

KEPHISOPHON'S KYLIX

(PLATE 55)

Κηφισοφώντος ἡ κύλιξ· ἐὰν δὲ τις κατὰξῆι, δραχμὴν ἀποτείσει, δῶρον ὃν παρὰ Ξενύλ[ο]υ.

Kephisophon's kylix; if anyone breaks it he is to pay a fine of a drachma since it is a gift from Xenylos.

THIS inscription has been generally known for a hundred and forty years since it was first published by August Boeckh as number 545 in the first volume of the *Corpus inscriptionum graecarum* (Berlin 1828). Boeckh gives the following information about it: "In poculo rotundo fictili Athenis reperto. Titulum apud Leakium vidit Müllerus, et aliquot verba ex memoria dedit: integrum ex schedis Guil. Gellii misit Rosius. Litterae male exaratae sunt." He adds a type facsimile of the text and a short commentary. The inscription has been re-published and commented on several times since and has become quite familiar, but the pot on which it was written has remained something of a mystery. Its whereabouts is unknown and no reproduction or even adequate description of it has been known to exist, Boeckh's "in poculo rotundo fictili" being too vague to permit identification with any known vase shape.

The position is summed up by John C. Rolfe who, in a study of vases with their names inscribed on them, has this to say of our vase: "The present location of this vase is unknown. It is not in the British Museum, nor in Cambridge, where many of Colonel Leake's antiquities went, nor in Athens. It is probably in some private collection. No representation of it appears ever to have been published. Ussing quotes it as establishing the form of the kylix, and speaks of it as if he had seen it, but a Jhn says ten years later: 'Leider ist die Form nicht genauer angegeben.' It is strange that so interesting a vase has been wholly lost sight of. The arrangement of the inscription would suit the form generally accepted as that of the Kylix."¹

In fact, however, a record of this pot does exist in an old note book of Col. William Martin Leake now preserved in the Museum of Classical Archaeology in Cambridge (Pl. 55).² This manuscript record gives us two new and interesting pieces

¹ John C. Rolfe, "An Inscribed Kotylos from Boeotia" in *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, II, 1891, pp. 96-97. J. L. Ussing, *De nominibus vasorum graecorum disputatio*, Hauniae, 1844, pp. 8 and 141. Otto Jahn, *Beschreibung der Vasensammlung König Ludwigs in der Pinakothek zu München*, München, 1854, p. XCVIII. Of more recent references we may cite G. M. A. Richter and M. J. Milne, *Shapes and Names of Athenian Vases*, 1935, pp. 24-25, and D. A. Amyx, "An Amphora with a Price Inscription," *University of California Publications in Classical Archaeology*, I, pp. 189-190, and *Hesperia*, XXVII, 1958, p. 294.

² I owe my knowledge of this record to B. D. Meritt who worked through the Leake note books in 1945 looking for early copies of Attic inscriptions. Knowing my interest in Fauvel's Museum (see below), he reported that Kephisophon's kylix had once belonged to Fauvel. I am

of information about the pot. The explanatory note tells us that it was once in Fauvel's Museum in Athens, and alongside the facsimile of the inscription is a sketch of the pot itself which shows that it was what we now call a skyphos, not what we call a kylix.

The explanatory note reads: "Athens. On the bottom of a vase of the annexed form (in Mus. Fauvel)." Louis-François-Sebastien Fauvel was an antiquary who lived in Athens for many years in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, first as an agent collecting antiquities for Count Choiseul-Gouffier and later as French Consul, continuing the while his archaeological activities. In his home he had a large collection of antiquities that he had excavated or acquired, mostly in and around Athens. His house was destroyed and his collection along with it during the Greek War of Independence which explains why our vase has not been seen since the early nineteenth century. Fauvel's house was just in front of the Stoa of Attalos, and many objects that once belonged to his collection have been found in the course of the Agora Excavations. Our pot, however, is not among them.³

The "annexed sketch" shows that the pot which Kephisophon called a kylix was what we would call today a skyphos. This is surprising but not unparalleled, for quite recently several other instances of the same thing have become known. On the bottom of an Attic skyphos from Al Mina in Syria and now in the Ashmolean Museum is a graffito reading Μάν[δρι]ος κόλιξ καλή. The date is the fourth century B.C. or the end of the fifth. J. D. Beazley, who publishes it, remarks "one hardly expects to find the word κύλιξ applied to the shape which in modern terminology is known as a skyphos. It is another example of the wide field covered by shape-names in antiquity."⁴ On the bottom of an Attic skyphos of the late archaic period found on the island of Keos there is a graffito reading "Anthippos of Ioulis prayed and dedicated this *kylix* to Dionysos."⁵

When one tries to match the sketch of Kephisophon's pot with existing skyphoi difficulties arise. The shape resembles most closely the skyphoi of "Corinthian" type with flaring foot and slightly incurving lip, but the proportions are those of "Corin-

indebted to A. G. Woodhead, R. M. Cook and M. J. Price for help in finding the record anew, providing a photograph of it and granting permission to publish it.

³ An account of Fauvel's life in five installments by Ph.E. Legrand is to be found in *Revue archéologique*, XXX-XXXI, 1897.

⁴ Αρχ. Έφ., 1953-1954, Part I, pp. 205-206.

⁵ J. L. Caskey, *Hesperia*, XXXIII, 1964, pp. 333-334. Caskey tells me that he has since learned of another skyphos called kylix in the University collection in Zürich (inv. 2531). Hansjörg Bloesch of whom I inquired for further information kindly sent me photographs and a publication reference. The vase proves to be a black-glazed cup-kotyle of thin-walled type similar to Athens Agora, P6373 (*Hesperia*, XVIII, 1949, p. 343, no. 149, pl. 86) which was found in a deposit containing pottery of the second to third quarters of the fourth century B.C. H. Blümner, *Führer durch die archäologische Sammlung der Universität Zürich*, Zürich, 1914, p. 133 gives the following information about the vase: "No. 2453. Kleine Henkelschale. Am Boden eingeritzt: Ἰσοδήμου Εὐτύχης ἡ κύλιξ καλή. Aus der Krim."

thian" skyphoi of the first half of the sixth century B.C.⁶ This can hardly be right, however, for as we shall see below Kephisophon probably lived in the late fifth century B.C. and it is most unlikely that a plain clay pot should have survived as an "heirloom" for a century and a half. It is better to suppose that the author of the sketch was not too particular about the subtleties of his design, and in drawing a late fifth century "Corinthian" skyphos he got his proportions too squat and set the handles too low.

Kephisophon's kylix should date from the late fifth century B.C. The fully developed Ionic alphabet used in the inscription cannot be earlier, and the shape of the skyphos would not allow it to be later, "Corinthian" skyphoi of the fourth century having bodies that taper sharply downwards to a small narrow foot and rims with a decided curve inwards, features which would surely have been reproduced in the sketch had they existed in the original.

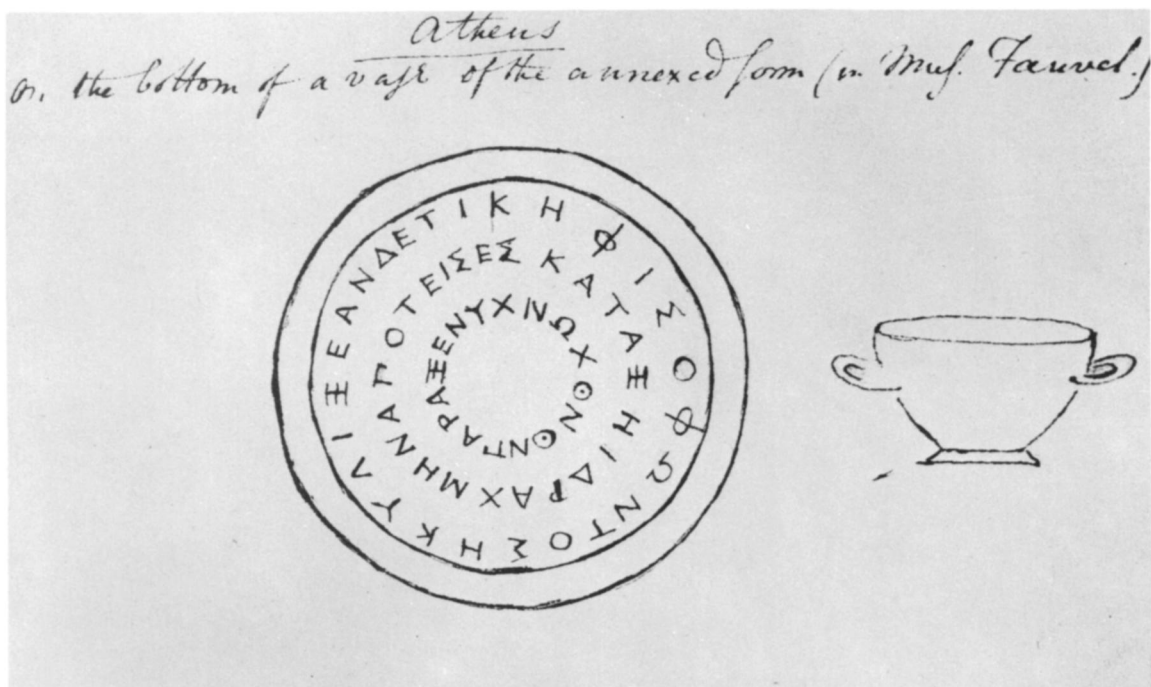
I close with a few words about the text of the inscription because our facsimile appears to be independent of the one used by Boeckh. The two are closely similar and the letter forms are basically the same throughout. Our copy has the correct iota adscript in ΚΑΤΑΞΗΙ; Boeckh's copy has epsilon at the end which he emended to iota. In the innermost circle the word ΔΩΡΟΝ appears clearly in Boeckh's copy where ours has the meaningless ΝΩΧΟΝ. In the name at the end both copies have ΞΕΝΥΧ, and Boeckh's has an additional Υ in the center which is lacking in ours. Boeckh supposes that the Χ is a mistake for Λ, and that an omicron dropped out before the final Υ, making the name Ξενύλ[ο]υ a plausible restoration.

ADDITIONAL NOTE. Since finishing this article I have chanced upon still another skyphos called kylix. A fragment, said to be from the rim of a black-figured skyphos of the sixth century B.C., found at Nymphaion on the Cimmerian Bosphorus, has incised on the outside the inscription [— — —]έω κύλιξ ε[ίμι]. It is published by I. I. Tolstoi, *Grecheskie graffiti drevnikh gorodov severnogo Prichernomorya*, Moscow, 1953, p. 83, number 129, with a facsimile of the inscription.

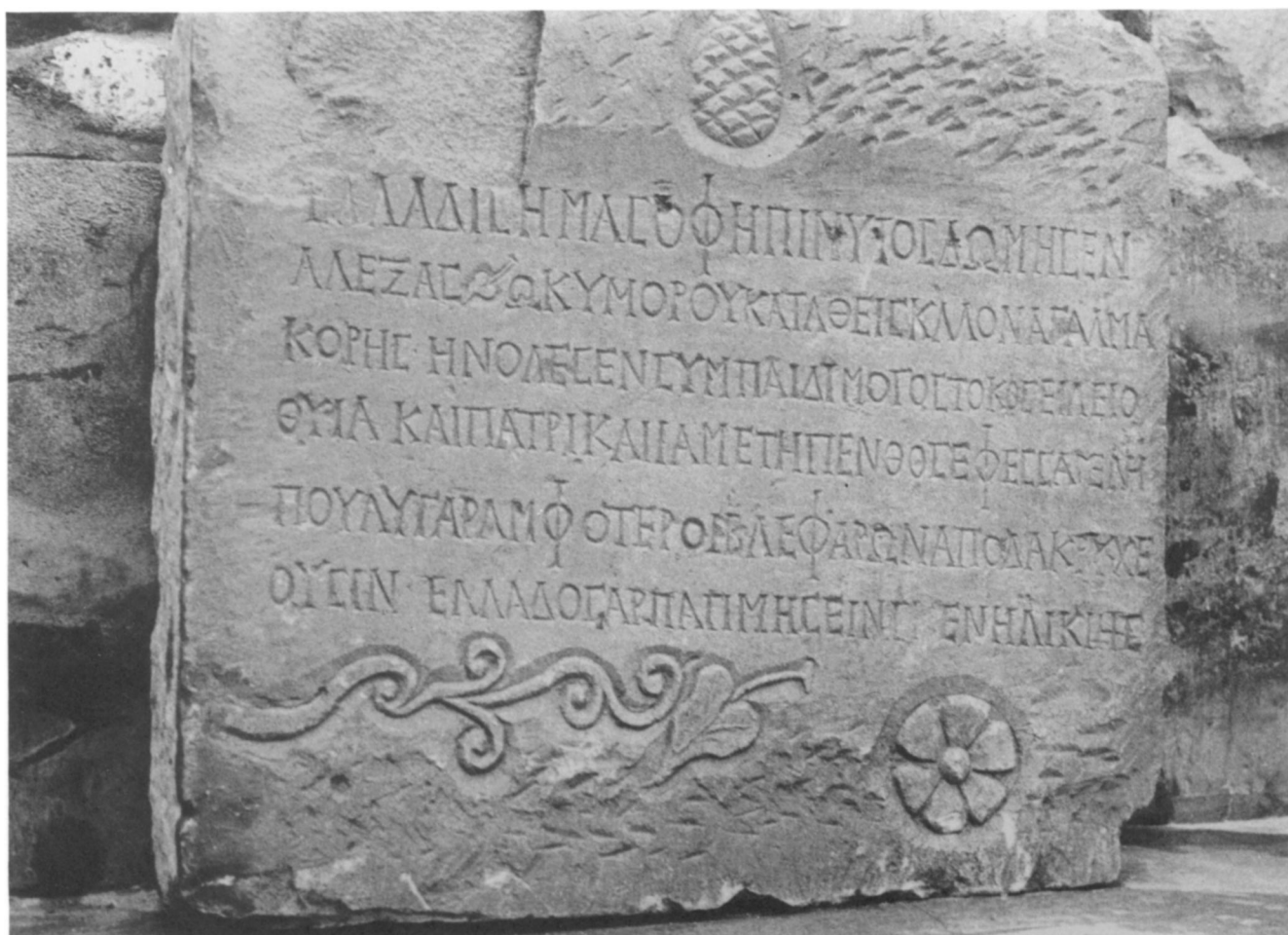
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⁶ E.g. *Hesperia*, XXV, 1956, pp. 58-59, pl. 18, a-c.



EUGENE VANDERPOOL: ΚΕΦΙΣΟΦΩΝ'S KYLIX



ANASTASIUS C. BANDY: A NEW METRICAL INSCRIPTION FROM CRETE