

# VICTORIES IN THE ANTHIPPASIA

(PLATES 61–63)

THE anthippasia, a cavalry display, and later a contest in which the tribal cavalry units competed, is known to us chiefly from the vivid description by Xenophon supplemented by notices in the lexicographers.<sup>1</sup> It was a mock battle in which the whole cavalry force took part, five tribes lining up opposite the other five and charging one another, and it was held in the Hippodrome as Xenophon states clearly. It is quite distinct from the procession in the Agora described by Xenophon in another passage which consisted of a stately ride around the Agora visiting the various shrines and punctuated by a gallop across the square.<sup>2</sup>

There are also several epigraphical texts which concern the anthippasia and from one of them we learn that the contests were held at the Greater Panathenaia and at the Olympieia.<sup>3</sup> The most famous monument to the anthippasia is the Bryaxis base with its inscription and its sculptured reliefs representing the horsemen and the prize tripods, which was found *in situ* at a point we now know to have been behind the Royal Stoa and north of the Stoa of Zeus, near the northwest corner of the Agora.<sup>4</sup>

It appears to have been customary to set up these anthippasia victory monuments, not at the Hippodrome where the event took place, but in the Agora near the Herms where the cavalymen were wont to gather, for another sculptured monument found in 1970 at the northwest corner of the Agora shows a squadron of cavalry at the gallop. It has an inscription recording a victory by the tribe Leontis, probably in the anthippasia.<sup>5</sup>

The purpose of this article is to present two more monuments recording victories in the anthippasia which have come to my attention recently. They will not add much to our knowledge of the event but are none the less worth adding to the record.

<sup>1</sup> Xenophon, *Hipparchikos*, III, 10–13. Hesychius, Suidas, and Bekker, *Anecdota graeca*, I, 404. The clearest modern account is that of Reisch in *R. E.*, s.v. *Ἀνθιππασία*.

<sup>2</sup> Xenophon, *Hipparchikos*, III, 2. Some modern writers seem to conflate the two Xenophon passages and thus bring the anthippasia into the Agora. John Travlos, *Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens*, pp. 2–3; Homer Thompson and R. E. Wycherley, *The Athenian Agora*, XIV, *The Agora of Athens*, p. 121; and Christian Habicht, *Ath. Mitt.*, LXXVI, 1961, pp. 136–137.

<sup>3</sup> *I.G.*, II<sup>2</sup>, 3079. The Olympieia are the games at the festival of Olympian Zeus at Athens. See L. Deubner, *Attische Feste*, p. 177.

<sup>4</sup> *I.G.*, II<sup>2</sup>, 3130. The inscription and one of the sculptured sides are well illustrated in Travlos' *Pictorial Dictionary*, p. 18.

<sup>5</sup> *Hesperia*, XL, 1971, pp. 271–272, pl. 57, c. Another inscribed monument which may perhaps be connected with the anthippasia is *Hesperia*, XV, 1946, pp. 176–177, no. 24. The monument set up by the hipparchs and phylarchs, published in *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, pp. 49–51, refers more probably to the procession in the Agora since no contest is mentioned. The anthippasia is also mentioned in two decrees, *I.G.*, II<sup>2</sup>, 379, and *Hesperia*, IX, 1940, pp. 111–112.

1 (Pls. 61, 62). In the summer of 1966 in the course of routine cleaning and conservation work in the area of the Market of Caesar and Augustus it was discovered that two of the marble paving slabs of the central court were inscribed on their under surfaces. They were lifted carefully under the direction of the late Mr. Nicholas Verdelis, who was then Ephor of the Acropolis, and taken to the Stoa of Attalos where they remained for several months and where I had the opportunity of examining them through the courtesy of Mr. Verdelis. They were later taken to the Epigraphical Museum. One of these slabs, which is virtually complete (E.M. 13366), has part of the text of an imperial letter and has been published by James H. Oliver in *Hesperia*, Supplement XIII, *Marcus Aurelius, Aspects of Civic and Cultural Policy in the East*, Princeton, 1970.

The other slab (E.M. 13367) is much more fragmentary and its inscribed face is heavily eroded. Like the first slab, this too has been sawn from a thicker block and is now a thin slab averaging about two centimeters thick. It is of Pentelic marble. It has been skillfully pieced together, backed with plaster and supported with bronze rods by the expert technicians of the Epigraphical Museum under the supervision of Mrs. Delmouzou. It now stands 1.67 m. high and 0.78 m. wide. As we seem to have the start of the inscription, the top edge may be original, unless a crowning molding has been cut away. The right edge seems to be preserved, but at the left something has been trimmed off, for part of the left-hand crown is gone and about 0.18 m. would be needed for it to be placed symmetrically with the other. Besides this trimming of the original block, the resulting slab has also lost many pieces, particularly at the upper left and upper right corners and here and there in the main body of the slab as can be seen in the photograph (Pl. 61).<sup>6</sup>

The inscription is confined to the upper half of the stone and records the name of a man from the deme of Lamptrai and a victory in the anthippasia at the festival of the Olympieia with the cavalry of the tribe Erechtheis. Below are two crowns awarded to the man, first as hipparch and then as general. The date may be second half of the fourth or early third century B.C.

	[ὁ δεῖνα --- ομ]άρχου Λαμπτρειῶ[ς -----]
	[----- Ὀλυ]μπία ἀνθιππασία[ι-----]
	[----- Ἐρε]χ[θῆ]δ[ι φ]υλεῖ. <i>vacat</i>
	<i>v</i> Σ[-----]
5	<i>v</i> Ι Π Π [---]
	<i>rasura</i>
	Φι . . . ων Φιλιστ[---]

<sup>6</sup> With the kind permission of Mr. Dontas, the present Ephor of the Acropolis, I have searched for these missing fragments in the mass of pieces of paving now stored in the Roman market and also among the inscriptions kept there, but without success.

	<i>corona</i>		<i>corona</i>
	ἡ βου[λή]		ἡ βουλῆ
	ὁ δ[ῆμος]		ὁ δῆμος
10	ἱπ[πα]ρχή		στρατηγῆ
	[σαντα]	15	σαν[τα]

One would very much like to know the identity of the person named so prominently in the first line, but the remains are too slight for certainty. Among the names of persons from Lamptraï ending in -ομάχου, the most probable is Kineas Nikomachou Lamptreus and, if this is correct, the man would belong to a large family of which members are known in the fourth and third centuries B.C. and later, and which had connections with the cavalry.<sup>7</sup>

2 (Pl. 63, a). A chunk of Hymettian marble, bluish gray with white streaks, from a large triangular monument. The inscribed face is concave. Part of a second face, likewise concave, is preserved behind at the right at an angle of 60°. The top is rather roughly picked and not certainly original. Found among the marbles from previous excavations stored in the Stoa of Attalos area. Entered in the Agora Excavations catalogue in 1936.

Inventory No. I 3495. P.H. 0.56 m.; P.W. 0.33 m.; P.Th. 0.29 m.; L.H. 0.017–0.020 m.

The date is probably late fourth or third century B.C.

[-----]ν ἀνθιπ[πασίαι ----]  
[Παναθήναια τὰ μεγά]λα ἐνίκα α[-----]

*vacat*

[ἴππ]αρχοι  
[ὁ δεῖνα ----]ένου Προ[σπάλτιος vel βαλίστιος]  
5 [ὁ δεῖνα ----]ους A[*demoticum*]

*vacat*

EUGENE VANDERPOOL

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES  
ATHENS

<sup>7</sup> J. Kirchner, *Prosopographia Attica*, nos. 8436 and 10953. J. K. Davies, *Athenian Propertied Families*, pp. 492–493, under no. 12883. The name Nikomachos of Lamptraï has appeared again recently on two lead tablets of a series recording names of Athenian cavalrymen and information about their horses, found at the Kerameikos and published by Karin Braun in *Ath. Mitt.*, LXXXV, 1970, p. 226, nos. 415–416; p. 249; and p. 252, fig. 9, no. 415.



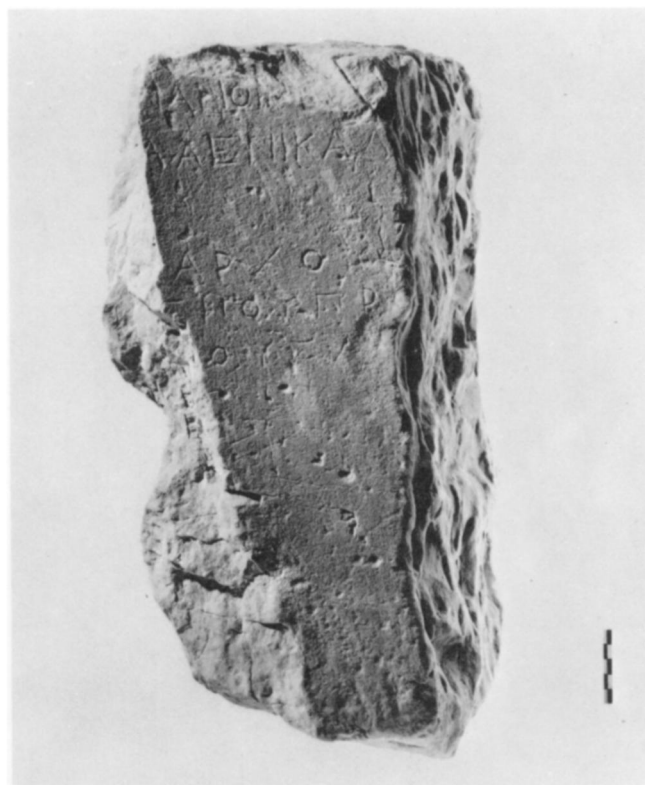
Inscription No. 1

EUGENE VANDERPOOL: VICTORIES IN THE ANTHIPPASIA



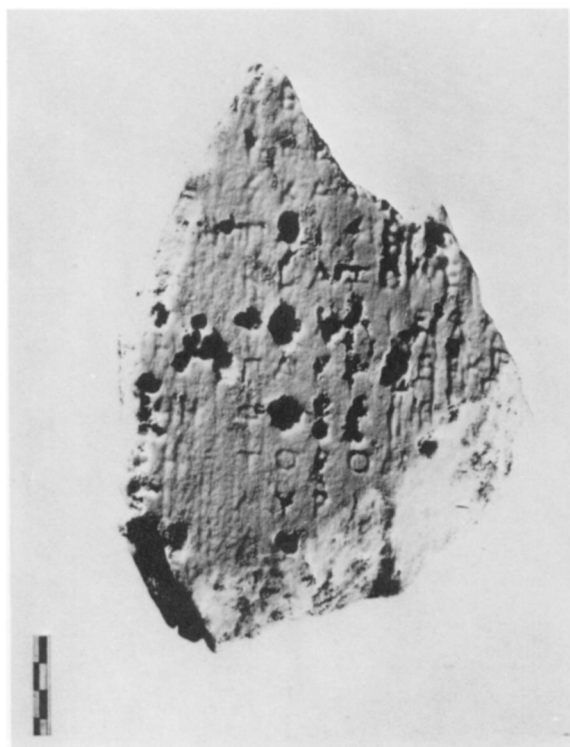
Inscription No. 1, detail

EUGENE VANDERPOOL: VICTORIES IN THE ANTHIPPASIA

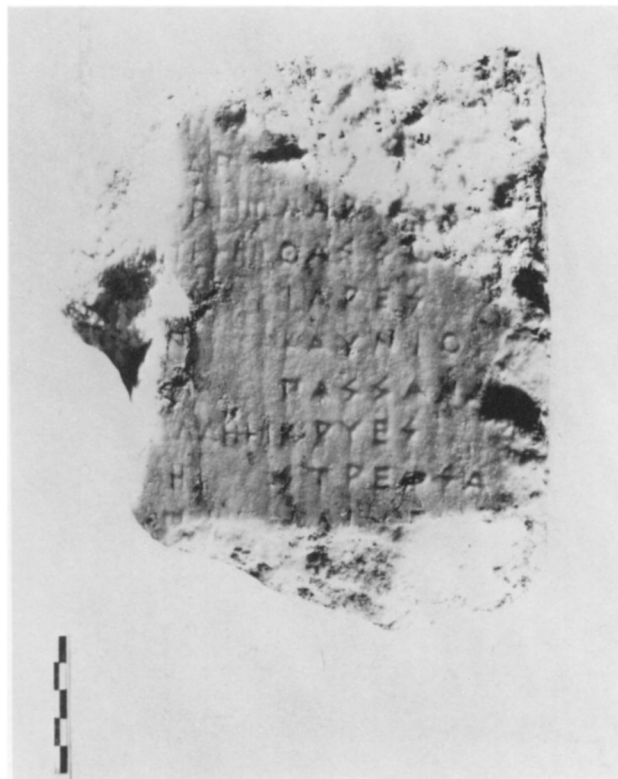


a. Inscription No. 2

EUGENE VANDERPOOL: VICTORIES IN THE ANTHIPPASIA



b. No. 1: I 7398, obverse face: column VII of List 2



c. No. 1: I 7398, right lateral face: column VIII of List 2