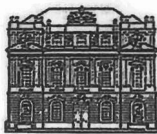




SOPHIA KALOPISSI-VERTI

Dedicatory Inscriptions
and Donor Portraits
in Thirteenth-Century Churches
of Greece



VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

PART II

CATALOGUE A

DEDICATORY INSCRIPTIONS IN THIRTEENTH-CENTURY CHURCHES OF GREECE

Both catalogues are ordered geographically from north to south. Each geographic unit is arranged chronologically. Measurements are given in centimeters, except when stated otherwise.

MACEDONIA

1. THESSALONICA. BYZANTINE COLLECTION IN THE ROTONDA (1284?). (Fig. 1)

Inscription carved on a marble slab, previously included in the Turkish portal of the Serayli Camii (church of the Prophet Elias), today in the Byzantine Collection of the Rotonda. The marble plaque is broken into two pieces which do not fit together. A hole in the middle of the first three lines was evidently made when the plaque was reused. Dimensions: a) h. 48; w. 64; th. 9; b) h. 38; w. 34; th. 9. Eight lines. H. of letters: 2,3.

E. TSGARIDAS — K. LOBERDOU-TSGARIDA, *Κατάλογος χριστιάνικων ἐπιγραφῶν στὰ Μουσεῖα τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης*. Thessalonica 1979, 97—99, no. 70 (with earlier bibliography); PAPAZOTOS, *Ἐπιγραφές Μακεδονίας* 403—404, no. 3.

+Εἰς ἀνδρ[. . . .φύ]λα[κα] του κράτου[ς]
πάσαν ἀνα[.]το [ε]υπραγία[ν]
ἀνανεουργεῖ [τὸ]ν ναὸν [σου] τρισμάκαρ
Πέτρος σεβαστὸς Δουκο[που]λος ἐκ γένου[ς]
5 καὶ γὰρ τελῶν φρούραρχ[ος. .] τὸς προσμεν[ων]
σὲ δεξιούται συμφύλακ[α τῆ] πόλει
[ἔ]χει γὰρ ἐντὸς τὸν μέγ[αν] μ[υ]ροβλήτην
έτους ΠΨ'4[B']

Uncial letters. Accents and breathings indicated. Punctuation: one dot l. 6. Cross at the beginning.

Ligatures: l. 4, 5: ου; l. 4: τρ.

L. 1. +Εἰς ἀνδ[ρα.] λα [.] (Tsigaridas); Εἰς ἀνδ [.] λα [.] (Papazotos).

L. 2. πᾶσαν ἀνα [.] το [τῆς] ὑπ(ε)ραγία[ς Θε(οτό)κ(ου)] (Tsigaridas).

L. 3. [τοῦ τ]ρισμάκαρ[ος. . .] (Tsigaridas).

L. 5. ἀὐ]τὸς προσμεν [. .] (Tsigaridas); ἐν]τὸς (Papazotos).

L. 6. [δ]ὲ (Tsigaridas).

Metrical inscription in Byzantine dodecasyllabic verses.

L. 3. Ἀνανεουργεῖ: refers to a renovation.

L. 4. Πέτρος Δουκόπουλος: A wealthy landowner by the same name, probably the same

person, is recorded in documents of Mt. Athos dated to between the years 1292—1327; he died before 1339, POLEMIS, *The Doukai* 208; PLP 3, no. 5707. On sponsors of late 13th-century churches in Thessalonica, known from the sources, M. L. RAUTMAN, *Patrons and Buildings in Late Byzantine Thessaloniki*. *JÖB* 39 (1989) 302—303.

Σεβαστός: On the dignity of *sebastos* STIERNON, *Sébaste et gambros* 222—243.

L. 7. Μυροβλήτην: According to Papazotos the inscription refers to a renovation of the church of St. Demetrios. One could also think of the church of St. Nestor, situated near that of St. Demetrios, R. JANIN, *Les églises et les monastères des grands centres byzantins*. Paris 1975, 399.

L. 8. Today the last letter of the date is not legible. The full date — 1284 — is given by the earlier editors, see TSIGARIDAS — LOBERDOU-TSIGARIDA 99, n. 1. Be that as it may, on the basis of the first three letters the inscription can be dated to between 1282 and 1291.

2. OMORPHOKKLESIA (NEAR KASTORIA). HAGIOS GEORGIOS (ca. 1300). (Fig. 2)

Cross-in-square church erected in the eleventh century with an *exo-narthex* and side annexes added in the thirteenth century.

Painted inscription on the west wall of the *exo-narthex* above the entrance. Double frame consisting of a narrow line on the inside and a wide red band without. Seven lines.

N. GIANNOPOULOS, 'Ο ἐν Γραλίστη (παρὰ τὴν Καστορίαν) βυζαντιακὸς ναὸς καὶ τὸ ἐν αὐτῷ ξύλινον ἀνάγλυφον τοῦ Ἁγ. Γεωργίου. *BNJ* 4 (1923) 94; P. TSAMISES, Ἡ Καστοριά καὶ τὰ μνημεῖα τῆς. Athens 1949, 124; D. NICOL, Two Churches of Western Macedonia. *BZ* 49 (1956) 98—99; E. G. STIKAS, Une église des Paléologues aux environs de Castoria. *ibid.* 51 (1958) 105—108, pl. XI, fig. 4; ΜΟΥΤΣΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, Συμβολὴ 27, no. 64.

+ Ἀνηγέρθη ἐκ βάρων καὶ ἀνηστορίθει ὁ θεῖος καὶ πάνσεπτος
ναὸς τοῦ ἁγίου καὶ ἐνδόξου μεγαλομάρτυρος καὶ τροπαιοφόρου
Γεωργίου δι' ἐξόδου καὶ κόπου τῶν πανεὐγενεστάτων Νετζά
δων καὶ αὐταδέλων τοῦ τε κυρ(οῦ) Νικηφόρου, καὶ κυρ(οῦ) Ἰω(άννου) καὶ
κυρ(οῦ) Ἀν

5 δρονίκου ἐπὶ τοῖς βασιλεί(ας) τῶν θεοστέπτων μεγάλων βασι
λέων Ἀνδρονίκου καὶ Εἰρήνης καὶ του υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ Μηχαῆλ καὶ
Μαρί(ας) τῶν Πα ᾠ
λαιωλόγων ἐπὶ ἔτους ϞΨϚϞ

Uncial letters. Accents and breathings systematically indicated. Punctuation: single dot. Cross at the beginning.

Ligatures: l. 1: ανη, εκ, νη, αν; l. 2: εν, αρ; l. 3: αν, στ, νν; l. 5: νμ; l. 6: αν, δρ, ει, ηνησ, μη, αη, αρ.

Abbreviations: κ̅ = καὶ, Ἰω̅ = Ἰωάννου, Ϛ = ας.

L. 1. ἀνηστορήθη (Giannopoulos); ἀνηστορίθει (Tsamises); ἀνηστορήθη (Nicol); ἀνηστορήθει (Stikas); ὁ πάνσεπτος καὶ θεῖος οὗτος (Giannopoulos).

L. 3. δι' ἐξόδων καὶ κόπον (Tsamises); δι' ἐξόδων καὶ κόπων (Nicol).

L. 3—4. ἱεραί/ων (?) (Giannopoulos).

L. 4. κυ(ρίου) (Tsamises, Nicol); κυρ (Stikas).

L. 6. αὐτ(ὸν) (Tsamises); αὐτ(ῶν) (Nicol).

L. 3—7. The same donors and rulers (with the exception of Ioannes in whose place a certain Iakobos is mentioned, which could be an error of the transcription), were recorded in the dedicatory inscription of the now ruined church of Taxiarches in the nearby village of Tsouka (App. 2) see TSAMISES 121; NICOL 99; cf. STIKAS 106—107. The text of this inscription has been preserved in an old transcription. Nicol corrects the date recorded in this from ϞΨΞΓ = 6763 = 1255 to ϞΨϚΓ = 6793 = 1285 or 1301, to accord with the historical evidence. See *infra*.

The brothers Netzades, evidently local magnates, are not known from other sources. Cf. PLP 1, no. 966—967; 4, no. 8752; 8, no. 20210—20212, no. 20326—20327.

L.7. $\text{Ϝ}\Psi\text{Ϛ}\text{E}' = 6795 = 1286/87$. Although the date is very clearly discernible it does not accord with the independent evidence available for the persons mentioned in the inscription. Michael IX (born ca. 1277 — died 1320), son of Andronikos II Palaiologos (1282—1328) by his first wife Anne of Hungary, was proclaimed co-emperor in 1281/2, but crowned only in 1294 (May 21), cf. PACH., Andr. Pal. III 1: CSHB II 195, 1—196, 21; GREG. VI, 7, 4: I 193, 12—13; R. VERPEAUX, Notes chronologiques sur les livres II et III du De Andronico Paleologo de Georges Pachymeres. *REB* 17 (1959) 171—173; P. SCHREINER, Die byzantinischen Kleinchroniken (CFHB XII), I Vienna 1975, 76, 10, II, 1977, 213—214. On January 16, 1296 Michael married the Armenian princess Rita-Maria, cf. PACH., Andr. Pal. III, 6: II, 206, 9; GREG. VI, 8, 2: I, 195, 6—8; PAPADOPULOS, Genealogie der Palaiologen 36—37, no. 59; NICOL, op. cit. 104, n. 11; VERPEAUX, op. cit. 173; A. LAIOU, Constantinople and the Latins. Cambridge Mass. 1972, 55, n. 91; I. ŠEVČENKO, Theodore Metochites, the Chora, and the Intellectual Trends of His Time, in: P. UNDERWOOD (ed.), The Kariye Djami, IV. Princeton N. J. 1975, 25, n. 36, 26, n. 52; SCHREINER, op. cit. II, 214. The inscription of Omorphokklesia can only thus be dated to between 1296 and 1317, the year of the death of the Empress Irene de Montferrat, second wife of Andronikos II, whom she married in 1284.

To solve the problem Nicol suggested that the date should be calculated according to the Alexandrine system (Annus Mundi 5492) which gives 1303 for the inscription of Omorphokklesia and 1301 for that of Tsouka, thus agreeing with the independent historical evidence. STIKAS (op. cit. 107) categorically rejects Nicol's suggestion basing himself on P. Lemerle and V. Grumel. He attributes the error in the inscription of Omorphokklesia to repainting and suggests the year 1317 ($\text{Ϝ}\Omega\text{KE}'$ instead of $\text{Ϝ}\Psi\text{Ϛ}\text{E}'$), though not excluding any other date between 1295 and 1317.

Close on the spot observation showed indeed a very thin layer of overpainting which covers the original inscription. Moreover the letters of the inscription differ from those of the wall-paintings in the *exo-narthex*.

It should be noted furthermore, that the frescoes in the *exo-narthex* can be dated on stylistic grounds to the turn of the thirteenth century, thus supporting rather the earlier date, cf. STIKAS, op. cit. 104—105; MOURIKI, Stylistic Trends 69.

For a mention of the imperial couples Andronikos and Irene, Michael and Maria in a foundation inscription see the Monastery of the Fourty Martyrs in Laconia (1304/05) CIG IV, 2, no. 8764; MENTZOU-MEΪMARE, Χρονολογημένα ἐπιγραφαὶ 99, no. 109; PHILIPPIDIS-BRAAT, Inscriptions du Peloponnèse 324—325, no. 64; cf. the inscription in the Metropolis of Mistra (A 26 b) dated to 1291/2 where Michael is mentioned as co-emperor.

Date of visit: 1988.

EPIROS

3. NEOCHORAKI (NEAR ARTA). PANAGIA TOU MPRYONE (1238). (Fig. 3—4)

Three-aisled basilica with dome, originally built as a two-columned cross-in-square church; formerly the *katholikon* of a monastery.

Inscriptions worked in brick on the gables of the south and north cross arms. One line on each side.

ORLANDOS, Arta 54—56, fig. 5, 6; NICOL, Despotate of Epiros 1957, 198—199; BELENES, Επιγραφές 4, 13, fig. 3—5.

Cf. PALLAS, Epiros, col. 260—265; LAURENT, Regestes 95—96, no. 1288, p. 96, n. 2; P. L. BOKOTOPOULOS, Παρατηρήσεις ἐπὶ τῆς Παναγίας τοῦ Μπρυώνη. *AD* 28 (1973) Meletai,



Fig. 1. Thessalonica. Byzantine Collection in the Rotonda. Inscription of Petros Doukopoulos (A 1)



Fig. 2. Omorphokklesia. Hagios Georgios. Inscription in the exo-narthex (A 2)