

ADDENDUM TO *SAMOTHRACE*, VOLUME 3: THE LATERAL AKROTERIA

(PLATES 113–114)

IN discussing the single well-preserved lateral akroterion of the Hieron in Samothrace (Fig. 1; Pl. 113, a),¹ I have suggested that this late Hellenistic statue of Victory standing lightly poised over the southwestern rear corner of the building once held a jug in her raised right hand and poured a libation into a patera held in her now missing left hand. The position of the right arm, braced by a strut, the dowel hole in the left forearm attesting the attachment of a separately carved hand, and the near-by leaded dowel on the left thigh reflecting the support of an object presumably held in that hand implied this orthodox restoration of a figure as much acolyte of the Great Gods as bringer of victory.² The proposed restoration made it reasonable, in turn, to attribute a fragmentary female hand grasping the handle of a shattered globular vessel to the northwestern of the two identical figures at the façade (Pl. 113, b).³ Of unknown provenance, it, nonetheless, was identical with the winged statue in material, scale, and style⁴ and appeared to confirm the hypothetical reconstruction.

Ironically enough, the right hand matching this left hand has long been exhibited in the Samothrace Museum without having been correctly identified (Pl. 114, a, b).⁵

¹ *The Hieron (Samothrace, 3)*, Princeton, 1969, text I, SLA 1, p. 364.

² *Ibid.*, p. 377.

³ I am greatly indebted to Alison Frantz for the new photographs taken in June 1971 of the two hands discussed and illustrated (Pls. 113, b, 114, a, b) in this note. Plate 113, a is a photograph by Anna Wachsmann.

⁴ NLA 7, *ibid.*, pp. 364, 374 ff. The reader is referred to these pages for specific information about this hand purchased from a Samothracian on June 29, 1938.

⁵ 38.16 + 50.442. Fragmentary right hand of a life-size female figure holding the irregularly broken remains of a shallow patera. Made of Thasian marble. Restored from two pieces: 38.16, the larger fragment, found on the eastern side of the altar situated to the north of the façade of the Hieron (for this location see *The Hieron*, text II, fig. 369, X), and 50.442, the joining ring and little fingers beneath a portion of the patera, recovered, like other fragments of sculpture and blocks belonging to that façade, in the adjacent open Temenos. The upper part of the thumb and all of the first two fingers are missing from 38.16, having broken off the hand irregularly as had the now restored fingers 50.442. Broken above the wrist and beginning of the forearm on the exterior; shattered across the wrist on the interior. Within the broken wrist, the remnants of two circular dowel holes, the larger (diam. 0.015 m.; pres. depth 0.025 m.) at the center, the smaller (diam. 0.01 m.; pres. depth 0.025 m.) off-center. Both are well-cut but presumably the latter reflects a repair (below, note 6). Palm, thumb, and patera are severely weathered. Greatest preserved length of restored hand: 0.225 m.

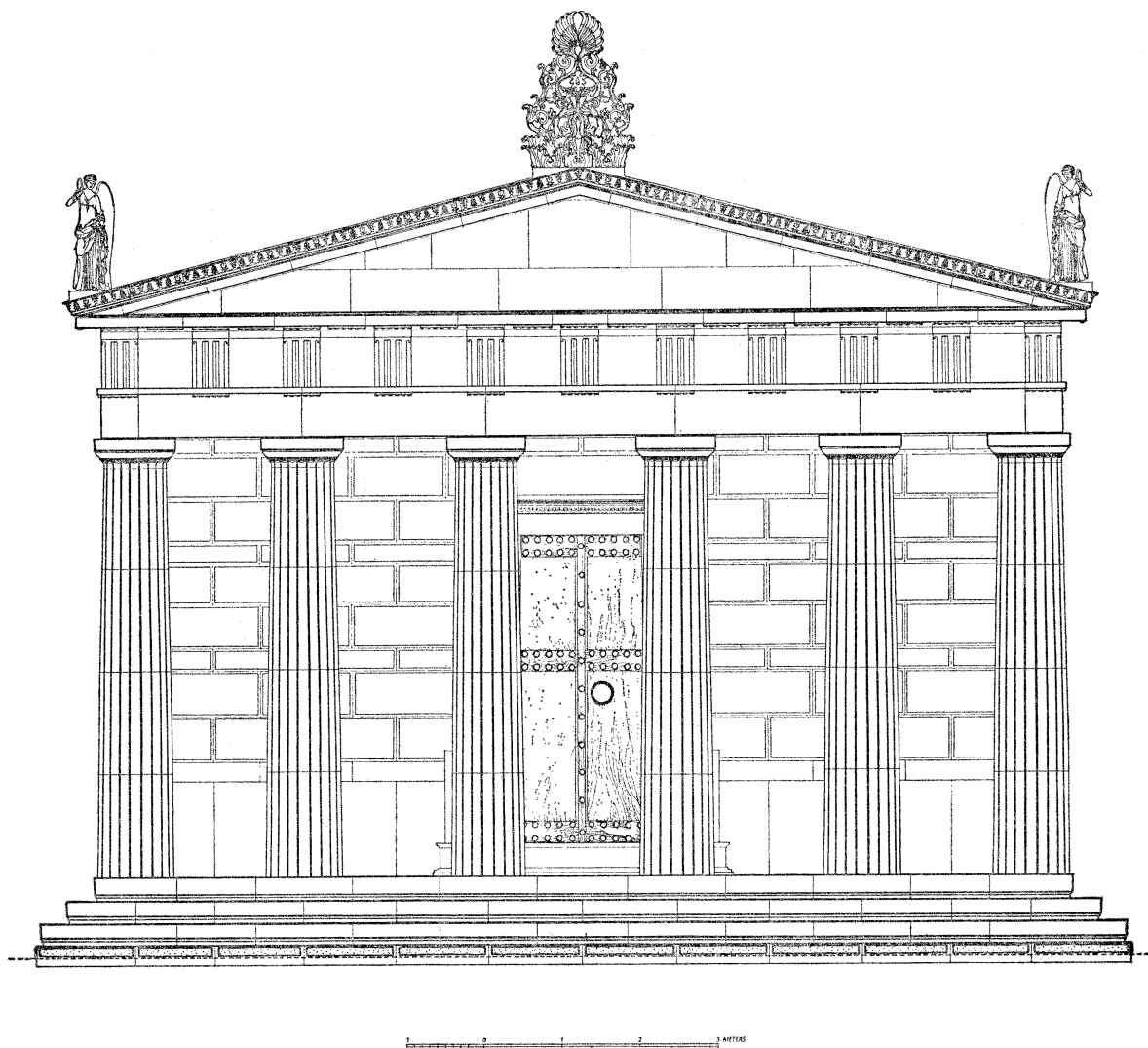


FIG. 1. Restored Façade of the Hieron, without Pedimental Sculpture
(After *Samothrace*, 3, pl. CVIII).

Identical in material, scale, and style with the hand grasping a jug, this fragmentary hand holds a remnant of a patera in its open palm. Its pocked surfaces reflect its exposure to the elements on the northern side of the building in this inclement sanctuary, as do the similarly weathered surfaces of the left hand. What is more, the

First briefly reported and illustrated by Karl Lehmann-Hartleben, "Excavations in Samothrace," *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1938, p. 140, fig. 7; subsequently mentioned by the same author in "Samothrace: Fifth Preliminary Report," *Hesperia*, XXI, 1952, pp. 32 f., and the first two editions of *Samothrace, A Guide to the Excavations and the Museum*, New York, 1955, p. 87, and Locust Valley, 1960, p. 90. For the date and interpretation of the hand proposed in these references, see below, note 7.

broken dowel hole in the wrist (Pl. 114, a) indicates that it was attached to its forearm in precisely the fashion and at precisely the point that the missing hand was attached to the lowered arm of the southwestern akroterion.⁶

Found to the north of the façade in our first brief campaign in Samothrace in 1938, years before the excavation of the Hieron and the discovery of both the well-preserved winged statue from the rear of the building and lesser fragments of the three other Hellenistic figural akroteria, the larger of the two fragments was mistakenly ascribed to a hypothetical cult statue in the adjacent Temenos and misdated in the archaic period.⁷ The latter error was subsequently rectified, and the gently rounded contours of this plump, scantily articulated hand were recognized as Hellenistic.⁸ Its form and style are, in fact, identical with the character and modelling of the fragmentary hands from the contemporary pedimental sculptures of the façade,⁹ as I had occasion to realize in re-examining it recently.

Hence I take this opportunity to republish a long-known but misinterpreted fragment, the mate to the left hand holding a jug previously ascribed to the north-western lateral akroterion of the Hieron.¹⁰ Together they afford welcome, if belated, confirmation of the reconstruction proposed in *Samothrace* 3 for the figural akroteria of that building.

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⁶ That is, the hands were originally dowelled to the center of the forearm slightly above the wrist. Actually, the cutting in the forearm of the southwestern akroterion is for a rectangular dowel (cf. Pl. 113, a). But circular dowel holes were used to repair the right wing of the contemporary late Hellenistic akroterion of the southeastern corner (see *The Hieron*, text I, SLA 4, pp. 370 f. and fig. 326), and it is evident that both the original lateral akroteria at the rear of the building were damaged and repaired, whether during their execution or subsequently. As remarked above, the smaller of the two dowel holes in the wrist of the hand with a patera presumably also implies a repair to at least one of the northern lateral akroteria.

⁷ "Excavations in Samothrace," *loc. cit.*; "Samothrace: Fifth Preliminary Report," *loc. cit.* The original tentative suggestion that the hand might have belonged to "the cult image of the 'Old Temple' destroyed in the fourth century" was, of course, predicated on the assumption that the building thus named by our Austrian predecessors had actually existed. Our subsequent excavation of the area presumably occupied by this "temple" established the fact that no such structure ever existed. Even so, recovery of the joining fragment 50.442 within the venerable open precinct where the Austrians had placed their "temple" and the lack of articulation of this straight-fingered hand evidently conditioned Professor Lehmann's retention of the theory that the hand belonged to an archaic statue located within the precinct.

⁸ *Guide*³, Locust Valley, 1966, p. 95.

⁹ Cf. *The Hieron*, text I, pp. 256 ff., NP (V) 3, 5; pp. 276 f., NP (S) 23, 25.

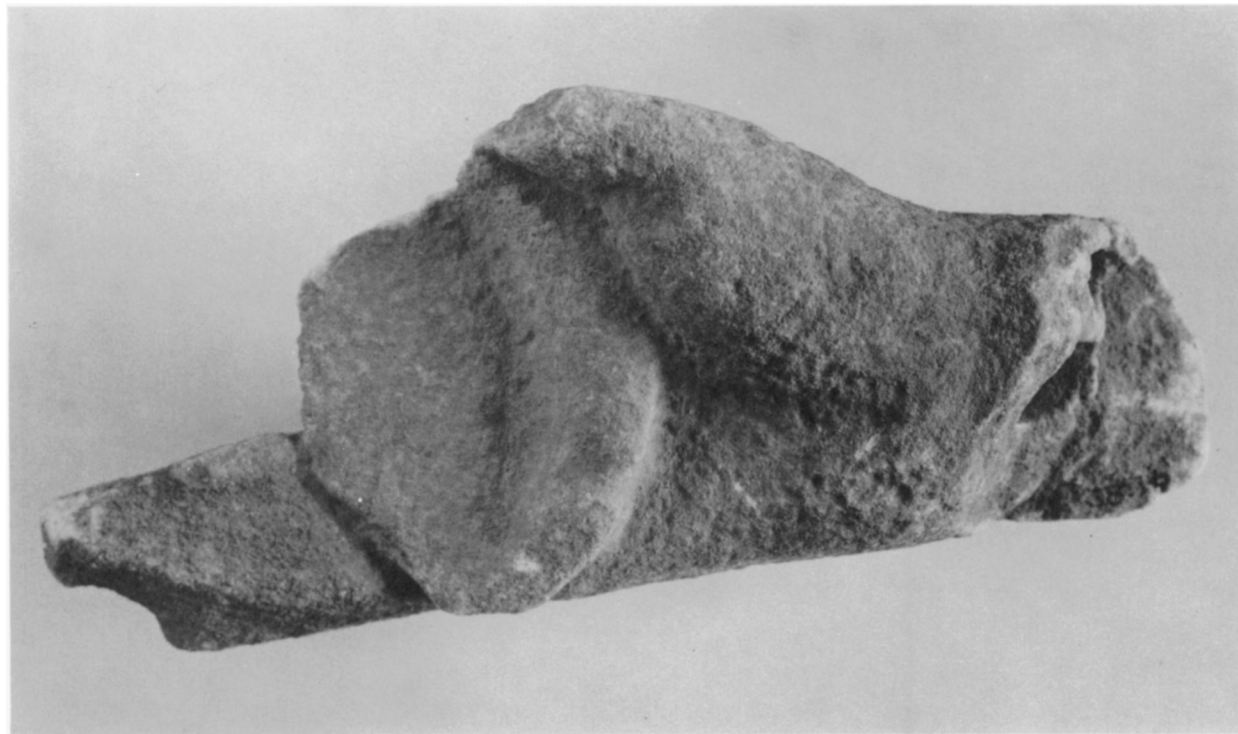
¹⁰ The known provenance of this right hand—a logical one for any fragment of sculpture coming from the façade of the Hieron—is especially fortunate in view of the unknown provenance of the left hand.



a. Samothrace Museum. Southwestern Lateral Akroterion of the Heiron.



b. Samothrace Museum. Fragmentary Left Hand grasping a Jug from the Northwestern Lateral Akroterion of the Heiron.



a. Palm with patera.



b. Exterior.

Samothrace Museum. Fragmentary Right Hand holding a Patera from the Northwestern Lateral Akroterion of the Hieron.