

Sepulchral Monument from Bitola Dating from Roman Times

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The marble *ara* [1] that is the subject of this paper was discovered during restoration activities on the temple of Holy Theotokos (Presveta Bogorodica) in Bitola, and was later transferred to the ecclesiastical grounds of the church St. Megalomartyros Demetrios in Bitola where it remains today.

The upper part of the *ara* is broken and missing. It is visible that in the lower area there were some interventions made, probably centuries later, in efforts to make it suitable for a new function. In the saved part can be seen a relief with two busts and a perfectly preserved inscription in ancient Greek. The busts are not perfectly preserved, as the upper part of the *ara* has been broken and the heads of two people represented are missing. (fig. 1)



Fig. 1

The *ara* has dimensions of 83 x 54 x 41 cm, while the profiled frame is 4 cm wide. The inscription area covers 34 x 24 cm. and contains 4 lines. The letters are of the following

dimensions: height 2.5 cm, width 1.5 cm. There is one ligature in the fourth line (H and Σ).(fig. 2)



Fig. 2

The text reads as follows:

Ερμησιανός τῶ πατρὶ [hedera]
 Ἐρωτικαὶ τῆ μητρὶ Πακά-
 τα ἐκ τῶν ιδίων μνείμης
 [hedera] χάριν [hedera]
 [hedera]

Hermesianos (erects / devotes this monument)
 to his father Eros and mother
 Pacata, from their own resources
 in memory.

The manufacture of the monument is of very good quality. Inscription mentions three persons, Hermesianos, Eros and Pacata. The first mentioned person, Hermesianos, was the son of the deceased Eros and Pacata, whose busts were presented on the monument.

There is no date mentioned in the inscription.

The lunar forms of the E (epsilon) and the S (sigma), the minuscule O (omega) and the forms of K (kappa), P (pi), A (alpha), R (rho) in similar shapes as in this inscription are frequently met in Heraclea inscriptions from the second and third centuries A.D.

The formula *ἐκ τῶν ιδίων μνήμης χάριν* also is often testified in the Heraclea inscriptions. It is worth noting that the word *μνήμη* (G. sing. *μνήμης* on this inscription is written as *μνείμης*, constructing into a ligature the last two letters H and Σ, which has not previously been encountered in the inscriptions found at Heraclea and its surroundings.

The names inscribed on the monument are of interest. The name of Hermesianos clearly indicates the Roman period from which names of this style are attested. [2] Neither in its basic form nor as 'Hermesianos' has this name been previously testified in Heraclea and its surroundings. Of the names encountered in Heraclea inscriptions to date, ones of this style with the suffix *-ιανός/-ιανή* have been rare. [3]

The names of the parents of Hermesianos, Eros and Pacata, also have not been met in Heraclea or its surroundings. Eros has been testified to in neighbouring Styberra as the patronymic of an *ephebos* from 1 c. A.D. [4] Versions of name Pacata in the form *Πακατιανή / Πακατιανός* as cognomina are found in an inscription from the village of Senokos (in the Pelagonia area) from the 2nd to third centuries A.D. [5]

Based on the above, we date this inscription to the third century A.D.

Although not scientifically relevant we could notice that the combination of these names, Hermesianos, as a version of Hermes, and Eros, as theophoric names, on the one hand, and of Pacata with Latin origin, on the other, merely reflects diversification and enriches the onomasticon of Roman times.

Notes

[1] For creating of this text I herewith would like to express my sincere gratitude to Risto Paligora, M.A., within NI Institute and Museum Bitola

[2] As *Ἀμυντιανός, Διονυσιανός, Ἡρακλιανός, Φοιβιανή* etc. Cf. Tataki (1988), 313, 372, 388; I. Kajanto (1965), 109-110.

[3] There is one *Πολεμωνιανή* attested in Heraclea, cf. *IGX*, 2, 2 (1999), 134.

[4] *Ἔμνος Ἐρωτος*, *Ephebic Lists* Cf. *IGX*, 2, 2(1999), 326.

[5] Cf. *IG X*, 2, 2(1999), 264.

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Надгробен споменик од Битола од римско време

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РЕЗИМЕ

Во текстот е претставена надгробната ара што има релјефна престава на две бисти и натпис. Спомеников беше донесен од храмот Пресвета Богородица (кога се преземаа

зафати за реноривање на храмот пред неколку години) во дворот на храмот Св. Великомаченик Димитриј, каде што се наоѓа и денес.

Горниот дел од споменикот не е сочуван, така што ликовите на бистите не се гледаат.

Натписот на старогрчки јазик во четири реда е одлично сочуван и читлив. На надгробниот споменик се спомнуваат три лица: Хермесијан кој им подига споменик на родителите, на таткото Ерос и на мајката Паката. Сите три лични имиња за првпат се посведочени на натпис од Хераклеја и околината.

Споменикот би го датирале во III в. по Хр.