

## THE ATHENIAN ARCHON THISBIANUS

AT a time which Hiller von Gaertringen, *S.I.G.*<sup>3</sup>, 1042, called “ saec. II/III p. Chr.” and which Graindor<sup>1</sup> said could hardly be earlier than the end of the second century after Christ because of the lettering, a slave of a man whose name is abbreviated to Γαίου Ὀρβίου established a sanctuary of Mên Tyrannos at Sunium in Attica and set up the inscription now cited as *I.G.*, III, 74 = II<sup>2</sup>, 1366.

A herm in the Roman Agora at Athens honors a Herald of the Council and Demos, Ὀλβιον Θισβια[νὸν] Μαραθώνιον.<sup>2</sup> Of course there is no nomen Olbius; hence this form of the name reflects some kind of error. Since one liquid occasionally replaces another, it is best to interpret Olbius as a mere variant of the well attested nomen Orbius. The first editor, though he failed to recognize Ὀλβιον as an Italian nomen, made a connection between his Thisbianus and the archon of A.D. 186/7 in the inscription published by A. Raubitschek, *Hesperia* Suppl. VIII, 1951, p. 279, where B. D. Meritt, *Hesperia*, XXXII, 1963, p. 49 now reads the date [ἐ]πὶ ἀρχοντος Γ (or Π) [Ὀλ]βίου Θισβιαν[οῦ Μα]ραθωνίου.

Thisbianus is probably the man mentioned at Sunium, but in any case the inscription from Sunium enables us to choose Gaius confidently, because the praenomen was now hereditary. The archon's name is best restored as Γ. [Ὀρ]βίου Θισβιαν[οῦ].

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<sup>1</sup> P. Graindor, *Athènes de Tibère à Trajan*, Cairo, 1931, p. 112, note 5.

<sup>2</sup> The inscription was originally published by Al. N. Oikonomides, *Τὰ Ἀθηναϊκά*, XIV, 1959, p. 8, No. 23 (*non vidi*) but is more easily consulted in the edition of B. D. Meritt, *Hesperia*, XXXII, 1963, pp. 48-49.