

GREEK INSCRIPTIONS AT CORINTH

(PLATES 35–37)

THIS report contains a miscellany of texts which belong to the period before the Roman destruction of Corinth in 146 B.C. Fifteen of them are here published for the first time. On four other previously published inscriptions I add the results of fresh investigation of the stones.¹

Recent finds have not altered the gloomy nature of Corinthian epigraphy before 146 B.C. There has in fact been a slight decrease in the percentage of inscriptions, found since 1950 which belong to the Greek period as compared with those of Roman date. Of the 1068 texts published by B. D. Meritt in *Corinth*, VIII, i and J. H. Kent in *Corinth*, VIII, iii, a total of 117 or 10.9% belong to the period before 146 B.C. Since 1950 the Corinth epigraphic inventory shows an increase of 391 pieces of which only 37 or 9.5% predate the Mummian destruction.

1 (Plate 35). Small fragment of fine-crystalled, bluish white marble, broken on all sides and back. Found on April 4, 1959 on the foundations of Temple K at the north end of the east side.

Height, 0.105 m.; width, 0.14 m.; thickness, 0.06 m.

Height of letters, 0.01 m.; interspace, 0.004 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2514.

saec. III/II a.

NON-ΣΤΟΙΧ.

[-----]ιλλ[-----]
 [--- γρα]μματέως[-----]
 [----- κ]αὶ συγγεν[ει-----]
 [----- τ]ῇ πόλει σπον[δ-----]
 5 [-----]ς ἀπέστ<ε>ιλ[αν-----]
 [-----]ια δρ[-----]
 [-----]α[-----]

Line 1: Of the first preserved letter only the bottom half of a vertical stroke survives; enough remains to exclude eta and mu but rho, upsilon, and perhaps tau are also possible readings. At the right edge of the stone the bottom tip of a diagonal stroke can be seen.

¹ I wish to thank Charles K. Williams, Field Director of the Corinth Excavations, for permission to publish these inscriptions and for much patient encouragement of my work on Corinthian epigraphy. In preparing this paper I have had valuable help also from Lilian H. Jeffery, Gil Hart, Sterling Dow, Colin N. Edmonson, W. K. Pritchett, and Leslie L. Threatte which I want to acknowledge without implicating them in the errors that remain. Financial assistance from the American Philosophical Society is also gratefully acknowledged.

Line 2: Only the tip of a vertical survives in the bottom right corner of the first letter-space.

Line 4: In the top left corner of the last space there is the tip of a diagonal stroke.

Line 5: The right third of a horizontal stroke survives along the top of the first letter-space. Of the last letter only the apex remains. Lapis ΣΑΠΕΣΤΙΑ. Also possible are ΣΑΠ ἑστία and [- -]ς ἀπεστι α[- -].

Line 6: Only the top of a vertical stroke can be seen in the first letter-space. Epigraphically the final letter could also be beta since only part of the top half is preserved.

The ornate lettering probably belongs to the first half of the second century B.C.² and the text appears to be that of a decree. In line 1 perhaps a name like Θράσυλλος, Ξένυλλος, or Χαιρέσυλλος might be restored.³ In line 2 the title of the official is not certain; both γραμματεὺς and ὑπογραμματεὺς appear at the beginning of decrees found at Corinth.⁴ The likelihood that this title in the genitive case stood near the beginning of our decree is increased by the height of the space between lines 1 and 2, 0.0065 m., which suggests that line 1 is a heading, since interlinear spacing elsewhere on the fragment measures only ca. 0.0045 m.

On the wide range of contexts for the terms συγγένεια and συγγενεῖς in Hellenistic decrees see D. Musti, *Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Lettere, Storia e Filosofia*, XXXII, 1963, pp. 225-239. The word appears here for the first time in Corinthian inscriptions.⁵ In line 4 some form of σπουδάξω or σπουδαῖος might be restored, or σπουδῆς οὐθὲν ἐλλείπων⁶ vel sim.

The forms [γρα]μματέως and [τ]ῆι πόλει indicate the *koine* which among decrees found at Corinth has usually been taken as evidence for a non-Corinthian origin.⁷ In fact, of the ten decrees found at Corinth prior to this report only four are in Doric and were certainly passed by the Corinthian state;⁸ two are uncertain as to their dialect,⁹ and three others are in the *koine*.¹⁰ Until clear evidence is available for the

² Cf. No. 3; *Corinth*, VIII, i, nos. 2 and 3; J. Kirchner, *Imagines Inscriptionum Atticarum*², Berlin, 1948, no. 104.

³ Cf. *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 11, line 4; no. 28; no. 3, line 4, with Hiller's correction, *Berl. Philol. Woch.*, LII, 1932, p. 362.

⁴ Γραμματεὺς, *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 8, a doubtful example, see S. Dow, *H.S.C.P.*, LIII, 1942, pp. 111-112; ὑπογραμματεὺς in line 1 of *Corinth Inventory I 2649*, an unpublished fragment from the excavations of 1965 northwest of Temple E; J. K. Anderson, *Hesperia*, XXXVI, 1967, p. 11.

⁵ For perhaps the closest Corinthian parallel see the Corinthian decree at Magnesia on the Maeander, O. Kern, *Die Inschriften von Magnesia am Maeander*, Berlin, 1900, pp. 32-33, no. 42, lines 5-6, ἀναγεομενον τὰν οἰκειότατα καὶ φιλιαν τὰν προὔπαρχουσιν.

⁶ Cf. *I.G.*, II², 956, line 10; 958, line 9. Both are dated to mid-2nd century B.C.; W. Larfeld, *Griechische Epigraphik*, Munich, 1914, p. 368.

⁷ K. K. Smith, *A.J.A.*, XXIII, 1919, pp. 344-345; S. Dow, *H.S.C.P.*, LIII, 1942, pp. 109-113.

⁸ *Corinth*, VIII, i, nos. 2, 3, 5; VIII, iii, no. 37.

⁹ *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 8; VIII, iii, no. 45.

¹⁰ *Corinth*, VIII, i, nos. 4, 6; VIII, iii, no. 40 (?). The tenth is *S.E.G.*, XXII, 231, an Elian text, which is the best preserved of all pre-146 B.C. decrees found at Corinth. Its publication, by N. D. Robertson (cf. *A.J.A.*, LXVIII, 1964, p. 200), is eagerly awaited.

Excluded from this list of decrees is *Corinth*, VIII, iii, no. 27 which, as W. Peek has suggested (*Deutsche Literaturzeitung*, LXXXIX, 1968, p. 540), is probably metrical.

use of the *koine* in firmly identifiable Corinthian decrees, it is best to regard the present text as originating in another Greek city which officially recognized some special service from Corinth.

2 (Plate 35). Small fragment of fine-crystalled, white marble with part of original roughly dressed back preserved; broken on all other sides. From a marble pile in the "Agora SW" area; exact date and place of finding unknown.

Height, 0.107 m.; width, 0.205 m.; thickness, *ca.* 0.055 m.-0.06 m.

Height of letters, 0.007 m.; interspace, *ca.* 0.006 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2524.

saec. III/II *a.*

NON-ΣΤΟΙΧ.

[-----] ^ [-----]
 [-----] Ἀπολλο[δ]ώρου εν[---]
 [-----] ς καὶ [φιλ]οδόξως καὶ α[---]
 [-----] ος τῶν Μεσσανίων [-----]
 5 [-----] τούς τε στ[-----]

Line 1: The only traces here are the bottoms of two diagonal strokes which belong to alpha or lambda.

Line 2: Of the first letter only the bottom tips of two diagonals survive. The dim outline of a circular letter can be made out in the sixth letter-space but the center is badly damaged.

Line 3: The first letter might also have been an epsilon, but not xi, since only the ends of two parallel, horizontal strokes survive at the right edge of the space. The badly damaged space after καὶ is 0.019 m. wide, leaving space for the restoration of two or three letters. There are dim traces in this scarred surface which might belong to a vertical stroke followed by a triangular letter but they are too uncertain to warrant printing dotted letters. Of the final triangular letter the right diagonal and apex are preserved but the center is too damaged to permit a clear choice among alpha, delta, or lambda.

Line 5: Of the last letter all that survives is the tip of a horizontal stroke in the top left corner of the letter-space; epigraphically zeta and xi are the only other possible readings.

As in No. 1, the letters are very neatly incised; the broken-bar alpha, squarish sigma, and serifs probably indicate a date in the first half of the second century B.C. or slightly earlier.¹¹ The arrangement is not strictly stoichedon but the horizontal spacing is so regular that each line probably contained roughly the same number of letters. The interlinear space of *ca.* 0.006 m. was not as regularly observed.

The size and arrangement of the letters and the few broken words that have survived show that the fragment comes from a decree. Messenians are not mentioned elsewhere, singly or as a state, in Corinthian inscriptions, nor is there enough text preserved on this small fragment to suggest a plausible historical context. For Messenian involvement with the Achaean League at this period see C. A. Roebuck, *A History of Messenia from 369 to 146 B.C.*, Chicago, 1941, pp. 70-108. For the

¹¹ Above, note 2.

name Apollodoros at Corinth see *I.G.*, IV², 42, line 24. I have not found an example of this common name from Messenia.

3 (Plate 35). Fragment of a stele of fine-crystalled, bluish white marble with part of original right side and back preserved; broken on all other sides. Back roughly worked except for a crude margin at left edge, 0.088 m. wide. Found in July 1970 in the Sacred Spring South area in modern fill over the Protocorinthian House excavated in 1970; see *Hesperia*, XL, 1971, pp. 3-10.

Height, 0.288 m.; width, 0.196 m.; thickness, 0.107 m.

Height of letters, *ca.* 0.01 m.; some omicrons 0.005 m.; interspace, *ca.* 0.004 m.

Corinth Inventory I-70-40.

saec. III/II *a.*

NON-ΣΤΟΙΧ.

	[— — — — — — — — — —] υ ι [. .] χ η ι [. ^{ca.} . .]
	[— — — — — — — — — —] τ ο ἴ ς ἄ λ λ ο ι ς [. .]
	[— — — — — — — — — —] τ ῆ ς π ό λ ε ω ς ^{vv}
	[— — — — — — — — — —] τ ῶ ν σ τ ε] φ ά ν ω ν έ π ι μ ε
5	[— — — — — — — — — —] ω ν τ ῇ ι π ο μ π ῇ [ι]
	[— — — — — — — — — —] τ ε τ ῇ ν β ο υ λ ῆ ν κ α
	[ἰ — — — — — — — — — —] α ι π ρ ώ τ [ο] ι ς μ ε τ ά
	[— — — — — — — — — —] ἡ π ό < λ > ι ς τ ί θ η σ ι ν ^v
	[— — — — — — — — — —] τ ῶ ν κ ο] ρ ι ν θ ί ω ν κ α ι τ ο ι
10	[— — — — — — — — — —] γ ε ι ς τ ό ν μ ε τ ά ^v
	[— — — — — — — — — —] τ ο ψ ή φ ι σ μ α κ α
	[— — — — — — — — — —] α ι έ ν τ ῶ ι έ π ι φ α
	[ν ε σ τ ά τ ω ι τ ό π ω ι — — — — — τ ῆ ς] ἀ ν α θ έ σ ε ω ς ^v
	[— — — — — — — — — —] ω ς έ ν δ ε ^{vv}
15	[— — — — — — — — — —] ς κ α ι έ π ι ^v
	[— — — — — — — — — —] ι α ν ^v

Line 1: Of the first letter only the right diagonal has survived. To the right of it there is a vertical stroke damaged at the top, with the original surface to the right of it preserved enough to exclude eta, kappa, mu and nu as possible readings; gamma, iota, pi, rho, tau, upsilon, and psi are candidates. In the next letter-space there is the bottom of another vertical stroke. Standing close to eta at the broken right edge of the stone is the bottom part of a vertical stroke.

Line 3: Of the dotted lambda only the bottom tips of the two diagonals have survived.

Line 5: In the fourth letter-space there is a vertical stroke at the left side with damaged surface to the right of it.

Line 6: The first letter must be gamma, zeta, sigma, or tau; only the right half of a horizontal stroke survives along the top of the letter-space.

Line 7: Of the dotted iota only the bottom of a vertical stroke can be seen.

Line 8: *Lapis* ΠΟΔΙΣ.

Line 9: In the last letter-space there appears to be the bottom tip of a vertical stroke at the break.

Line 10: The first letter is uncertain; only a vertical stroke is preserved with the top standing free, but the surface to the left is damaged. Since the bottom of the stroke does not have the serif which is characteristic of the verticals of eta and iota, nu seems the likeliest reading.

Line 11: Of the dotted tau only the right tip of the horizontal is preserved at the top of the space.

Line 12: Only the right diagonal of the first letter has survived.

Line 13: The dim outline of a triangular letter is visible in the first preserved letter-space.

Line 15: Of the first letter there is only part of a stroke in the top right corner of the space tilted at such an angle that sigma seems to be the likeliest reading, although epsilon is perhaps possible.

The letter-forms probably indicate a date in the first half of the second century B.C. for this fragment of a decree. Among inscriptions found at Corinth the lettering is most like that on *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 3. As in No. 1, the *koine* marks this text as non-Corinthian in origin and the plurals [τῶν στε]φάνων in line 4 and πρῶτ[ο]ις in line 6 show that at least two Corinthians are being honored. It is possible that a foreign state is here rewarding a delegation of Corinthians, perhaps as arbitrators, as in *Corinth*, VIII, i, nos. 4 and 6 and in *S.E.G.*, XXII, 231. Unfortunately, the surviving phrases are mainly formulaic; I have not been able to recognize a proper name or any other clue which would suggest an appropriate historical setting.

In line 1 ὑπ[άρ]χη and [τύ]χη are among the possible restorations. [τ]οῖς ἄλλοις in line 2 might belong to the common formula, [τὰ ἅλλα ὅσα καὶ τ]οῖς ἄλλοις [προξένους καὶ εὐεργέταις τ]ῆς πόλεως¹²; ¹² such a restoration, however, would yield a line of only about thirty letters in length which would be inadequate for the restoration of the formulae in lines 6-7. It seems likely, therefore, that if the formula appeared here, it was in a more expansive form, such as, for example, [— — — καὶ εὐεργέταις τοῦ τε ἱεροῦ^{ca. 11} καὶ τ]ῆς πόλεως.¹³ The normal position for this formula, however, is after, rather than before, the list of honors being granted. If the πρόσδοδος and προεδρία formulae are correctly recognized in lines 6-7, [τ]οῖς ἄλλοις in line 2 should then be otherwise explained.

For the crowns in line 4 see K. K. Smith's restoration of *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 4, lines 11-12, [τῆς δὲ τῶν στε]φάνων ἀναγο[ρεύσεως ἐπιμεληθῆναι], *A.J.A.*, XXIII, 1919, p. 345; τῆς δὲ ἀναγορεύσεως τοῦ στεφάνου ἐπιμελεῖσθαι, *I.G.*, II², 1235, lines 18-19; and many similar passages collected in the indexes to *S.I.G.*⁸ and *I.G.*, II².

Not enough of the context is preserved to identify the πομπή in line 5, although the crowns may have been announced at it; cf. *I.G.*, XII, Part 7, 22, lines 30-34, εἰς δὲ τὸν λοιπὸν χρόνον στεφανοῦν αὐτὸν ἀεὶ τοὺς ἀγωνοθέτας πρὸ τοῦ ἀγῶνος ἐμ πᾶσι τοῖς ἀγῶσιν οἷς τίθησιν ἡ πόλις καὶ Ἰτωνίων τῇ πομπῇ ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ [καὶ] ἀναγορεύειν τὸν κήρυκα ὧ[ν ἕνεκα] στεφανοῦνται, Amorgos, *ca.* 250 B.C.¹⁴

Lines 6-8 may be restored each with *ca.* 50-60 letters somewhat as follows:

[.^{ca. 24} πρόσδοδον εἶναι αὐτοῖς πρὸς]τε τὴν βουλὴν κα

¹² Cf. Dittenberger, *S.I.G.*⁸, no. 438, lines 25-27.

¹³ Cf. Dittenberger, *S.I.G.*⁸, no. 395, line 8; *I.G.*, XI, Part 4, 515, lines 7-9; 528, lines 13-16.

¹⁴ Cf. *I.G.*, XII, Part 7, 32, line 6; 229, line 6; *I.G.*, XII, Supplement, pp. 142-143, no. 330,

[ὁ τὸν δῆμον τὸν^{ca. 22}....., εἰάν του δέωντ]αι, πρώτ[ο]ις μετὰ
[τὰ ἱερά. καὶ εἶναι αὐτοῖς προεδρίαν ἐν τοῖς ἀγῶσιν πᾶσιν οἷς ἢ πό<λ>ις τίθησιν °

Since the stele is 0.107 m. thick, it could easily have accommodated a line of this length. Its original width would have been *ca.* 0.60 m. as the average space occupied by ten letters is *ca.* 0.094 m. For these two common formulae see, *inter alia*, *I.G.*, XI, Part 4, 1039, lines 6-9, Delos; *I.G.*, XII, Part 5, 481, lines 24-27, Siphnos; 838, lines 6-10, Tenos; XII, Part 7, 222, lines 6-7, Amorgos.

Publication of the decree is ordered in lines 11-13. The range of possible restorations is so great and the wording of publication formulae is so often influenced by local factors that supplements here can be only *exempli gratia*. I suggest one that is based on lines of *ca.* 50-60 letters only as an illustration.

[----- ἀναγράφαι τόδε] τὸ ψήφισμα κα
[ὁ τοὺς στεφάνους εἰς στήλην λιθίνην καὶ ἀναθεῖν]αι ἐν τῷ ἐπιφά
[νεστάτῳ τόπῳ τῆς ἀγορᾶς. ἐπιμεληθῆναι δὲ καὶ τῆς] ἀναθέσεως °
[καὶ τῆς ἀναγραφῆς τῆς στήλης -----^{officials}----- τῆς πόλε]ως. ἐν δὲ

Parallels for this wording may be found in Dittenberger, *S.I.G.*³, 700, lines 45-49, Letai in Macedonia, 117 B.C.; Michel, *Recueil*, No. 418, Kalymnos, third century B.C.

4. *Corinth*, VIII, iii, no. 40; J. Pouilloux, *Rev. Arch.*, 1966, p. 365; J. Bousquet, *R.E.G.*, LXXX, 1967, p. 300.

In line 8 read [· ·]τέχει[— —]. The stone, which I examined in June 1969 with C. N. Edmonson, clearly has the top left corner of epsilon or gamma after the chi, followed by the upper tip of a vertical stroke. Bousquet's suggestion, [με]τέχει, is thus preferable to Kent's reading [με]τεχον[τ — —].

5. *Corinth*, VIII, iii, no. 49.

Above line 1 of this small fragment there is an uninscribed space, 0.03 m. in height, extending to the broken top of the stone. There is thus no evidence for the existence of a line of text above line 1 as indicated by Kent. The iota in line 1 is followed by 0.015 m. of uninscribed surface which extends to the broken right side of the stone; line 1 should be printed as [— — — —]ωι *vacat*.

In line 3 the left diagonal stroke of alpha or lambda is clearly preserved at the right edge of the stone (visible also in Kent's Plate 5, No. 49). Read [— — —]ι Ἑρμα[— — — —], perhaps [τᾶ]ι Ἑρμᾶ[ι] or a name such as Ἑρμαῖος, Ἑρμαγόρας, etc. At the end of line 3 there is no trace on the stone of Kent's dotted alpha; read [— — —] ἐπὶ γυμν[ασιάρχου τοῦ δεῖνα]. The last letter in line 4 may have been upsilon; there are very faint traces of a vertical stroke and perhaps the right diagonal. In line 5 there is a clear tau after the last letter recorded by Kent; read [— — —]τυχον τ[— — —].

lines 39-41, all from Amorgos, 2nd cent. B.C. The restorations [Ἰτωνί]ων τῇ πομπῇ and [οἱ Ἀρκεσι]νεῖς in our lines 5 and 10 are possible but nothing more.

6 (Plate 35). Small fragment of fine-crystalled, bluish white marble, original thickness preserved, broken on all sides. Found on March 6, 1968 lying on the surface of the top of the north side of Cheliotomylos hill, which lies *ca.* 1 km. to the northwest of the archaic temple near the northern city wall, see A. Bon, R. Carpenter, *Corinth*, III, ii, 1936, pp. 59-65.¹⁵

Height, 0.078 m.; width, 0.12 m.; thickness, 0.026 m.

Height of letters, *ca.* 0.01 m.; interspace *ca.* 0.005-0.008 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2723

saec. III/II *a.*

NON-ΣΤΟΙΧ.

[-----]Α[-----]
 [-----]χωιδ[ης-----]
 [-----]υθραςης[-----]
 [-----]ιστονικος[-----]

Line 1: Above the chi of line 2 there is part of the left diagonal of alpha or lambda.

This is a trivial piece important only for its place of finding and for the slight contribution it makes to Corinthian prosopography. The letter forms, which afford the only evidence for dating, resemble those on the decrees Nos. **1** and **3** and probably belong to the late 3rd or first half of the 2nd century B.C.

In line 2 [Ἀρ]χωιδης would seem to be the most likely restoration; for the name see W. Pape, G. E. Benseler, *Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen*³, Braunschweig, 1863-1870, p. 154. [Ε]υθραςης, cf. *I.G.*, V, Part 2, 19, line 1, is the only name in B. Hansen, F. Dornseiff, *Rückläufiges Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen*, Berlin, 1957, which will fit the letters preserved on the stone in line 3. [Ἀρ]ιστόνικος is preferable to Καλλιστόνικος or Πλειστόνικος in line 4 since the restoration of only two letters will better produce a regular alignment of the beginnings of the names in this catalogue. All three names appear here for the first time in Corinthian prosopography.

7 (Plates 35, 36; Fig. 1). *B.C.H.*, LXXXVIII, 1959, p. 607; J. and L. Robert, *R.E.G.*, LXXIV, 1961, p. 164, no. 299; *S.E.G.*, XXIV, 271. Orange-brown poros stele, perhaps originally a wall block which was trimmed down on the sides. Preserved on all sides; inscribed surface deeply scarred. Found in November 1958 in the field of Anastasios Nauopoulos at Ἀλώνια, near the village of Poulitsa, which lies in the coastal plain between the Nemea and Asopos rivers a few kilometers southeast of

¹⁵ In view of the discovery of this inscribed fragment and classical sherds and loomweights which have been picked up on the surface of Cheliotomylos by the writer and other members of the staff of the Corinth excavations in recent years, Carpenter's statement that "at no point on the hill could there be found any evidence for occupation in classical times" is now in need of revision, *op. cit.*, p. 64.

Kiato, the site of the ancient port of Sikyon. The finding-place of the stone is thus well within the borders of ancient Sikyonia. Now in the courtyard of the Old Museum at Corinth.

Height, 0.935 m.;¹⁶ width, 0.49 m.; thickness, 0.25 m.

Height of letters, 0.035-0.045 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2509.

saec. V a. (?)

NON-ΣΤΟΙΧ.

Πασέδας
Κορμύνα

Π Α Μ Σ Δ Α Μ
Κ Π Ρ Μ Ι Ν Α

Line 2: Of the first letter in line 2 there has survived a vertical stroke almost aligned with the left vertical of pi in line 1. The top 0.022 m. of this stroke stand out clearly and show no trace of a joining stroke. Below this point and extending to the right there is a damaged area in which there appear to be traces of two diagonal strokes so placed as to suggest that kappa is the likeliest reading. In view of the damage to the surface of the stone at this point, iota and the aspirate, ι, must also remain possibilities. The distance between the first letter and the box-shaped omicron is 0.042 m. The widest interval between letters in the rest of the line is 0.03 m., so that there is room for a letter between the dotted kappa and the omicron. There is a deep patch of irregular damage extending over the lower part of the line at this point and in the upper half this scar, though still much deeper than the chisel strokes of the letters on either side of it, follows a roughly vertical path. To the right and left of the scar in the upper half of the line enough of the original surface is preserved to show that if a vertical stroke stood in this letter-space, the top half of it was not joined by any other stroke. Since, however, no certain trace of a chisel stroke has remained here, it is best to leave the text as printed.

The occurrence of Σ indicates the Sikyonian epichoric alphabet for this grave marker, which accords with the place of finding. I do not find Πασέδας or Πασήδας in the standard collections of Greek names, but cf. Paseas,¹⁷ Pasilas,¹⁸ Pasiadas,¹⁹ and Pasiades.²⁰

¹⁶ At the bottom, where the stele was sunk into the ground, the block has not been trimmed. The part originally projecting above ground would have been *ca.* 0.54 m. high and *ca.* 0.42 m. wide.

¹⁷ Plutarch, *Aratos*, II, 3; Pausanias, II, 8, 2; *R.E.*, XVIII, 4, 1949, col. 2056, from Sikyon; *I.G.*, II², 512.

¹⁸ F. Bechtel, *Die historischen Personennamen des Griechischen*, Halle, 1917, p. 361.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 362.

²⁰ *R.E.*, XVIII, 4, 1949, cols. 2057-2058; L. H. Jeffrey, *The Local Scripts of Archaic Greece*, Oxford, 1961, p. 278, no. 49.

Circular and diamond-shaped omicrons are common in this script; the box-shaped example in the second line is apparently a new addition. The horizontal stroke which is shown bisecting this letter in the drawing in *B.C.H.* is actually an irregular scar on the stone which curves up from right to left; $\boxplus = \eta$ seems to me impossible here. Mu is clearly distinguished from san by the shortness and the angle of its right stroke.

Koppúva is Doric genitive of the father of the man whose grave was marked by the stele. The name, however, is peculiar; cf. Timinas,²¹ Daminas.²² No names with a similar ending appear in the the Sikyonian prosopography collected by C. H. Skalet, *Ancient Sikyon*, Baltimore, 1928, pp. 181-214.

Orthography and letter-forms provide the only evidence for dating the stele, but the corpus of Sikyonian epichoric inscriptions is small and conclusions must remain very tentative. As \boxtimes apparently disappeared *ca.* 480 B.C.,²³ we might regard this as a possible *terminus ante quem*, but attempts to date the lettering more precisely cannot be taken seriously.

8 (Plate 36; Fig. 2). J. H. Kent, *Corinth*, VIII, iii, no. 9.

When Kent studied this stone it was embedded in the north wall of a Roman stairway over a vaulted drain, which lies directly south of Temple F in the Forum of Roman Corinth.²⁴ Plate 36 shows the block in this position. The inscribed face was uppermost and in the original construction of the wall at least one more course of large blocks rested above it, as can be inferred from the deep pry holes in the inscribed surface and in the top of the neighboring block to the east. In this position the inscription was difficult to read and to photograph.

In September 1967 C. K. Williams, Field Director of the Corinth Excavations, removed the block from the Roman wall for closer study. It was immediately evident that the text was in need of serious revision and I am grateful to Williams for permission to publish the results of this fresh examination. Once it was disengaged from the wall the physical characteristics of the block could also be more accurately determined.

The block seems clearly to have been trimmed down for at least its re-use in this wall and perhaps in even earlier structures. On the left side the surface is largely broken and irregular, but there are traces of wide chisel strokes here similar to those on the back and right sides. These three surfaces appear to have been trimmed in a crude manner and show no signs of anathyrosis or other cuttings. The top and bottom surfaces are original. The former is smoothly dressed and is still

²¹ F. Bechtel, *op. cit.*, p. 430.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 130.

²³ L. H. Jeffrey, *L.S.A.G.*, pp. 138-139.

²⁴ R. L. Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, 1951, pp. 7-8, 63, Plate 6, 1, where the block may be seen projecting to the left of the great mass of masonry marked γ .

covered in many places by a thin coat of white stucco which apparently covered the entire top surface of the block in its first period of use.

Sunk into the top surface is a deep cutting, rectangular in plan but sloping at a sharp angle toward the back of the block. This cutting, which is 0.112 m. deep, measures 0.068 m. x 0.055 m. and is shown in Plate 36. Its lateral position on the original block cannot be determined since the original right and left sides are not preserved, but since it lies 0.58 m. from the right side and 0.553 m. from the left, it is possible that the cutting was originally centered on the block. It seems to be too close to the inscribed surface, 0.02 m., to have served as a lifting-hole; its function is discussed below, pp. 208, 209. The bottom of the block is smoothly dressed with a claw chisel and at the right there is a smoother band extending the full thickness of the block; preserved width *ca.* 0.10 m. There are no cuttings on the bottom surface.

Height (original), 0.50 m.; width, 1.218 m.; thickness, 0.31 m.

Height of letters, 0.052-0.058 m., first omicron and theta, 0.044 m.; second omicron, 0.039 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2242.

Λ Β Η Ε Σ < Γ · Ο Β : + ⊙ Ο Σ Γ

The single line of text is equidistant from the top and bottom of the block. To the left of the first letter, as far as the left side of the stone (0.155 m.), the original surface is lost. Of the first letter there are preserved parts of two strokes which meet at the top to form an apex. The bottoms of these two strokes have been broken away and the area to the right of them is also badly damaged. Kent interpreted these traces as an alpha without the horizontal bar, but he was led to this conclusion by his belief that the next letter also contained a stonecutter's error. The second letter, however, is a perfectly preserved Corinthian epsilon; none of its strokes is missing. Epigraphically, of course, the first letter might still be read as an unfinished alpha but we should resort to this only in desperation after all other candidates have been rejected.²⁵ There is no crossbar and the bottom of the letter is missing; therefore, gamma, delta, and lambda must qualify as possible readings. Two other candidates are mu and nu and support for them, as opposed to gamma, delta, and lambda, lies in the unusual interval between the first two letters, 0.055 m.; elsewhere the space between letters exhibits a range of only 0.015-0.0355 m. Probability then seems to favor mu or nu, both of which would have extended farther to the right to reduce the size of the interval. Mu is preferable since the left stroke inclines at an angle of *ca.* 45°.

The fifth letter is clearly a sigma with four strokes and need not be dotted. Traces of the sixth letter, which were not reported by Kent, survive in the form of two slanting strokes which meet at an angle near the top of the letter-space to form what appears to be the top angle of a sigma of four strokes. The bottom half of the letter is missing.

To the right of the tau in the seventh letter-space there is an uninscribed space 0.148 m. wide. The surface here is very badly damaged; see Plate 36. There may once have been letters here but careful examination, verified by C. K. Williams and C. N. Edmonson, failed to reveal any certain

²⁵ J. Bousquet, *R.E.G.*, LXXX, 1967, p. 300, has also expressed scepticism about these assumed errors.

traces.²⁶ Centered in this space, exactly 0.07 m. from the tau to the left and the omicron to the right, is part of an iron pin embedded in the surface of the block. The pin is so placed that it surely belonged to the original monument. It is mounted solidly enough to support some kind of an attachment, perhaps one that may have been inserted into the cutting in the top surface of the block. Any object mounted on the pin would have interrupted the text of the inscription; the careful centering of the pin itself suggests that this interruption was intentional.

The ninth letter, reported by Kent as rho, is a Corinthian epsilon of angular form, perfectly preserved. Of the next letter only the top and bottom of a centered vertical survive, the area in the middle of this stroke being deeply scarred. Iota and chi are candidates since the stroke is equidistant 0.04 m. from its neighbors. Other epigraphic possibilities are Y K, and Y. For my choice of kappa see below.

The eleventh letter, read by Kent as a dotted nu, looks convincing on his photograph. The stone, however, has a chi of upright form. Of the last letter about two-thirds of the horizontal and one-third of the vertical stroke remain in the break. In addition to tau, zeta is a possible reading.

Although some progress has been made in establishing the readings on this inscription, there remains the embarrassment of a monumental text of fifteen letters which on first reading makes very little sense. That the second letter, **Β**, should be interpreted as Corinthian epichoric epsilon, and not beta, seems clear from its recurrence in the ninth letter-space followed by **ΚΧΘ**. The second letter may represent, then, epsilon, eta, or possibly the diphthong **ει**.²⁷ The fourth letter, **E**, may also in Corinthian epichoric represent the diphthong or epsilon. When **Β** and **E** occur in the same text, the former often stands for eta and the latter represents epsilon or the diphthong **ει**, but this is not always the case in Corinthian.

Since **Β** and **E** occupy the second and fourth spaces in the text, there is little chance that **H**, which stands between them, can represent anything but the *spiritus asper*. This interpretation provides us with the beginning of a word and isolates the first two letters preserved on the stone. They could be the ending of a word, **-με** or **-μη**, or perhaps the negative **μή**.

The word which the *spiritus asper* begins can hardly extend beyond the **Β** in the ninth letter-space. These limitations would perhaps permit the reading: **[- - -]με** **héσστο** **έκχθός** **τ[- - -]** It is, of course, not certain that **με** is the first word of the

²⁶ In the photographs there appears to be the tip of a slanting stroke to the right of the tau; this is, in my opinion, a fortuitous scar on the stone. J. Pouilloux' attempt to make sense of Kent's text by postulating more than two letters in this space must be abandoned, *Rev. Arch.*, 1966, p. 364.

²⁷ See A. Thumb, E. Kieckers, *Handbuch der griechischen Dialekte*, I, Heidelberg, 1932, p. 128 citing five examples of **Β** used in the second syllable of the word "Poseidon" on the pinakes from Penteskouphia. C. D. Buck, *The Greek Dialects*, Chicago, 1955, p. 294, regards these as probable mistakes. C. N. Edmonson, however, has kindly drawn my attention to an unpublished epichoric inscription of the fifth century B.C. from Megara (where **E** and **Β** were normally used as at Corinth, cf. *L.S.A.G.*, p. 133) which exhibits **Β** for epsilon ten times, for the spurious diphthong twice, and for eta five times. In the same text **E** is twice used for the spurious diphthong and in six other instances it is equivalent to epsilon. On the values of these two signs see R. Arena, *Le Iscrizioni Corinzie su Vasi: Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Memorie*, XIII, 3, 1967, pp. 127-128.

text; there could have been some reference to the subject of the verb or some other information inscribed to the left of μέ. It may also be that the prohibition of μὲ *ἕσσοτο* had no expressed subject, as in the boundary marker, *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 22, which reads *μὴ καταβιβασκέτω*.

It is possible to interpret *ἕσσοτο* as the third person singular imperative middle of ἤμαι, i.e., ἤσθω. E would then have to represent eta, for which Β is used only two letters before. The doubling of sigma finds a close parallel in the boundary marker just mentioned.²⁸ A further assumption must be that -στ- here represents -σθ- of the imperative middle. Apparently this phenomenon is not yet attested in Corinthian epichoric, but it appears to have been fairly widespread and was used in fifth-century Lakonian.²⁹

The occurrence of ἐχθός for ἐκτός in Argive epichoric texts makes it possible to interpret ἐκχθός as a preposition, although this variation is apparently without a parallel at Corinth.³⁰

Following the preposition an article and noun are in order but only a dotted tau remains; perhaps τ[οῦ ναφοῦ], τ[οῦ ἡαροῦ], τ[ἔς κρένες], *vel sim.* "Let no one sit outside [the temple . . .]"; a prohibition similar to *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 22 and a number of brief texts from various sanctuaries, see F. Sokolowski, *Lois sacrées des cités grecques, Supplément*, Paris, 1962, nos. 75, 75a, 128; *Lois sacrées des cités grecques*, Paris, 1969, nos. 82, 94, 121. The block itself might have belonged to a large monument with a smoothly stuccoed top surface and a cutting and iron pin used to display some sort of attachment. The monument evidently stood near or perhaps formed a part of the structure outside of which it was forbidden to sit or to loiter.

Letter-forms supply the only means of dating this inscription. Straight iota has replaced the crooked letter and sigma is used instead of san. The epsilon and theta, as Kent observed, suggest a date in the fifth century and this is not contradicted by the appearance of Β. Perhaps a date about the second quarter of the century would not be far wrong.³¹

The re-use of this block in the Roman stairs makes it impossible to determine its original position, but for a construction of this late date and type it is unlikely that

²⁸ For the double sigma see also Buck, *op. cit.*, p. 75, and our No. 10.

²⁹ Buck, *op. cit.*, p. 72, sec. 85, 1; *I.G.*, V, Part 1, 1155, line 2 from Gytheion.

³⁰ Buck, *op. cit.*, p. 60, sec. 66; p. 105, sec. 133.3. On this type of consonant cluster see the valuable discussion by S. Dow, *Glotta*, XLV, 1967, pp. 202-221.

³¹ Orthography and letter forms show little similarity to the Salamis epigram which is securely dated to 480 B.C. or shortly thereafter; A. L. Boegehold, *G.R.B.S.*, VI, 1965, pp. 179-186; A. J. Graham, *Acta of the Fifth International Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge, 1967, Oxford, 1971, pp. 11-12. If the dedication of the Peloponnesian League after Tanagra (457) is in the Corinthian script, then our text with its upright chi and Β ought to be slightly earlier; Jeffrey, *L.S.A.G.*, pp. 129-132, pl. 21, no. 38.

building material was brought in from outside the area of the Roman Forum. The original monument, therefore, probably stood somewhere within or near this sector of the city. If the text has been interpreted correctly, the area where loitering was prohibited might have belonged to one of the many sanctuaries that existed in this part of Greek Corinth. Some, though not all, of these were still visible when Pausanias visited Corinth about A.D. 160. The Temple B/Sacred Spring complex with its prohibitory boundary stone provides a good parallel for an early holy area with restricted access.³²

9 (Plate 37). Rectangular poros block; all original surfaces preserved. Found in March, 1967 in a field in the northeastern part of the city near the Amphitheater; grid reference Q 15/a3 on the Corinth Topographic Survey Map.³³

Height, 0.43 m.; width, 1.09 m.; thickness, 0.23 m.

Height of letters; sigma, 0.19 m.; others, *ca.* 0.113 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2787.

saec. V *a.* ?

Στράτων

The bottom of the sixth letter is not preserved but omega, rather than omicron, seems assured by the way the sides of the round letter become straight just above the break. The initial sigma, which is strikingly larger than the other letters, could be interpreted as a "capital," but it is perhaps more likely that after carving it, the mason was compelled to reduce the size of the other letters in order to fit them onto the stone.

The purpose of the block is not clear. It resembles a wall block and perhaps once formed part of a building or free-standing wall. Straton is new to Corinthian prosopography.

10 (Plate 37). Rectangular block of soft, buff poros with traces of smooth, white stucco used as the cover-slab of a sarcophagos; damaged in a few places, especially on the inscribed surface, but most of the missing pieces have been recovered and restored in plaster. The original dimensions and all the letters are preserved. Found

³² Pausanias II, 2, 6, who observed of the [Roman] agora that *ἐνταῦθα γὰρ πλείστα ἐστὶ τῶν ἱερῶν*. For Temple B and the Sacred Spring see C. Bonner, *A.J.A.*, XXXIII, 1929, pp. 368-375; B. H. Hill, *Corinth* I, vi, 1964, pp. 116-199; C. K. Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, pp. 36-63; XXXIX, 1970, pp. 21-39; XL, 1971, pp. 10-24.

³³ For a description of this unpublished Map (scale 1:2,000) see J. R. Wiseman, *Hesperia*, XXXVI, 1967, p. 14, note 9. The approximate position of the field where Nos. **10-19** were found can be seen on Plate III of *Corinth*, III, ii, at about the 110 m. contour line directly below the Amphitheater and on fig. 39, p. 50 slightly to the right of the point where the solid black line ends near the top of the photograph. This section of the city wall which extended along the east edge of the field in question is described on p. 57 of *Corinth*, III, ii.

on February 8, 1970, in a field to the northeast of the Amphitheater; grid reference T 15/d8 on the Corinth Topographical Survey Map. On the possible significance of the finding-place see pp. 214-216.

Height, 0.29 m.; width, 0.74 m.; thickness, 1.505 m.

Height of letters, 0.033 m.

Corinth Inventory I-70-41

Τιμαρίσστα

Timarista, not a common name,³⁴ is apparently found here for the first time in Corinth. For the double sigma see above, p. 209. The conservative character of the epichoric alphabet in Corinth is such that precise dating by letter-forms is impossible, although the inscription is not likely to be later than *ca.* 480 B.C. On the shape of the rho (Pl. 37) see the correction of R. Carpenter, *A.J.P.*, LXXXIV, 1963, p. 82, by A. L. Boegehold, *G.R.B.S.*, VI, 1965, p. 181.

For other inscribed sarcophagos lids see Nos. **11-19** and the discussion on pp. 214-216.

11 (Plate 37). Rectangular block of soft, buff poros with traces of smooth, white stucco. A few chips missing from corners and edges but all original dimensions are preserved. Along the bottom of the inscribed face are traces of a narrow, raised band, 0.03 m. in height, which appears to have been cut away; above it on the stuccoed surface there are traces of red paint. A similar band is preserved at the bottom of the back surface. Found at the same time and in the same place as **10**.

Height, 0.295 m.; width, 0.75 m.; thickness, 1.495 m.

Height of letters, 0.035 m.

Corinth Inventory I-70-43.

Δαμοστράτου

There are slight traces of red paint in the neatly-cut letters. Again the epichoric alphabet is used, with rho as ϐ, compass-cut omicrons as Θ, and upsilon as V. A date in the archaic period is therefore probable. For the name Damostratos at Corinth see W. Dittenberger, *S.I.G.*³, no. 241, line 101, 343/2 B.C.

12 (Plate 37). Rectangular block of soft, buff poros with traces of smooth, white stucco used as the cover-slab of a sarcophagos. Chips missing from corners and edges but original dimensions are preserved. Unlike Nos. **10** and **11**, the inscription is centered on the stone with margins of *ca.* 0.08 m. on each side. Found on the same day and in the same place as **10** and **11**.

³⁴ Bechtel, *Hist. Person.*, p. 426.

Height, 0.30 m.; width, 0.715 m.; thickness, 1.435 m.

Height of letters, 0.045 m.

Corinth Inventory I-70-42

Ἀριστίππας

The letters are larger, more carefully cut, and contain more red paint than those on Nos. **10** and **11**. The epichoric alphabet has been abandoned but the forms of alpha and rho (Pl. 37) perhaps suggest a date before the middle of the fifth century. As in No. **11**, the name is written in the genitive case. Aristippa and Aristippos are apparently otherwise unattested at Corinth.

13 (Plate 37). Two joining fragments of soft buff poros from the top left corner of a sarcophagos lid similar to Nos. **10-12**. Parts of left side, top and inscribed surface preserved and covered with smooth, white stucco; broken on all other sides and back. Found on February 7, 1965 and in July 1967 on the surface of the same field in which Nos. **10-12** were excavated. Corinth grid T 14/e 7.³⁵

Height, 0.208 m.; width, 0.35 m.; thickness, 0.115 m.

Height of letters, 0.047 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2626.

ΙΟΜ[---]

The letters were cut through the layer of stucco and into the surface of the block. Similarities with Nos. **10-12** suggest that we have the beginning of a proper name. The second letter, which was made with a compass, has a dot in the center; theta and omicron are both possible: *Ἰομ[ῆδη]* cf. Bechtel, *Historischen Personennamen*, p. 219, or more probably *Ἰθμ[όνικος]*, *Ἰθμ[ιόδωρος]*, *Ἰθμ[ώ]*, etc. For the omission of the sigma in Isthm- see C. K. Williams, *Hesperia*, XXXIX, 1970, p. 39, no. 41.

14 (Plate 37). Small fragment of soft, buff poros from the top left corner of a sarcophagos lid similar to Nos. **10-13**. Parts of left side, top and inscribed surface preserved; broken on all other sides and back. No traces of stucco. Found in July 1967 in the same place as No. **13**.

Height, 0.144 m.; width, 0.197 m.; thickness, 0.06 m.

Height of letters, 0.046 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2701.

³⁵ Nos. **13-19** were found in the same northern part of the field as the tribal boundary marker, Corinth Inventory I 2624, which I published in *California Studies in Classical Antiquity*, I, 1968, pp. 233-242. Another such marker, I 2562, was found *ca.* 200 m. to the south in this same field. As this small area has now produced twelve inscriptions of the Greek period, excavation should produce valuable information.

Εὐ[— — — —]

Although there is no trace of stucco on the inscribed face, it is likely that originally the block was coated in the same manner as No. **13** since the letters as now preserved are fairly shallow. The shorter middle bar of epsilon and the curving arms of upsilon probably indicate a date later than the archaic period.

15 (Plate 37). Fragment of soft, buff poros from the top right corner of a sarcophagos lid similar to Nos. **10-14**. Parts of right side, top, and inscribed surface preserved and covered with smooth, white stucco; broken on all other sides and back. Found in July 1967 in the same place as No. **13**.

Height, 0.11 m.; width, 0.19 m.; thickness, 0.074 m.

Height of letters, 0.04 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2703.

[— — — —]τας

Only the last three letters of a feminine name in the genitive or a masculine name in the nominative have survived.

16 (Plate 36). Fragment of soft, buff poros with part of original top and inscribed surface preserved. The left side, which is roughly cut back on an angle, seems to be the result of a later use of the block rather than an original surface, since it cuts through the first letter; broken on all other sides and back. Thin layer of smooth, white stucco on inscribed face. Found on January 26, 1965 in the same place as No. **13**.

Height, 0.275 m.; width, 0.148 m.; thickness, 0.105 m.

Height of letters, 0.045 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2625.

[— ? —]ΑΡ[— — —]

In the present condition of the fragment it is impossible to tell whether the alpha is from the beginning or the middle of the word. The stucco coating, the size of the letters, and the place of finding all indicate that this fragment probably comes from a sarcophagos lid inscribed with the name of the occupant.

17 (Plate 36). Small fragment of soft, buff poros with part of original top and inscribed surface preserved; broken on all other sides and back. Thick coat of stucco on inscribed face. Found in July 1967 in the same place as No. **13**.

Height, 0.171 m.; width, 0.118 m.; thickness, 0.115 m.

Height of letters, 0.04 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2702.

[— — —]ΝΕ[— — —]

Probably from a sarcophagos lid.

18 (Plate 37). Small fragment of soft, buff poros, broken on all sides and back. Found on February 7, 1965 in the same place as No. **13**.

Height, 0.092 m.; width, 0.15 m.; thickness, 0.058 m.

Height of letter, 0.037 m.

Corinth Inventory I 2627.

[---]Σ[---]

Although only one letter is preserved, I add this small piece since its similarity to the preceding stones indicates that it comes from yet another inscribed sarcophagos lid found in this same part of the ancient city.

19. Another scrap of poros picked up on the surface of the same field in July 1967 bears traces of stucco and parts of two indeterminate letters, Corinth Inventory I 2704. As far as I can tell, it does not belong to any of the above inscriptions, although it does appear to have been part of an inscribed sarcophagos lid.

Nos. **10-19** form an interesting group of inscribed sarcophagos lids all from the same part of Corinth. Examples of this type of monument have been found in various sectors of the Corinthia³⁶ but Nos. **10-12** are by far the best preserved lids yet discovered and this group from the northeastern sector of the city is the largest collection from any one location. The concentration of at least ten sepulchral inscriptions in one field points directly to the existence of a cemetery near by and it must have been a burial place of considerable importance and status since the fine workmanship of the inscriptions, even the very practice of inscribing the lids of sarcophagoi, is in striking contrast with the evidence for burial customs discovered elsewhere in and around the city. The large North Cemetery provides an instructive comparison. Three hundred and seventy-five graves of the period 625-200 B.C., many of them sarcophagos burials, failed to produce a single sepulchral inscription.³⁷ Smaller clusters of graves excavated at various points in and near Corinth's walls reflect the same pattern; poros sarcophagoi were frequently employed in the archaic and classical periods, but very few, if any, carry inscriptions.³⁸ Exploration of Corin-

³⁶ Several inscribed lids of the archaic period have been reported from Asprokampo on the Perachora peninsula; *I.G.*, IV, 414-423 and possibly *S.E.G.*, XI, 242, 243. Three lids from Isthmia, now lost, are described as marble but seem to resemble our Nos. **10-12**; *I.G.*, IV, 198-200. *Corinth*, VIII, i, no. 26 (from Corinth) and *Corinth*, VIII, iii, no. 1 (from Agioi Theodoroi) are also similar.

³⁷ *Corinth*, XIII, 1964, pp. 66, 71-73.

³⁸ For some of these, *Corinth*, III, ii, pp. 62, 116-120; XIV, p. 20; XV, i, pp. 29-31, 33-34, 59; *Hesperia*, XXXIII, 1964, p. 101; XXXVII, 1968, pp. 345-367. Cf. the remarks of A. Skias. *Πρακτικά*, 1892, p. 124, note 2.

thian cemeteries has been neither exhaustive nor systematic; new finds could drastically alter the picture tomorrow, but, on the basis of our present evidence, we would have to conclude that there was something special about the cemetery in this north-eastern part of ancient Corinth.

All seven of the fragmentary inscribed lids, Nos. **13-19**, were found lying scattered about on the surface of the field; the other three complete lids came from a brief salvage operation conducted by C. K. Williams in February of 1970 which may shed some light on the topography on the city.³⁹ Nos. **10-12** were found re-used as part of the fabric of a thick wall which had been exposed by deep ploughing. Several more sarcophagos lids, all uninscribed, had also been re-used in the construction of the wall which was exposed for a length of *ca.* 46 m.

The lids had been dragged from a near-by cemetery and set on their narrow sides in sterile earth at intervals from one another to form the orthostates in the western face of the wall. Rubble, field stones, and perhaps mudbrick filled the intervals between the lids and earth was packed in behind them to form the core of the wall. Unfortunately, the eastern face of the wall was nowhere exposed in Mr. William's trenches since his investigation was limited to a reclamation of the exposed and recently damaged lids. Since, however, the thickest of the lids, which form only one face of the wall, measures 0.37 m., a modest estimate of the original thickness of the wall would be *ca.* 2.00 m. and probably more. This substantial dimension plus the re-use of finely stuccoed and inscribed sarcophagos lids and the evidence for hasty and makeshift construction all suggest that the purpose of this wall was defense.

Its position adds further support to this interpretation since the wall lies on exactly the same north-south line as the ridge which defines the western limit of the valley of the Leukon river and the eastern limit of the ancient city. This ridge lies *ca.* 16.50-17.50 m. east of the recently exposed wall and traces of the great classical city wall have been found directly on it.⁴⁰ Our new wall, therefore, was built on exactly the same line as the main city wall but a short distance to the west of it. Why this position was chosen, especially since it apparently surrenders the natural advantage of the steep cliff which carried the city wall, is unclear; possibly a complete excavation of this important field might provide an explanation. For our present purposes, however, we can conclude from both the construction of the wall and its strategic position that it was hastily thrown up to form part of the defenses of the northeastern sector of Corinth.

Until the wall can be excavated and pottery evidence secured for its date of construction the only chronological indication is the *terminus post quem* of the latest re-used sarcophagos lid. Even this date is very uncertain, based as it is solely on

³⁹ Mr. Williams has generously supplied me with information about his work in this field.

⁴⁰ *Corinth*, III, ii, pp. 56-57. Cf. A. Skias, *Πρακτικά*, 1906, pp. 165-166.

the evidence of letter-forms. The latest lid, No. 12, was probably inscribed in the first half of the fifth century; if the other smaller pieces found on the surface of the field, Nos. 13-19, were broken off by the plough from lids which were also built into the wall, the earliest date of construction should be lowered to perhaps the late fifth or early fourth century. The total absence of lime mortar in the wall probably excludes a date later than 146 B.C.

The archaeological evidence thus presents us with a hastily constructed section of fortification wall built sometime after *ca.* 400 B.C. and lying in the northeastern part of Corinth near a particularly important cemetery. The cemetery is no doubt that which was partially uncovered in 1928 to the south inside the Kenchrean Gate;⁴¹ it may even have extended as far north as the field where the sarcophagos lids were found. It was probably in this part of the city that Pausanias saw the cypress grove called Kraneion which contained shrines of Bellerophon and Black Aphrodite and the tomb of the courtesan Lais.⁴² As Kraneion was a fashionable suburb of the city, its adjacent cemetery would have been a natural source for the finely stuccoed and inscribed sarcophagoi described above.

A hastily constructed fortification wall in the neighborhood of Kraneion brings to mind the anecdote about Diogenes the cynic who lived in his pithos in this part of Corinth and whose grave Pausanias saw at the Kenchrean Gate.⁴³

ὁπότε γὰρ ὁ Φίλιππος ἐλέγετο ἤδη ἐπελαύνειν, οἱ Κορίνθιοι πάντες ἐταράττοντο καὶ ἐν ἔργῳ ἦσαν, ὁ μὲν ὅπλα ἐπισκευάζων, ὁ δὲ λίθους παραφέρων, ὁ δὲ ὑποικοδομῶν τοῦ τείχους, ὁ δὲ ἐπαλξιν ὑποστηρίζων, ὁ δὲ ἄλλος ἄλλο τι τῶν χρησίμων ὑπουργῶν. ὁ δὲ Διογένης ὁρῶν ταῦτα, ἐπεὶ μηδὲν εἶχεν ὃ τι καὶ πράττοι, οὐδεὶς γὰρ αὐτῷ ἐς οὐδὲν ἐχρήτο, διαζωσάμενος τὸ τριβώνιον σπουδῇ μάλα καὶ αὐτὸς ἐκύλιε τὸν πίθον, ἐν ᾧ ἐτύγγανεν οἰκῶν, ἄνω καὶ κάτω τοῦ Κρανείου. καὶ τινος τῶν συνήθων ἐρομένου, Τί

⁴¹ R. Carpenter, *A.J.A.*, XXXIII, 1929, pp. 345-347.

⁴² Pausanias, II, 2, 4. On Kraneion see also Xenophon, *Hell.*, IV, 4, 4; Theophrastos, *De causis plantarum*, V, 14, 2; Athenaios, XIII, 589 b; Plutarch, *Alexander*, 14; *De exil.* 6 = *Moralia*, 601 b; Lukian, *How to Write History*, 3; *Dialogues of the Dead*, 1; Diogenes Laertios, VI, 38, 77-78; Alkiphron, *Ep. Para.*, III, 60; Dio Chrysostomos, IV, 14, 61 a; VI, 4, 87 c; VIII, 4, 131 a; IX, 4, 138 d; Timaios, *Lex. Plat.*, s.v.; Themistios, *Orat.*, II, 38; Souda *Lex.*, s.v.; Hesychios, s.v.; G. Göttling, *Arch. Zeit.*, II, 1844, pp. 326-330; A. Skias, *Πρακτικά*, 1892, pp. 111-112; 1906, pp. 148-149, 165-166; J. G. Frazer, *Pausanias's Description of Greece*, II, London, 1913, pp. 18-19; Honigman, *R.E.*, s.v.; H. N. Fowler, R. Stillwell, *Corinth*, I, i, 1932, pp. 77-80; G. W. Elderkin, *Archaeological Papers*, VII, Springfield, Mass., 1945, "Golgotha, Kraneion and the Holy Sepulchre," pp. 4-8; G. Roux, *Pausanias en Corinthie*, Paris, 1958, pp. 105-107; S. Koutibas, *Ἱστορία τῆς Κορινθίας*, I, Athens, 1966, pp. 119-121.

⁴³ This story may, of course, be fanciful; see the discussions of the tales regarding Diogenes in K. von Fritz, *Philologus*, Supplementband XVIII, Heft II, 1926; D. R. Dudley, *A History of Cynicism*, London, 1937, pp. 17-40; T. R. Brown, *Onesicritus: University of California Publications in History*, XXXIX, 1949, pp. 24-38.

ταῦτα ποιεῖς, ὦ Διόγενης; Κυλίω, ἔφη, καὶ τὸν πίθον, ὥς μὴ μόνος ἀργεῖν δοκοίην ἐν τοσούτοις ἐργαζομένοις.

Lukian, *How to Write History*, 3.

It is possible that the recently discovered wall containing the sarcophagos lids represents such an attempt to strengthen the defenses of Corinth after the battle of Chaironeia.⁴⁴ There were, however, other occasions after *ca.* 400 B.C. when emergency construction on the walls was necessary. Until this field can be properly excavated the date and historical context of the fortification wall must remain uncertain.

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⁴⁴ For Corinthian involvement in the battle of Chaironeia see Strabo, IX, 2, 37.



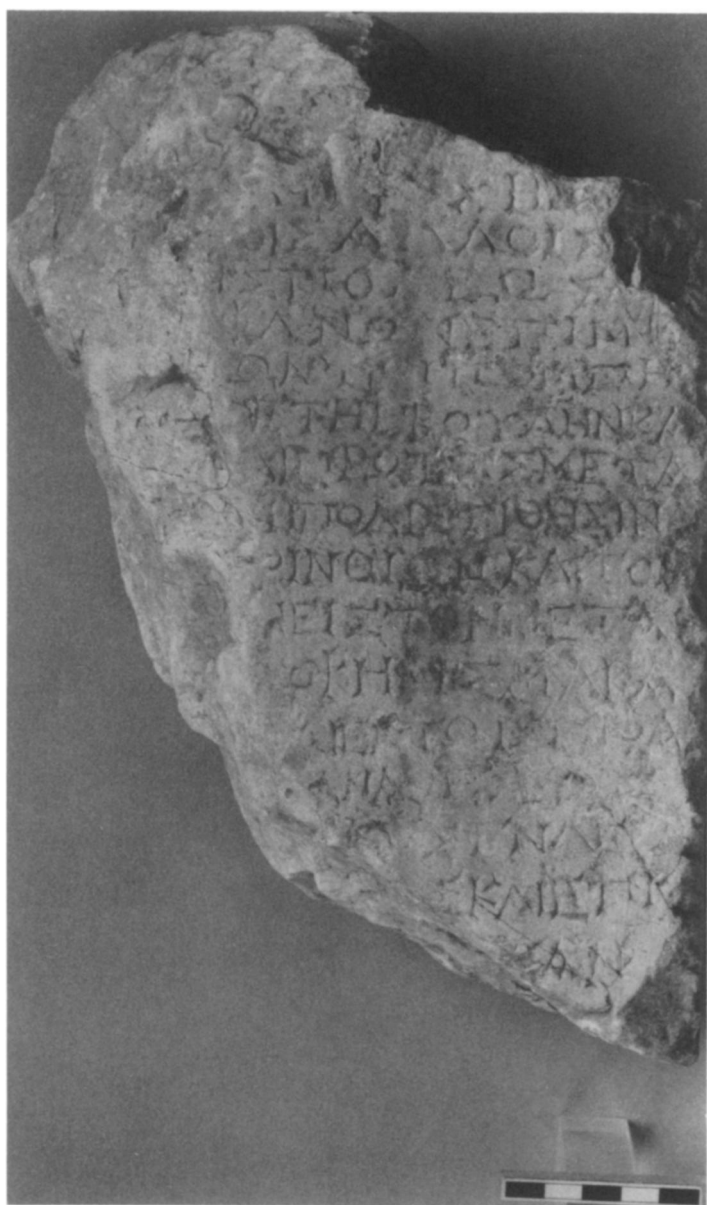
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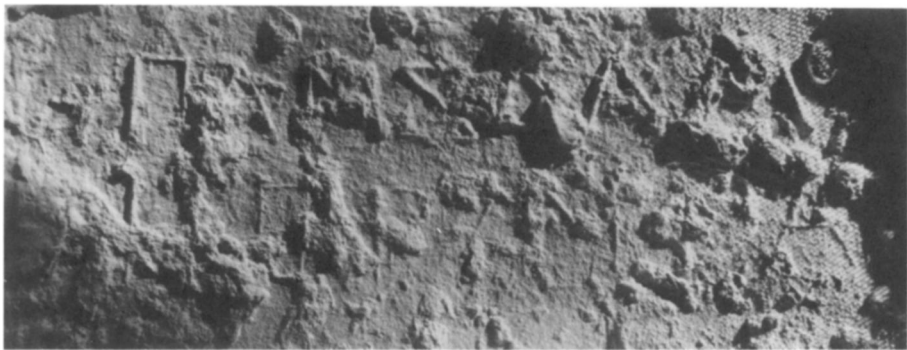
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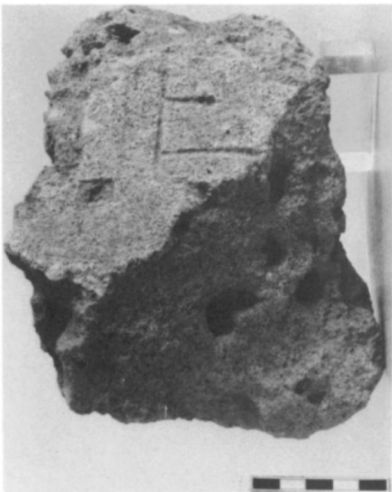
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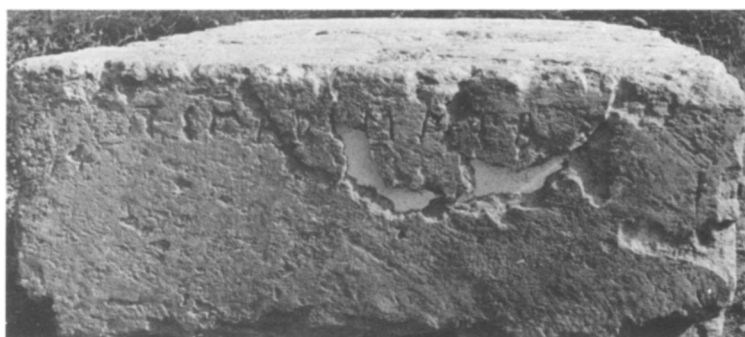
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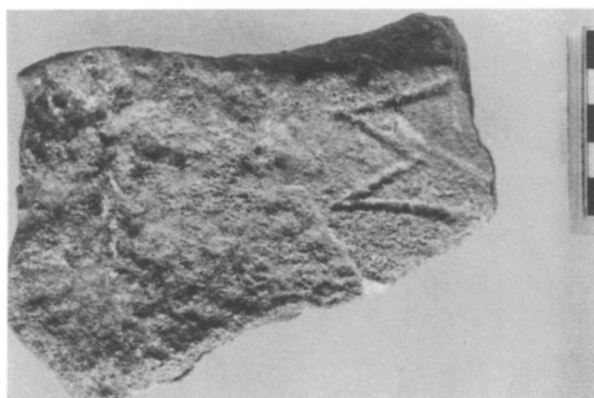
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