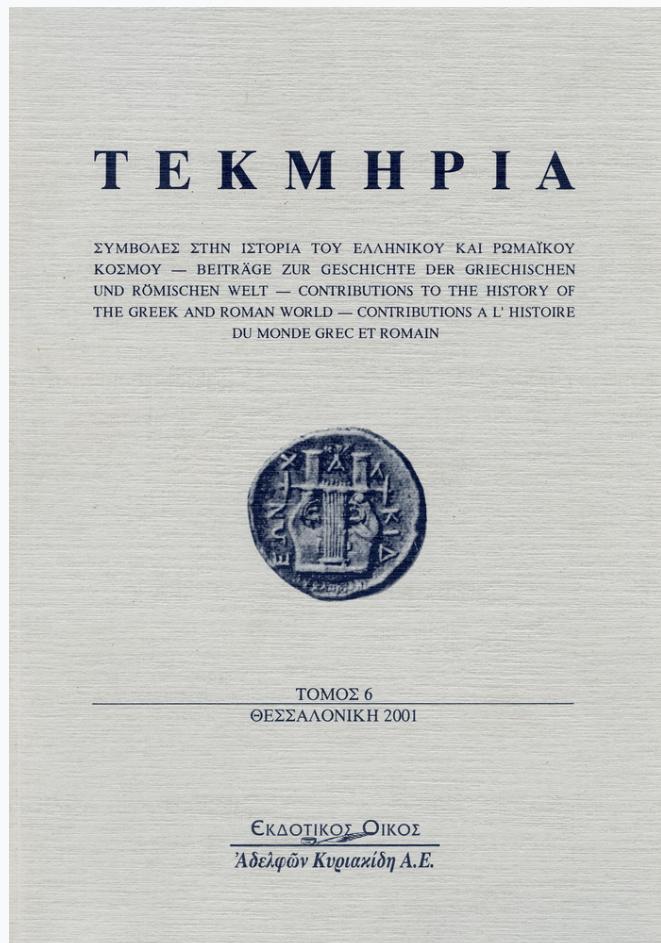


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An Epitaph from Nipiditos in Crete

A. CHANIOTIS

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ΣΥΜΜΕΙΚΤΑ/MISZELLEN

A. CHANIOTIS

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 Νιπιδιτός 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):

4 'Αθην[---]
 ενεο[--Πτ]-
 ολεμ[αι---]
 εὐψυχε[---]
 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:

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 Ἀφρατί. 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.

Universität Heidelberg

Angelos Chaniotis

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)

Στήν ἀποσπασματική ἐπιγραφή ποὺ δημοσίευσε ἡ M. Guarducci, *I. Cret I* V 49 ἀναγνωρίζεται τὸ ἐπιτάφιο τῆς Ἀθηναῖδος, κόρης του Νεοπτολεμαίου. Τὸ ὄνομα Ἀθηναῖς εἶναι ἥδη γνωστὸ στὴν Κρήτη, ἐνῶ γιὰ πρώτη φορὰ ἀπαντᾶ τὸ ὄνομα Νεοπτόλεμος.

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