

# A GRAVE STELE FROM ATTICA

(PLATE 56)

THE present fragment was found in January 1967 in northern Attica, to the northwest of the hill Aphorismos, approximately 4.6 kilometers east of Stamata. A path leading from the Koukounari plain to the Mandra tis Graias in the Avlona valley passes the spot. At the point where the view of the plain of Marathon opens out and the path begins to descend, there is a small ruined structure. The fragment was lying among the debris of a collapsed wall belonging to this structure which itself, to judge by its apse-shaped western end, was once a church or chapel, and was probably built within the last two hundred years. Several ancient blocks and bits of ancient masonry are still visible on the site.

The stele is of fine-grained whitish marble; the greater part of its right side and nearly all of its flat top are preserved. The top right corner has been cut off. The lower left part of the stele is missing. The maximum preserved height of the monument is *ca.* 0.402 m.; the maximum preserved width 0.237 m. Its thickness is 0.082 m., including the original moulding. The moulding lies *ca.* 0.085 m. above the relief area and projects forward *ca.* 0.012 m. from the vertical surface on the stele. The figure in relief rises *ca.* 0.013 m. above its background.

The sculptured figure represents a standing man facing left. He is badly worn, and only the drapery slung around the left arm and shoulder is somewhat better preserved. He is wearing a himation; his chest is partially bare, and the faintly preserved traces of a beard show that he is a man and not a boy. The relief, though much effaced, gives the impression of somewhat better than average workmanship in the drapery. A fairly close parallel for the composition and workmanship of the figure is perhaps furnished by the stele of Sosigenes,<sup>1</sup> which also shows a figure, here a boy with his toy wheel, standing alone and facing left. The preserved right pilaster narrows toward the top and then widens somewhat to form the capital which is frequently a feature of grave stelai in the fourth century.<sup>2</sup>

At a distance of *ca.* 0.05 m. above the relief area are incised the letters forming the name and demotic of [Μι]λτιάδης Οἰναῖο[ς]. The letters are 0.019 m. high; the two omicrons 0.012 m. The inscription is not of distinguished workmanship and cannot serve as a good guide for dating the monument. Grave stelai continued to be made after the time of Demetrios of Phaleron,<sup>3</sup> although, apart from one or two

<sup>1</sup> A. Conze, *Die attischen Grabreliefs*, II, Berlin, 1893, pp. 205-206, no. 961, pl. CLXXXVIII.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. e.g. the stele of Hagnothea, *Die attischen Grabreliefs*, II, p. 190, no. 889.

<sup>3</sup> J. Kirchner, "Attische Grabstelen des dritten und zweiten Jahrhunderts v. Chr.," *Αρχ. Έφ.*, 1937, Part A, p. 339.

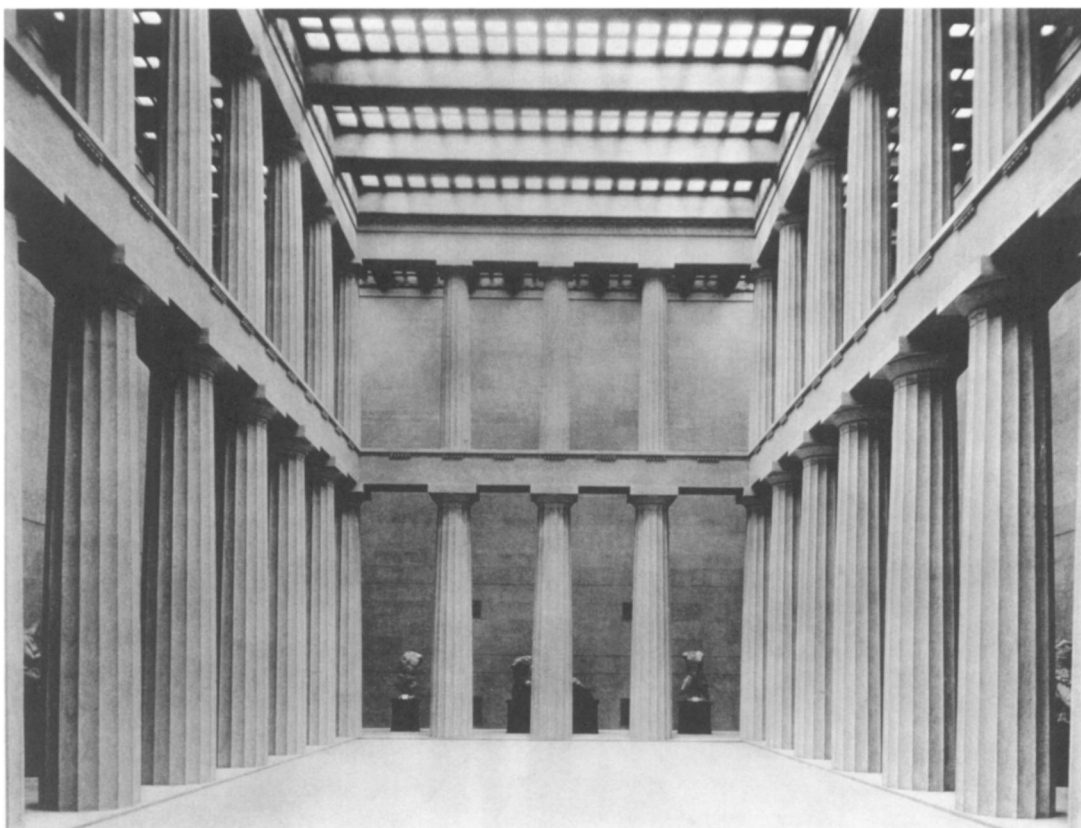
exceptions, they were made mostly for the use of non-Athenian citizens. In view of the overall mediocre workmanship in sculpture and lettering and the modest size of the monument, one might be tempted to place it at some time in the third century. Since, however, there are parallels for the sculpture from the time before Demetrios' luxury laws, and since the slanting upper and lower hastas of the sigma and the small size of the omicrons can also be paralleled for that period,<sup>4</sup> it is best to assign it to the fourth century before Christ.

Miltiades of Oinoe is a new person in Attic prosopography. No doubt he was a man of some importance locally and perhaps was better off than his fellow demesmen. Why he was buried high above the site of his deme must remain a matter of surmise.

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<sup>4</sup>*Die attischen Grabreliefs*, III, p. 325, no. 1524, pl. CCCXVI; p. 352, no. 1659, pl. CCCLIII.



The Parthenon at Nashville, Tennessee looking West (Restored by W. B. Dinsmoor, 1927)  
WILLIAM BELL DINSMOOR: THE INTERNAL COLONNADE OF THE HEPHAISTEION



†EDWIN J. DOYLE: A LATIN EPITAPH FROM  
ATHENS



BORIMIR JORDAN: A GRAVE STELE FROM  
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