

A DECREE FROM THE ATHENIAN ASKLEPIEION

(PLATE 30)

THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION is now stored in the so-called Byzantine baptistry on the site of the Asklepieion on the south slope of the Akropolis.¹

Akropolis Ephoreia Inv. No. NK (= South Slope) 424. Plate 30. Fragment of a pedimental stele of white (Pentelic) marble. Broken on the right and bottom; its smooth left side and rough-picked back are original. The broken right side has traces of mortar. The exact finding place is uncertain, but it may be the stone described by P. G. Kalligas in *Δελτ* 18, B' 1, 1963 [1965], p. 18, as "a small fragment of a decree of the fourth century B.C.," found built into a modern house to the east of the Theater of Dionysos, in any case not far from the Asklepieion.

Height, 0.198 m.; width, 0.212 m.; thickness, 0.108 m. (line 1), 0.105 m. (lines 2–5).

Height of letters, 0.009 m. (0.007–0.012 m.).

Stoichos, 0.016 × 0.016 m.

326/5 a.

[^ϛΙ]ερέϊ γενομ[ένωι.^{ca.15}.]

Θεοί

ἐπὶ Χρέμητ[ος ἄρχοντος ἐπὶ τῆς]

ΣΤΟΙΧ. 25

[Παν]διονίδ[ος ης πρυτανεί]-

[ας ἧ]ι Κηφι[σ.¹⁶.]

[--- ἐγραμμάτευεν ---]

Line 1 (non-stoichedon) is written on the molding. No trace can be read after the mu.

Line 2 conforms to the stoichedon pattern.

The subject of the decree is given in the prescript: honors for a man who has served his term as priest. The prescript [^ϛΙ]ερέϊ γενομ[ένωι --] is striking, since prescripts of decrees, announcing the persons honored, are frequently in the genitive; but names in the dative do occur, sometimes with the honor (e.g., *προξενία καὶ ἐδεργασία*) given in the nominative, sometimes alone (as in, e.g., *IG II², 24, 152, 212*). The prescript here (although with a participle instead of a relative clause) is similar to that of *IG II², 1* (*Σαμίους ὅσοι μετὰ τῷ*

¹ We are indebted to Y. Tzedakis, Director of Antiquities, and E. Touloupa, Ephor of the Akropolis, for permission to publish this inscription, and to the Epigraphical Museum and the Agora Excavations for their assistance in our search for other fragments. We also gratefully acknowledge the help and advice of D. M. Lewis. The photograph, Plate 30, is by O. Palagia.

δήμο τῷ Ἀθηναίων ἐγένοντο) in that the person honored is described to some extent. Since the decree almost certainly comes from the Asklepieion, the priest here must be the priest of Asklepios. His name is lost, but following the official tribal order of the priests of Asklepios, the priest of 326/5 can be safely ascribed to the tribe Kekropis.² W. K. Pritchett and B. D. Meritt assigned to this year Philokles of Xypete, known from *IG II²*, 4397.³ The letter forms of *IG II²*, 4397 are appropriate for this year, but the only other earlier year available for Philokles according to the tribal order of the priests of Asklepios, namely 346/5, cannot in our view be absolutely excluded. The priest of 326/5 is best regarded as uncertain and cannot be restored in this decree with any probability.

The most likely restoration in the second line is ὀγδόης or ἐνάτης, since the honorary decree would be issued near the end of the priest's term of office. *IG II²*, 354, honoring the priest Androkles in 328/7,⁴ was issued in the eighth prytany, which may have been the customary prytany in this period for issuing such decrees; therefore ὀγδόης has a slightly better claim.

The secretary of the Boule in the archonship of Chremes was hitherto unknown.⁵ The beginning of his name, Κηφι[σ-], incidentally provides circumstantial support to S. Dow's suggested dating of *IG II²*, 800 (E.M. 2706) to 326/5, since the secretary there is [Κη]-φισοκλ[ῆς].⁶ The lettering of the new stele is probably by the same hand as *IG II²*, 354 (E.M. 5319), honoring a priest of Asklepios two years earlier:⁷ the peculiar phi is especially striking. Perhaps the same workshop regularly received the business of inscribing honorary decrees for the sanctuary of Asklepios.

The new decree is of interest not only because it preserves part of the name of the secretary of the Boule for 326/5 (Κηφι[σ-]) but also because it tells us that in 326/5

² The order was first established by W. S. Ferguson, *The Priests of Asklepios*, Berkeley 1906. See also W. B. Dinsmoor, *The Archons of Athens in the Hellenistic Age*, Cambridge, Mass. 1931, pp. 452–457. The tribes of the priests of Asklepios and of the secretaries of the Boule seem to coincide from about 356/5 to 328/7 at least: see now C. Habicht, *Studien zur Geschichte Athens in hellenistischer Zeit*, Göttingen 1982, pp. 64–78. For a priest of Asklepios of an unknown year in the 4th century see Δελτ 18, B' 1, 1963 [1965], p. 20, pl. 17.

³ *The Chronology of Hellenistic Athens*, Cambridge, Mass. 1940, p. 75. Philokles of Xypete (*PA* 14553) is otherwise unknown. The date of the dedicant of *IG II²*, 4397, the pancratiast Aristophon, son of Lysinos (*PA* 2111), is likewise unclear. L. Moretti (*Olympionikai*, Rome 1957, no. 484) hesitantly (but without explanation) places his Olympic victory in 312.

⁴ E.M. 7162 + 251: R. O. Hubbe, "Decrees from the Precinct of Asklepios at Athens," *Hesperia* 28, 1959 (pp. 169–201), pp. 171–174, no. 2, pl. 35.

⁵ The other decree of the Demos issued in the archonship of Chremes (*IG II²*, 359) does not mention the secretary. Cf. B. D. Meritt, "Athenian Archons 347/6–48/7 B.C.," *Historia* 26, 1977 (pp. 161–191), p. 169.

The new fragment is of no significant help in resolving the debate over *IG II²*, 363, once assigned by B. D. Meritt ("Greek Inscriptions," *Hesperia* 10, 1941 [pp. 38–64], pp. 47–49) to 326/5; see also *ibid.*, "Calendar Problems," *TAPA* 95, 1964, pp. 213–217, and W. K. Pritchett, "Ancient Athenian Calendars on Stone," *CPCA* IV, iv, Berkeley 1963, pp. 283–285.

⁶ S. Dow, "The Preambles of Athenian Decrees Containing Lists of Symproedroi," *Hesperia* 32, 1963 (pp. 335–365), pp. 358–363.

⁷ See Hubbe, *loc. cit.* (footnote 4 above). *IG II²*, 1157 (E.M. 7703), apparently also from the year of Chremes' archonship, has a similar style of lettering, but the hand seems to be different (e.g., the phi is close to but not identical to the one here).

Pandionis was the tribe holding the eighth or ninth prytany. It also would tend to encourage the hypothesis that honors for the annual priest of Asklepios were given fairly regularly in this period.

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Akropolis Ephoreia Inv. No. NK 424

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