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## New Inscriptions Found During the Survey in Melli (Kocaaliler)

### *Melli (Kocaaliler) Araştırmasında Bulunan Yeni Yazıtlar*

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**Abstract:** The ancient site of Melli, a neighbouring site to Kremna and Sia in Pisidia, is situated on a high rocky mountain in the Kocaaliler town of Bucak, in the district of Burdur. The site was called Milyas by the early researchers, nevertheless its name is still unknown since there is no inscription found that records the city's name. The site was probably destroyed by an earthquake since some of the buildings can clearly be seen to have collapsed on their own spots. In 2020-2021 clearing of the overgrowth and some arrangement works were carried out under the presidency of Burdur Archaeology Museum. This article presents four new inscriptions that are found during these cleaning works at Melli. The first inscription is an honorary document of a demiourgos whose statue was erected by his son; the second is a dedication to the Dioscuri; the third is a funerary inscription, and the last, a fragment.

**Keywords:** Melli, Demiourgos, Dioscuri, Epitaph, Votive and Honorific Inscriptions

**Öz:** Pisidia Bölgesi'nde, Kremna ve Sia kentleriyle komşu olan Melli'deki antik kent Burdur ilinin Bucak ilçesinde Kocaaliler beldesinde yüksek kayalık bir dağın tepesinde konumlanmaktadır. Önceki araştırmacılar tarafından Milyas olarak anılan kentin adı henüz kentin adını gösteren bir yazıt bulunmadığı için bilinmemektedir. Oldukları yere çöken bazı yapılardan görüldüğü kadarıyla bu yerleşke muhtemelen bir deprem nedeniyle yıkılmıştır. Kentte 2020-2021 yıllarında Burdur Arkeoloji Müzesi başkanlığında bitki temizliği ve bazı düzenleme çalışmaları yapılmıştır. Bu makalede Melli'deki bu çalışmalar sırasında bulunan dört yeni yazıt tanıtılmaktadır. İlk yazıt, oğlu tarafından heykeli dikilen bir demiourgos için onurlandırma metnidir. İkinci yazıt Dioskurlara yapılan bir adak, üçüncü yazıt bir mezar yazıtı ve sonuncusu ise bir yazıt parçasıdır.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** Melli, Demiourgos, Dioskouroi, Mezar Yazıtı, Adak ve Onurlandırma Yazıtları

Melli also known as Kocaaliler is located 26 km south of Bucak, in the province of Burdur. The ruins of the city, neighbouring on the north with Kremna, and east with Sia, is situated on top of a high rocky mountain that is surrounded by ploughland. The relatively flat plateau ends abruptly on steep slopes to the east and west and there are no areas suitable for settlement on these sides. In other directions, there are lands comparatively suitable for settlement. It seems the city collapsed possibly from an earthquake, some of the buildings can still be observed. The first epigraphic attestations from this site were published by V. Bérard in 1892 in the *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*.

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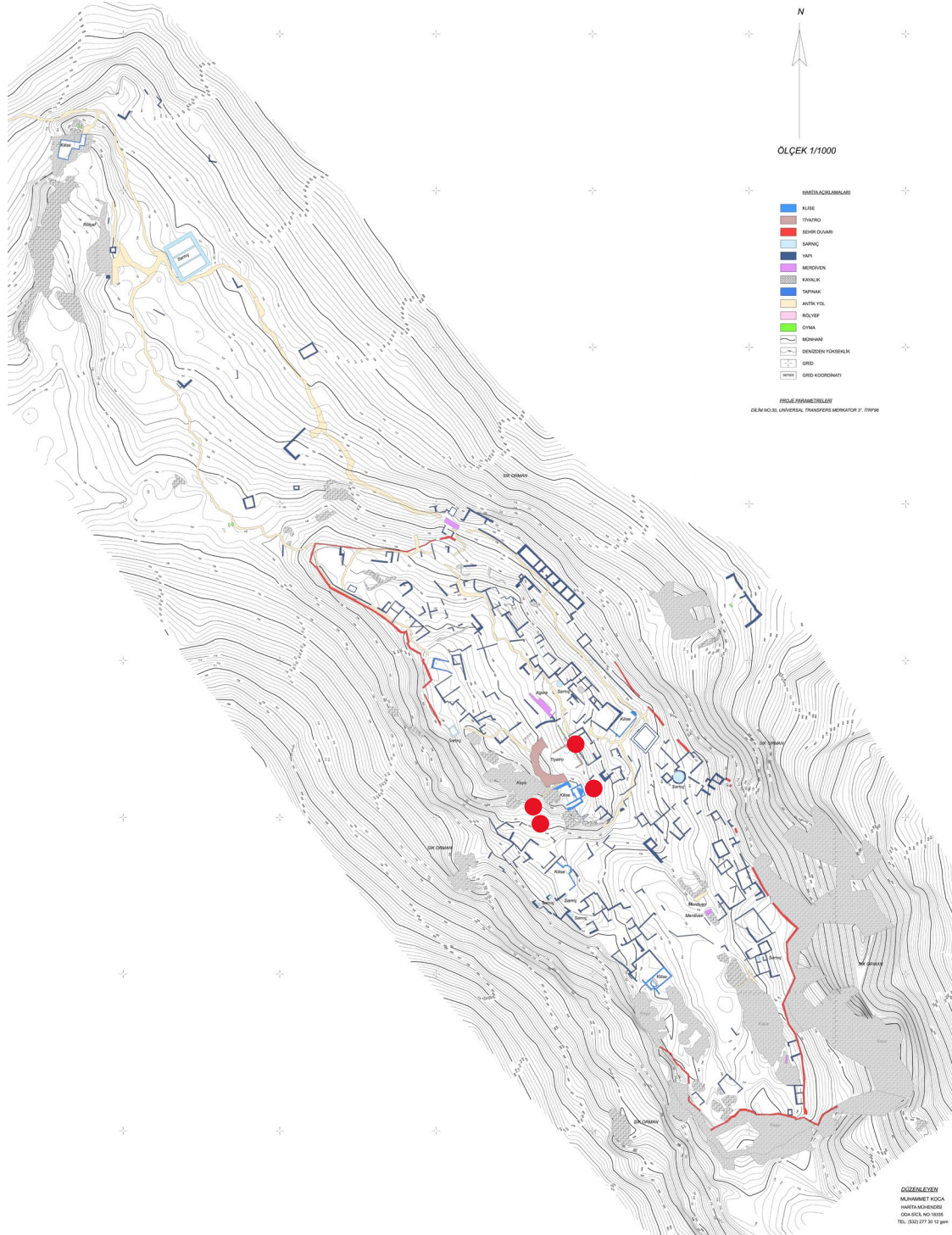


Fig. 1. Map showing topography, settlement plan and new findings (marked with ●) (Source: Archive of Burdur Museum)

According to V. Bérard, this site was located as Milyas by M. Kiepert<sup>1</sup>. In 1960 G. E. Bean published some inscriptions after his visit of the site<sup>2</sup>. The next visit to the site was made by S. Mitchell in 1993 who brought together the previously attested ones and new inscriptions, presenting a total

<sup>1</sup> Bérard 1892, 436-437.

<sup>2</sup> Bean 1960, 76-80.

of eighteen, in *IK 57 Inschriften von Central Pisidia*<sup>3</sup>. In 1998-1999 a detailed survey was made by L. Vandeput and the new inscriptions were published by Mitchell in 2003<sup>4</sup>. A new survey has started in 2020 under the presidency of Burdur Archaeology Museum. In 2020-2021 some work removing the overgrowth and arrangement works were carried out to reach the center of the city and make the buildings open to visitors. During the survey and removal of the overgrowth thirty one inscriptions were attested, including some of the published ones. This article presents the newly attested inscriptions. Inscription no. 1 is located approximately 20 m east of the so called Market Building<sup>5</sup>, which lies in front (east side) of the Theater. There is a terrace wall running in a north-south direction next to the location of the inscription and it is likely that this inscription was one of the blocks used in the terrace wall. Another detail of the location of the inscription is that it is located near a door opened to the terrace wall. In this way, it would not be wrong to state that the inscription in question is near a door that provides access from the terrace wall to the Market Building and then to the Theater. Inscription no. 2 is among the constructions in the south-western sector of the city. The surveys carried out in 2020/2021 in the area where the inscription was found showed that the buildings related to civil architecture were concentrated on this side of the city. Inscription no. 3 is also located close to the inscription no. 2. The last inscription, no. 4, is located in the north-western sector of the city. Around the area where the inscription was found, there are traces of foundations of buildings mostly built from unshaped stones. This area must be one of the parts of the city where civilian construction was dense.

### 1. A Statue Erection for a Demiourgos

A limestone block bears six lines of Greek inscription. Though there are fractures in the face the inscription is well preserved. Alpha is carved as broken bar (Α), the middle line of the letter epsilon and eta is separated, and the middle of the letter M stands high (Μ).

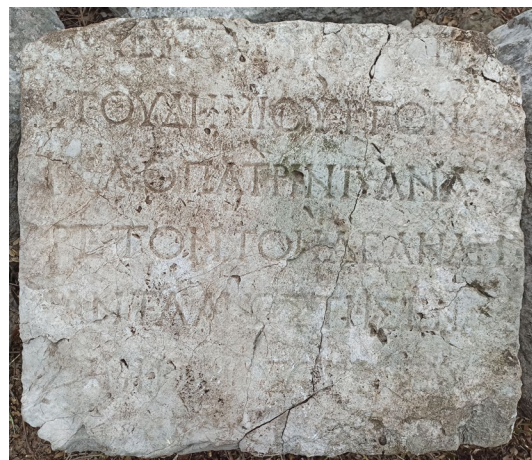
**Findspot:** approximately 20 m east of the Market Building, which lies in front (east side) of the Theater.

**GPS code:** 37.303375, 30.754536.

**Dimensions:** H.: 0.56 m; W.: 0.64 m; D.: 0.41 m; L.h.: 0.04 m.

**Date:** Roman Imperial Period (according to the lettering).

[-----]  
 Λαέρτου τοῦ κτί[ς]-  
 2 του δημιουργὸν  
 φιλόπατρην πανά-  
 4 ρετον τὸν δὲ ἀνδρι-  
 ἀντα ἀνέστησεν  
 6 Δημήτριος ὁ υἱὸς αὐτοῦ.



*Demetrios, son of [n.n.]  
 erected the statue of  
 the demiourgos [n.n.],  
 son of Laertes the founder,  
 who is patriotic and a model of all virtue, ...*

L. 1. The name Laertes is known in Pisidia, attested in Sienoi and Termessos, from the first century A.D. onwards<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> *I. Central Pisidia* 148-165.

<sup>4</sup> Vandeput & Köse 2001; Mitchell 2003.

<sup>5</sup> See Vandeput *et al.* 1999, 139ff. For general information see Köse 2017.

<sup>6</sup> For details see *LGPN* V.C. For the attestation dating between 240-230 B.C. in Miletos see *LGPN* V.B.

L. 6. Demetrios seems to be the son of the demiourgos and the one who erected the statue (άνδριάς)<sup>7</sup>. This name was used in Pisidia from the third century B.C. onwards<sup>8</sup>. The magistrate (demiourgos) is mostly seen in the Pisidian cities as well as in the cities of Pamphylia and Cilicia<sup>9</sup>.

## 2. A Dedication to the Dioscuri

Rectangular block of limestone. All sides are well cut. The facade carries three lines of Greek inscription carved into a *tabula ansata*. The first line is carved with larger letters than the other lines. At the end of the first line there are two letters as superscript. Alpha is carved with a broken bar as A, *rho* with a small round on top, the middle lines of *epsilon*, *eta* and *theta* are separated, *xi* is with a transversal stroke as Z, *sigma* in the first and third line as C, in the second as Σ, *omega* with two horns turning inside and two lines under them.

**Findspot:** On the slope behind the theatre, among the constructions in the south-western sector of the city.

**GPS code:** 37.302712, 30.754438.

**Dimensions:** H.: 0.17 m; W.: 1.15 m; D.: 0.50 m; L.h.: 0.01-0.04 m.

**Date:** The reign of Trajan or later, according to the *nomen gentilicium*.



Πρενδεας Πολεμῶνος εὐξά-

2 μενος ὑπὲρ Μ(άρκου) Οὐλπίου Κοδρατιανου Κοτήου· Διοσκού-  
ροις ἀνέθηκεν. Ϟ

*Prendeas, son of Polemon, dedicated (this) to Dioscuri for M(arcus) Ulpus Kodratianos, son of Kotes, in fulfillment of a vow.*

LL. 1-2: The name Prendeas and Kodratianos are attested for the first time. It seems that Kodratianos is a secondary name built from a name starting with Kodrat- by the help of the ancient Greek suffix -ianos. This person must have gained citizenship during the reign of Trajan. The relation between the two persons is unknown. It is also unknown, why Prendeas dedicated this to the Dioscuri for Kodratianus. For the name Kotes, see Zgusta 1964, 249-250.

LL. 2-3: The dedication is made to the Dioscuri. They are either the twin gods of Zeus or the horse-riding local gods mostly seen with a goddess carved on reliefs in northern Lycia, Cabalia and Pisidia<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> For the terminology and erecting an άνδριάς see Alten Güler 2022, 34-37.

<sup>8</sup> For the name Demetrios see *LGPN* V.B and V.C.

<sup>9</sup> Brandt 1992, 159. For some examples in Pisidia see, *I.Selge* 1, 16-17, 57; *I.Pisidia Central* 110, 125-127, 129; in Pamphylia see, *I.Perge* 56, 58, 61, 63, 117-118, 120-121, 123-125, 145, 174, 178-179, 182, 193, 199, 252, 254, 257, 305, 317, 322-323, 352, 502, 517; *I.Side* 70-80, 82-89, 134, 157, 375; Tüner Önen & Arslan 2019, 325. See also Adak 2020, 48-49. In Cilicia see, *I.Cilicie* 87, 124; Sayar 2020. See also, *I.Priene* 21, 49, 98, 163, 135. For details on the magistracy of the demiourgos see Veligianni-Terzi 1977.

<sup>10</sup> For Dioscuri with goddess see, Robert 1983, 557 no 3; 1987, 404, no. 10; Chapoutier 1935; Milner & Smith 1994; French 1994, 88 no. 4; Smith 1997, 5-7; 2011, 145-146; Delemen 1995, 317-318, nos. 27-29; *I.Kibyra* 87-89; Talloen 2006, 749-750; Karayaka 2007, 131-141; Cruccas 2014; Beceren 2018, 109-143, cat. no. 76-

### 3. Heroon of Aur. Asklapos

A block of local stone standing upside down. Top is cut straight and bears a dowel hole. Other sides are cut roughly. The block bears a line of Greek inscription on its facade that is well preserved on the left and eroded on the right. *Omicron* is carved in diamond shape and *omega* with two horns turning inside with a line under the letter.

**Findspot:** On the ruins behind the theatre, close to inscription no. 2.

**Dimensions:** H.: 0.19 m; W.: 0.74 m; D.: 0.78 m; L.h.: 0.05 m.

**Date:** After A.D. 212.



Ἡρώον Αὐρ(ηλίου) Ἀσκλάπο[υ ---- ]

*Heroon of Aurelius Asklapos ...*

The inscription is eroded on the right part. Although the eroded letters could not be identified by sight and touching the stone, photogrammetry provided a suggestion for the missing letters of Asklapos' name. Though the name is attested before in Tralleis on a coin<sup>11</sup>, it was not known in Pisidia.

### 4. A Fragment

A fragmental block of local stone bears four lines of Greek inscription. Each line has two well-preserved letters. Alpha is with a broken bar (Α) and sigma is cursive as C.

**Findspot:** On the ruins at the northwestern slope of the theatre.

**GPS code:** 37.302931, 30.755419.

**Dimensions:** H.: 0.44 m; W.: 0.25 m; D.: 0.28 m; L.h.: 0.03-0.035 m.

**Date:** Roman Imperial Period.

[-----]  
 ΤΟ [-----]  
 2 ΑΥ [-----]  
 ΛΟ [-----]  
 4 ΑΣ [-----]



118; Dökü 2018, 261-62; 2019, 515; Dökü & Kileci 2022, 110-111.

<sup>11</sup> For the name attested on a coin in Tralles, see *LGPN* V.B. See also *BMC Lydia*, p. 337 no. 71.

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