

OSTRAKA FROM THE ATHENIAN AGORA, 1970–1972

(PLATE 28)

TWENTY ostraka have been found in the last three seasons' work at the Agora, sixteen of them in 1972, two each in the other years.¹ A selection is presented here of those with new or rare names. Most of them derive from ostracisms of the later fifth century B.C., a period still poorly represented in modern collections. Many come from the filling of the Crossroads Enclosure (deposit J 5:2), a deposit of the late fifth and fourth centuries B.C. These ostraka, however, are not in themselves a group deriving from a single ostracism, but rather stray pieces that found their way separately into the fill of the Enclosure. This is shown by the disparity of names and dates, Alexis of the early fifth century, Thucydides, Eukrates and Myrrhinikos of the mid-fifth and Hyperbolos, Kleophon and Alcibiades of the later fifth. The latest of these may, however, give a useful terminus for the filling of the Enclosure.

1–2 ALCIBIADES THE YOUNGER

1 (P 29373). Width 0.074 m. Pl. 28.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 10. Context of late fifth century B.C. Fragment of a pan tile with dull black glaze on upper surface. The ostrakon is complete. Incised through the glaze *Ἀλκιβιάδης / Κλεινίο*.

2 (P 29374). Width 0.076 m. Pl. 28.

Provenience, description and text as for previous item.

These two nice ostraka were made from fragments of the same roof tile and they actually join one another. They were clearly written by the same hand. As they lay together in the same layer in the heart of the Agora we may guess that they were never cast or counted, but that having been prepared beforehand, they were not distributed but were left over and simply discarded on the spot. They clearly refer to the younger Alcibiades as the letter forms and the circumstances of finding show, and they must have been prepared for the last ostracism of 417 B.C. They are the best ostraka of the younger

¹ Those of 1970, Kimon and Phaiax (here Nos. 7 and 11) are noted in T. Leslie Shear, Jr.'s annual report, *Hesperia*, XL, 1971, p. 279. The Myrrhinikos ostrakon (here No. 10) found in 1971 is mentioned in Rudi Thomsen, *The Origin of Ostracism*, p. 78. Nos. 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9, found in 1972, are noted in the annual report for that year (Shear, *Hesperia*, XLII, 1973, p. 367 and note 19). The ostraka of 1967 were published in *Hesperia*, XXXVII, 1968, pp. 117–120. There were no ostraka in 1968 or 1969.

I should like to thank the Director of the Agora Excavations, T. Leslie Shear, Jr., for inviting me to publish these new ostraka.

Alcibiades yet found. For others see *Hesperia*, XXI, 1952, p. 3, nos. 7–9. Notice the spelling of the patronymic *Κλεινίο*. On ostraka of the elder Alcibiades we find *Κλινίο*; see *Hesperia*, XXI, 1952, pp. 1–3, nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.

3 ALEXIS MEGA()

3 (P 29462). Width 0.08 m. Fig. 1.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 10. Context of late fifth century B.C. Part of base of large pot with dull black glaze inside. The ostrakon is complete. Incised on the reserved under surface *Ἄλεξις / Μεγα()*.

The patronymic was left unfinished. The person is not otherwise known. To judge from the letter forms the ostrakon must date from the early fifth century B.C.

4–5 EUKRATES EUDRAMONOS

4 (P 30136). Fig. 1.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 10. Context of late fifth century B.C. Wall fragment of an unglazed pot. The ostrakon is complete. Incised on the outside *Εὐκράτης / Εὐδράμονος*.

5 (P 29897). Width, *a*, 0.10 m.; *b*, 0.035 m. Fig. 1.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 10. Context of late fifth century B.C. Two non-joining fragments of a clay ring or pottery support. Painted in black on the upper surface *Ε[ὐκρ]άτης / Εὐ[δρ]άμονος*.

An ostrakon with the single name Eukrates, found at the Agora, is published in *Hesperia*, Suppl. VIII, 1949, p. 398, no. 9. It was dated in the first half of the fifth century on the basis of the letter forms employed, notably the three-barred sigma and epsilon for eta. The two ostraka of Eukrates Eudramonos published here may refer to the same person in spite of the fact that the writing is later with four-barred sigma and eta. All three may then have been cast in an ostracism of the 440's. We find a similar combination of earlier and later letter forms on ostraka of Perikles, *Hesperia*, X, 1941, p. 3, fig. 2, with earlier letters, and *Hesperia*, XXII, 1953, p. 99, no. 131, pl. 38 with later letters. Eukrates Eudramonos is not otherwise known.

6 HYPERBOLOS

6 (P 29862). Width 0.08 m. Fig. 1.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 10. Context of late fifth century B.C. Wall fragment of a heavy unglazed amphora. The ostrakon is complete. Incised on outside *Ἵπέρβολος / Περιθοί(δης)*. An abortive attempt was also made to write the name along one edge holding the sherd the other way up: *Ἵπέβ(ολος)*.

This is the third ostrakon of Hyperbolos known and the first to give the demotic rather than the patronymic.

7 KIMON

7 (P 28360). Width 0.095 m. Fig. 1.

Fill of mid-fifth century B.C. in northeast part of Agora (O 6). Wall of a large unglazed amphora. The ostrakon mended from three fragments, complete save chips along breaks. Incised on outside *Κίμων / Μιλτιάδο*.

Mentioned in *Hesperia*, XL, 1971, p. 279.

8-9 KLEOPHON

8 (P 29375). Width 0.09 m. Pl. 28.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, disturbed area. Wall fragment of a large unglazed amphora. The ostrakon is complete. Incised outside *Κλεοφῶν / Κλειππίδο*.

9 (P 29041). Height 0.056 m. Fig. 1.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 8a. Context of late fifth century B.C. Wall fragment of unglazed amphora. The ostrakon is complete. Incised on outside *Κλεοφ / ῶν Κλειπ / πίδο*.

A third ostrakon (P 29268) found in 1971 preserves the beginnings of name and patronymic. For other Kleophon ostraka from the Agora, see *Hesperia*, XXI, 1952, pp. 114-115 and XXXVII, 1968, p. 120.

10 MYRRHINIKOS

10 (P 29073). Width 0.041 m. Fig. 1.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 6. Context of mid- to third quarter of fourth century B.C. Wall fragment of unglazed amphora. The ostrakon is complete. Incised on outside *Μυρρί / νικος / ἴτο Μυρ()*.

Myrrhnikos is not otherwise known and I have not even found another example of the name though it seems to be of normal formation. The last three letters of the last line, *Μυρ*, must represent an attempt to write the name over again (as sometimes happens on ostraka) or else the start of a patronymic formed on the same root, or possibly the start of the demotic *Μυρ(ρινοῦσιος)*.

Mentioned in Rudi Thomsen, *The Origin of Ostracism*, pp. 78 and 82.

11 PHAIAX

11 (P 28320). Width 0.086 m. Pl. 28.

Fill of fourth century B.C. in northeast part of Agora (N 6). Wall fragment of large unglazed amphora. The ostrakon mended from two pieces; complete save a small piece. Painted on the outside *Φαίαξ / Ἐρασιιστράτο / Ἀχαρνεύς*.

Mentioned *Hesperia*, XL, 1971, p. 279.

On the role of Phaiax in the last ostracism see E. Vanderpool, "Ostracism at Athens," in *Lectures in Memory of Louise Taft Semple*, II, no. 4, Cincinnati, 1970, pp. 28-29 of preliminary publication.

12 THUCYDIDES

12 (P 29461). Width 0.13 m. Pl. 28.

Crossroads Enclosure, J 5:2, layer 10. Context of late fifth century B.C. Wall fragment of a large unglazed amphora. The ostrakon complete. Incised outside *θοκυδίδης*.

Thucydides, son of Melesias, the opponent of Perikles, was ostracized in 443 B.C. There are several ostraka with his name at the Kerameikos but only one other, bearing the ends of name and patronymic, at the Agora.

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