

A New Honorary Inscription Relating to *Telemachi* Family from Xanthus Ksanthos'tan Telemakhos Ailesine İlişkin Yeni Bir Onurlandırma Yazıtı

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Abstract

This paper introduces a new, unpublished Greek inscription concerning the *Telemachi* family from Xanthus. The inscription in the northeast corner of the Dipylon looking to the upper agora was formerly documented by the Canadian epigraphic team in 2000 and later recorded in detail during the epigraphical survey conducted within the scope of the Xanthus Excavations-Season 2018. The fifteen-lined text was inscribed on the right profile of the statue base after a 29 cm long part roughly left which extends from the top of the base to the beginning of inscription. The inscription is dated to the 3rd century AD based on the gens "Aurelius/Aurelia" and the character of the letters. The inscription honours a person named M. Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides, who has not yet been mentioned in any epigraphic document in the city of Xanthus so far. According to the lineage given in the inscription, the person in question is a member of the Tiberius Claudius Telemachus family, one of the famous and aristocratic families of Xanthus. The inscription reveals that M. Aurelius Attalus,

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alias Heracleides, is the son of M. Aurelius Heracleides, alias Dicaearchus, who was titled as a consularis and Tib. Claudia Arsasis who was also titled as a consularis. The inscription also expresses that the maternal grandmother of the person honoured is Tiberia Claudia Arsinoe, and his grandfather is Tiberius Claudius Aurelius Attalus. This new epigraphic finding significantly contributes to the prosopography of elite families in Roman Lycia and illustrates how the empire incorporated local elites into its governing system. Additionally, the inscription provides valuable insights into the social hierarchy, cultural integration, and administrative strategies within the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.

Keywords: Xanthus, Lycia, Honorary Inscription, *Telemachi*, stemma.

Öz

Bu makale, Ksanthos antik kentinden *Telemachi* ailesiyle ilgili yeni, yayımlanmamış Hellenic bir yazıtı konu edinmektedir. Dipylonun kuzeydoğu köşesindeki, yukarı agoraya bakan yazıt, 2000 yılında Kanada epigrafi ekibi tarafından belgelenmiş ve daha sonra 2018 Ksanthos Kazıları çerçevesinde yürütülen epigrafi araştırması sırasında ayrıntılı olarak kaydedilmiştir. On beş satırlık metin, tabanın üst kısmından yazıtın başlangıcına kadar uzanan, yaklaşık 29 cm uzunluğundaki kabaca bırakılmış kısmın ardından, heykel kaidesinin sağ profiline kazınmıştır. Yazıt, “Aurelius/Aurelia” gensine ve harflerin karakterine dayanarak MS 3. yüzyıla tarihlendirilmektedir. Yazıt, şimdiye kadar Ksanthos kentinde herhangi bir epigrafik belgede adı geçmeyen, Marcus Aurelius Attalos namı diğer Heracleides adlı bir kişiyi onurlandırmaktadır. Yazıtta verilen soy çizgisine göre, söz konusu kişi, Ksanthos’un ünlü ve aristokrat ailelerinden biri olan Tiberius Claudius Telemakhos ailesinin bir üyesidir. Yazıt, Marcus Aurelius Attalos’un, konsularis unvanına sahip Marcus Aurelius Heracleides namı diğer Dikaearchos’un ve yine konsularis unvanına sahip Tiberia Claudia Arsasis’in oğlu olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Ayrıca yazıt, onurlandırılan kişinin anneannesinin Tiberia Claudia Arsinoe, dedesinin ise Tiberius Claudius Aurelius Attalos olduğunu belirtmektedir. Bu yeni epigrafik bulgu, Roma Lykia’daki elit ailelerin prosopografisine önemli katkılar sağlamakta ve imparatorluğun yerel elitleri nasıl kendi yönetim sistemine dahil ettiğini göstermektedir. Yazıt ayrıca, Roma İmparatorluğu’nun doğu eyaletlerindeki sosyal hiyerarşi, kültürel entegrasyon ve yönetim stratejileri hakkında değerli içgörüler sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ksanthos, Lykia, Onurlandırma Yazıtı, Tib. Cl. Telemakhos, soy ağacı.

Introduction

This paper introduces a recently discovered honorary inscription [in Greek] recorded during the epigraphic survey conducted within the scope of the Xanthus Excavations- Season 2018. The inscription placed in the northeast corner of the Dipylon, facing towards the agora on the main street of the city, provides new information on the household of Tiberius Claudius Telemachus, one of the distinguished and famous families of Xanthus. The text states that Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias (also known as) Heracleides, a man who has not been recorded in the epigraphic documents in the city so far, was honoured. According to the inscription, he is the grandson of Tib. Claudia Arsinoe, the daughter of Tib. Claudius Telemachus. The text also reveals further information contributing to the genealogy of *Telemachi* and the prosopography of Xanthus. Before editing the new inscription, I consider it useful to make an overall assessment of this family based on the current evidence.

A New Honorary Inscription Relating to *Telemachi* Family

The block is situated on the main street running west and east, in the southeast corner where the main street intersects the south-north oriented street. It is placed on a possible orthostat block in the northeast corner of the Dipylon facing towards the agora (fig.1). It must be an inscribed statue base, which was probably removed from its original position. The lifting hole in the centre of the block, measuring approximately 10 x 4 cm, and the probable removal of the block from its original position suggest a secondary use. Besides, there are seven slots on the upper side of the block where the statue sits (fig. 2, 3). A fifteen-line text was inscribed on the right profile of the statue base. The 29 cm upper part extending from the top of the block to the beginning of the inscription was roughly left.

Find spot: The block is in the northeast corner of the Dipylon facing towards the agora; Dimensions: H.: 1.37m; W.: 0.67 (lower)- 0.71 (upper); D.: 0.70 m; LH.: 0.04-0.045; Date: 3rd century AD.

Τὸν κράτιστον συνκλητικ[ὸν]

2 [Μᾱ]ρκον Αὐρήλιον Ἀτταλον τὸν καὶ

Ἡρακλείδην υἱὸν τὸν κράτιστον

4 Αὐρ. Ἡρακλείδου τοῦ καὶ Δικειάρ[χου]

Τιβ. Κλ. Αὐρ. Ἀρσασιδος, ἔκ[γ]ονον

6 Κλ. Αὐρ. Ἀττάλου πραιτωρικό[υ]

Τιβ. Κλ. Ἀρσινό[η]ς ὑπατικῆς,

8 ἔγγονον Τ[ιβ]. Κλ. Τηλεμάχο[υ]

ὑπατικοῦ πραζάντος καὶ τὴν

10 Ν καὶ Τιβ. Κλ. Ἀρσασιδος

ὑπατικῆς vac.

12 [Μ. Α]ὐρ. Ἑρμογένης Γαίου δις

[τὴ]ν εὐεργήτην ἐκ τῶν ἰδί[ων]

14 βουλῆς καὶ δημοῦ

vac. κρίσει vac.

M(arcus) Aur(elius) Hermogenes, son of Gaius of Gaius, by the decision of the boule and demos honoured his benefactor at his own expense clarissimus senatorius Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides, the clarissimus son of Aur(elius) Heracleides alias Dicaearchus (and) Tib(eria) Cl(audia) Aur(elia) Arsasis, the grandson of praitorikios Cl(audius) Aur(elius) Attalus and the woman of consular rank, Tib(eria) Cl(audia) Arsinoe and also the grandson of consular rank, who also held and the woman of consular rank, Tib(eria) Cl(audia) Arsasis.

Commentary

L.1-3: The inscription begins with a standard honorific formula. The term κράτιστον (clarissimus -most excellent) is a high honorific title often used for equestrians or senators. The use of συνκλητικ[όν] (senator) confirms the high status of the honorand.

The first lines of the inscription give the name of the honorand as Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides with the title τὸν κράτιστον συνκλητικ[όν]. The phrase τὸν καὶ (also known as) introduces a second name, Heracleides. This dual naming is common in the Eastern provinces, often indicating a Greek name alongside a Roman one. The repetition of κράτιστον emphasizes the high status extending to the family. But this name was not recorded in the inscriptions discovered earlier in the city. Thus, this is the first inscription recording this previously unknown member of the family.

L.4-5: These lines continue the genealogy, showing complex naming practices. These lines read the names of the father and mother of Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides. The names of the parents in question read as Aurelius Heracleides alias Dicaearchus (Δικειάρ[χου])¹ and Tiberia Claudia Aurelia Arsasis. The father, Dicaearchus, has also been recorded for the first time. Although the name has previously been attested in the city, this is the sole epigraphic record related to his mother Arsasis.

L.6-8: These lines provide information on the ancestry of Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides. According to the inscription, Claudius Aurelius Attalus who is titled as *praitorikios* is his grandfather and ὑπατική (a member of the senatorial class) Tiberia Claudia Arsinoe is his grandmother. The word *praitorikios*, given here as the title of Tiberius Claudius Aurelius Attalus, indicates that Attalus was a praetor. The title of *praitorikios* has been documented for the first time in the city with this inscription. No one holding this title in the city has been recorded so far. Yet there is one case of each in two cities of the region, Olympus and Arykanda². These lines reveal the high ranks of the great-grandparents. πραιτωρικό[υ] (of praetorian rank) and ὑπατικής (of consular rank) indicate very high positions in the Roman administrative system, further emphasizing the family's elite status.

L.9-10: These lines of the inscription mention the grandmother of Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides, Tiberia Claudia Arsasis of the consularis rank, and his great-grandfather ὑπατικός (consularis) Tiberius Claudius Telemachus. A word of three or four letters at the beginning of the tenth line is almost illegible due to the erosion of the surface.

Considering the context and meaning of the inscription, the word ἄρχάν' (accusative singular of ἀρχή), meaning 'office' or 'magistracy', may be proposed as a plausible restoration for the 3- or 4-letter lacuna in this line. This term fits well within the context of the inscription, which details the offices and ranks of

1 The diphthong αι in Δικειάρ[χου] shows monophthongization to ε; for vocalic changes in the Imperial period, see generally Günther Laminger-Pascher, *Zur Geschichte der griechischen Vokale in kaiserzeitlichen Papyri* (Münchener Beiträge zur Papyrusforschung und antiken Rechtsgeschichte, Heft 61), Munich, C.H. Beck, 1970.

2 Ernst Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 3, nos. 718-1230, Regiones montanae a valle Xanthi fluminis ad oram orientalem*, Vindobona, Vienna 1944, no. 949; Sencer Şahin, *Die Inschriften von Arykanda: Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien 48*, Habelt Verlag, Bonn 1994, no. 26.

various family members. The accusative form ἄρχάν' agrees grammatically with the preceding πραζάντος καὶ τήν in line 9, forming a logical phrase, "who also held the office." This restoration reinforces the inscription's focus on the family's high status and civic involvement, consistent with the mention of other ranks (praetorian, consular) throughout the text. In this case, the proposed restoration for line 10 of the inscription is as follows:

L.10: 10 [ἀρχά]ν καὶ Τιβ. Κλ. Ἀρσασιδος³

who also held the office and of Tib(eria) Cl(audia) Arsasis

L.11: This line ends with another mention of consular rank, followed by a vacant space (vac.), possibly for layout purposes or to separate sections of the inscription.

L.12-13: These lines introduce the dedicator of the inscription, M. Aurelius Hermogenes. The term εὐεργήτην⁴ (euergetes, benefactor) suggests that Marcus Aurelius Attalus had done something to benefit Hermogenes or the community. ἐκ τῶν ἰδ[ῶν] indicates that Hermogenes paid for the honor from his own funds.

L.14-15: This closing formula indicates that the honor was officially sanctioned by the local governing bodies (the council and the people's assembly), giving it public and legal weight.

The Family of Tiberius Claudius Telemachus

The family of Tiberius Claudius Telemachus is an elite family that was granted Roman citizenship under the reign of Claudii, as the *nomen Claudius* indicates, and was able to sustain this citizenship for many years, as is already known from other inscriptions. The family draws attention with its high-ranking members who participated in the administration of both the Lycian Confederation and the province of Lycia, and of the Roman Empire in general. In addition, the family is of great importance both in the city of Xanthus and the province of Lycia, for

3 For Arsasis see, Ladislav Zgusta, *Kleinasiatische Personennamen*, Verlag der Tschechoslowakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Prag 1964, p. 97, § 107-7.

4 G. Laminger-Pascher examines the historical development of vowel changes, particularly the transformation of εὐεργέτης into εὐεργήτης (ε → η). He emphasizes that the shift from ε to η was widespread in Roman-period Greek, particularly in the context of vowel lengthening tendencies. See Laminger-Pascher, *Zur Geschichte der griechischen Vokale in kaiserzeitlichen Papyri* (Münchener Beiträge zur Papyrusforschung und antiken Rechtsgeschichte, Heft 61), pp. 112-118.

raising seven senators under the Principate⁵. The first and only governor of the province of Africa from Lycia is Tib. Cl. Telemachus is an important member of this family⁶.

The majority of the epigraphic records related to the family of Tiberus Claudius Telemachus were found in the city of Xanthus. However, three inscriptions from Sidyma and one from Rhodiapolis are also known⁷. Drawing the family tree of the Telemachus family of Xanthus is of importance in order to make inferences about both the carriers of the family members, who were in close relation with the imperial milieu and of senatorial class, and their relations with the imperial administration. Thus, there have been two thorough studies about the family stemma. The first one was published by M. Christol and T. Drew-Bear in 1991⁸. The other was presented to the scientific world in 2006 by P. Baker from Laval University of Canada, who, together with G. Thériault, conducted

- 5 Filiz Dönmez-Öztürk, “Ordo Senatoriusa Mensup Lykialıların Prosopografyası”, *Adalya*, XV, 2012, p. 23. F. Dönmez-Öztürk, published detailed studies about the prosopography of the senatorial families (*ordo senatorius*). See Filiz Dönmez-Öztürk, *Lykia Bölgesi’nde Roma Vatandaşlık Hakkı Verme Politikası: Principatus’un Başlangıcından M.S. 212’ye Kadar*, Marmara University, Social Sciences Institute, Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, İstanbul 2011; also see Efrumiye Ertekin, *III. Yüzyılda Kariyer Yapmış Olan Küçükasya Kökenli Roma Senatörleri*, Marmara University, Social Sciences Institute, Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, İstanbul 2002, pp. 94-7; Zeynep Özusağlam-Mutlu, *Principatus Devri’nde Lykia ve Pamphylia Kökenli Roma Senatörleri*, Koç Üniversitesi Suna-İnan Kıraç Akdeniz Medeniyetleri Araştırma Enstitüsü Yayınları, Antalya 2011.
- 6 Ernst Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 1, nos. 1-395, Pars Lyciae occidentalis cum Xantho oppido*, Vindobona, Vienna, 1920, no. 279; also see Helmut Halfmann, “Die Senatoren aus dem kleinasiatischen Provinzen des römischen Reiches vom 1.-3. Jahrhundert”, *Atti del colloquio internazionale su Epigrafia e ordine senatorio II*, ed. Silvio Panciera, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Roma 1982, p. 640; Michel Christol, Thomas Drew-Bear, “Un sénateur de Xanthos”, *Journal des Savants*, 3-4, 1991, pp. 223-25; Bengt E. Thomasson, *Fasti Africani: Senatorische und ritterliche Amtsträger in den römischen Provinzen Nordafrikas von Augustus bis Diokletian*, Astroms, Stockholm 1996, pp. 96-7, no. 136; Özusağlam-Mutlu, *Principatus Devri’nde Lykia ve Pamphylia Kökenli Roma Senatörleri*, 45 ff.
- 7 For the inscriptions from Sidyma see Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 1, nos. 1-395, Pars Lyciae occidentalis cum Xantho oppido*, no. 175, 176, 194; for those from Rhodiapolis see Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 3, nos. 718-1230, Regiones montanae a valle Xanthi fluminis ad oram orientalem*, no. 905.
- 8 Michel Christol, Thomas Drew-Bear, “Un sénateur de Xanthos”, *Journal des Savants* 3-4, 1991, pp. 195-226.

epigraphical research in the city of Xanthus between 2000 and 2010⁹. In his study, Baker examines all inscriptions – both published and unpublished – related to the family of Telemachus and finds some problems in the relations among the members of the Telemachus family based on the current inscriptions. Yet he suggests that the family tree he introduces, though with some deficiencies, has some leading information for future studies on the new finds. In terms of content, the inscriptions that Baker gathered are all honorary inscriptions dated to the 2nd – 3rd centuries AD.

The eldest member of the family known is Tiberius Claudius Telemachus, who was the high priest of the Lycian Confederation, under the reign of Emperor Traianus, during the proconsulship of Q. Pompeius Falco, *legatus* of Lycia-Pamphylia, in 108 AD¹⁰. The other documents found in Letoon, which provide a starting point for the genealogy, were published by A. Balland¹¹. These inscriptions reveal that *the Telemachi family, who had the citizenship of both Xanthus and Sidyma, established a marital relationship with the Veranii family from Xanthus in the mid-second century AD*. The first member of the family involved in the Roman aristocracy is Tib. Cl. Telemachus, who was *archiereus* (high priest) under the reign of either Marcus Aurelius or Commodus¹². Tib. Cl. Telemachus is understood to have accelerated the rise of the following generations through getting involved in the *equester* (cavalier) class, taking on the office *tribunus militum angusticlavii legionis IV Scythicae* (high rank infantry commander of the IV. Scythian legion) under the

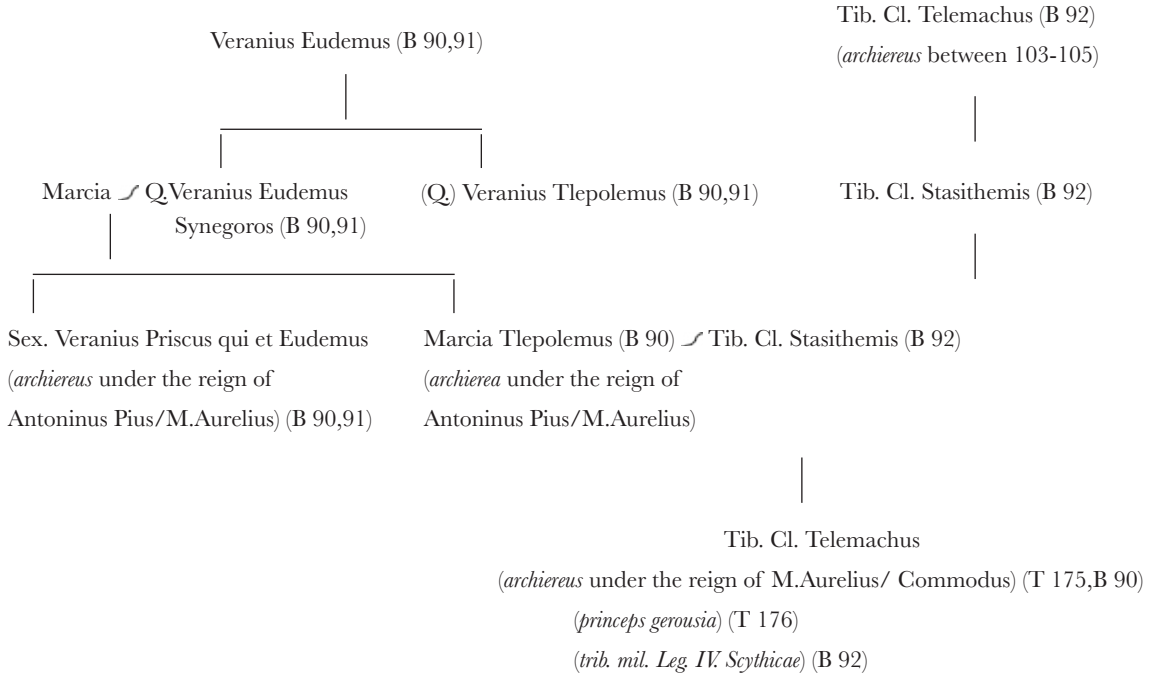
9 Patrick Baker, “Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents”, *III. Likya Sempozyumu*, Antalya 07-10 Kasım 2005, *Sempozyum Bildirileri*, eds. Kayhan Dörtlük, Burhan Varkıvaç, Tarkan Kahya, Jacques des Courtis, Meltem Doğan-Alpaslan, Remziye Boyraz, Koç Üniversitesi Suna-İnan Kıraç Akdeniz Medeniyetleri Araştırma Enstitüsü Yayınları, Antalya 2007, pp., 49-60.

10 Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 3, nos. 718-1230, Regiones montanae a valle Xanthi fluminis ad oram orientalem*, no. 905 I, L. 1-2. Also see Baker, “Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents”, pp. 49-50. See Denise Reitzenstein *Die Lykischen Bundespriester. Repräsentation der kaiserzeitlichen Elite Lykiens*, Akademie Verlag, Berlin 2011, pp. 214-15 for Telemachii of Xanthus, who held the office of high priest for the Confederation.

11 André Balland, *Inscriptions d'époque impériale du Létéon: Fouilles de Xanthos 7*, Klincksieck, Paris 1981, no. 90-92.

12 Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 1, nos. 1-395, Pars Lyciae occidentalis cum Xantho oppido*, no.175.

reign of emperor Septimius Severus¹³. Based on TAM II 905 and the inscription number 90-92 studied by Balland, which are the very first data related to the family, the first part of the stemma in the second century AD, is as follows¹⁴:



As seen at the end of the stemma, the connection between Tib. Cl. Telemachus, *tribunus militum legionis IV Scythicae*, and Tib. Cl. Telemachus, *consul suffectus* seen in the inscription published in TAM II 194, recorded in Sidyma; is vague¹⁵. Balland

¹³ Balland, *Inscriptions d'époque impériale du Létéon: Fouilles de Xanthos* 7, no. 92.

¹⁴ Burak Takmer, "Stadiasmus Patarensis için Parerga (2): Sidyma I. Yeni Yazıtlarla Birlikte Yerleşim Tarihçesi", *Gephyra*, 7, 2010, p. 111. For the stemma of the family see Christol-Drew Bear, "Un sénateur de Xanthos", pp. 223-25; Baker, "Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents", pp. 50-7; Dönmez-Öztürk, "Ordo Senatoria Mensup Lykiaların Prosopografyası", p. 31. The abbreviations seen in the stemmas are as follows: B: Balland and T: *Tituli Asiae Minoris*, II.

¹⁵ For the other inscriptions related to Tib. Cl. Telemachus see René Cagnat, Georges Lafaye, *Inscriptiones graecae ad res romanas pertinentes*, 3 vols, E. Leroux, Paris 1901-1927, no. 581, 613; Kalinka, *Tituli Asiae Minoris, II. Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti: Fasc. 1, nos. 1-395, Pars*

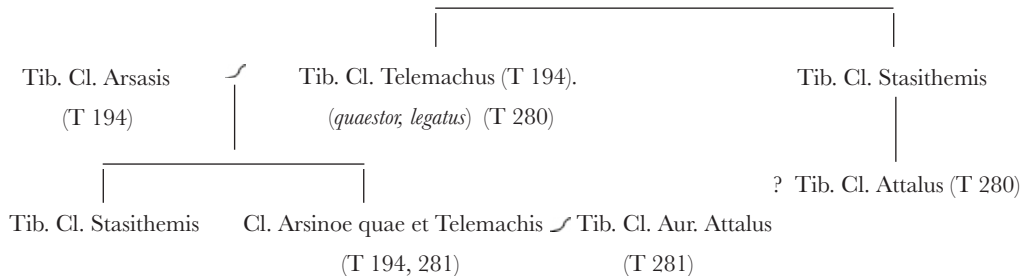
suggests that these two *Telemachi* are the same person and many modern scholars have supported this suggestion¹⁶. Yet one claim opposing this argument indicates that these two are father and son. This claim is supported by Halfmann's argument suggesting that those who become the high priest of the Confederation do not follow a senatorial career¹⁷. According to Reitzenstein, these two *Telemachi* are not the same person but father and son, because if the two were the same person, Telemachus, who was once *lyciarches*, would be supposed to get involved in the senatorial class unexpectedly¹⁸. Baker is suspicious of the two being father and son, though he does not think they are the same person, either¹⁹. According to Takmer, one should approach the claim that equester Telemachus and consul Telemachus are father and son with suspicion, as there is no direct evidence²⁰. Given the limited evidence, the relation between these two has not been determined yet, so it is not incorrect to refer to them as two different individuals.

Another Tiberius Claudius Telemachus, who could not be located anywhere in the stemma, is recorded in the inscription SEG XLI 1394. Found in the city of Xanthus, the inscription contains detailed information about the *cursus honorum* of the person. According to the inscription, the offices Telemachus took on are as follows: *legatus* of the province of Achaea (twice), *proconsul* of the province of Cyprus, *legatus Augusti legionis IV Scythicae*, *consul*, *legatus proconsul* of the province of Asia, *oikistes* of Laodicea and Hierapolis, *curator* of the region of Troas and the cities

Lyciae occidentalis cum Xantho oppido, no. 280.

- 16 Balland, *Inscriptions d'époque impériale du Létôon: Fouilles de Xanthos* 7, p. 228; Bengt E. Thomasson, *Laterculi Praesidum I*, Radius, Göteborg 1984, p. 389 no. 154; Hubert Devijver, "Equestrian Officers from East", *The Defence of the Roman and Byzantine East*, eds. Philip Freeman, David Kennedy, British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara Monograph 8, Ankara 1986, p. 162 no. 9; Marie-Thérèse Raepsaet-Charlier, *Prosopographie des femmes de l'ordre sénatorial (I^{er}-II^e siècles)*, Aedibus Peeters, Lovanni 1987, p. 206; Baker, "Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents", p. 52, fn. 21.
- 17 Halfmann, *Die Senatoren aus dem kleinasiatischen Provinzen des römischen Reiches vom 1.-3. Jahrhundert*", pp. 621-22.
- 18 Reitzenstein, *Die Lykischen Bundespriester. Repräsentation der kaiserzeitlichen Elite Lykiens*, p. 214.
- 19 Baker, "Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents", p. 53.
- 20 Takmer, "Stadiasmus Patarensis için Parerga (2): Sidyma I. Yeni Yazıtlarla Birlikte Yerleşim Tarihçesi", p. 111.

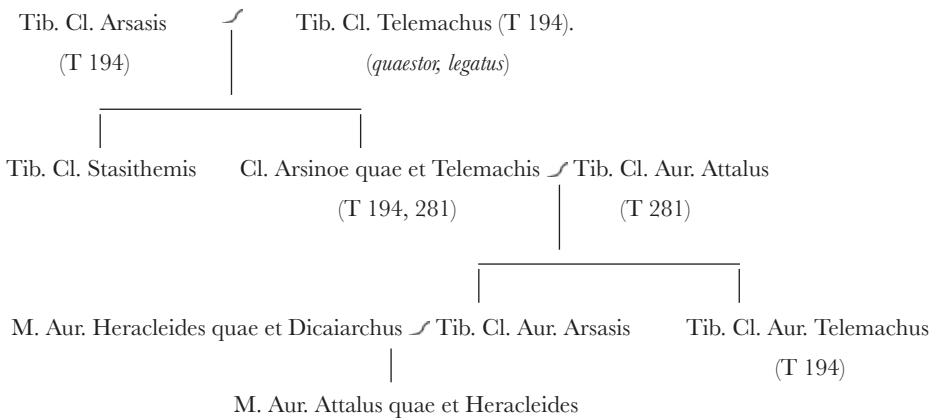
Ephesus, Tralleis, Magnesia, Miletus²¹. It has been proposed that this Telemachus may be the son, nephew, or cousin of Tib. Cl. Telemachus, recorded in TAM II 194²². Another Tiberius Claudius Telemachus, who could not be located anywhere in the stemma, is recorded in TAM II 279. Here, Telemachus is the *proconsul provinciae Africae*. Though it might make one think that he could be the same Telemachus as in TAM II 194, one should evaluate these two separately since there is limited evidence. Because the carriers (*cursus honorum*) of Telemachus, the *proconsul provinciae Africae*, and Telemachus in TAM II 194; and the hierarchy between their offices, suggest that these two are not the same person. TAM II 279 does not say anything about Telemachus' carrier before he became *proconsul provinciae Africae*. Another document related to the family is TAM II 280, which gives information about the brother and nephew of Tib. Cl. Telemachus in TAM II 194. Son-in-law of Tib. Cl. Telemachus is recorded in TAM II 281. However, the connection between Tib. Cl. Attalus recorded in TAM II 280 and Tib. Cl. Aur. Attalus recorded in TAM II 281, is vague, yet it may be explained by the fact that senatorial families in Lycia usually made marriages with families proper for their social status, mostly with relatives. Therefore, the first part of the stemma in the third century AD is as follows²³:



- 21 It is worthy of note that Tib. Cl. Telemachus became *proconsul legatus* of the province of Asia, after his consulship, according to his *cursus honorum*. Because the office of *proconsul legatus* of the province of Asia, requires a background as a *praetor*. See Christol, Drew-Bear, "Un sénateur de Xanthos", p. 208; Özisağlam-Mutlu, *Principatus Devri'nde Lykia ve Pamphylia Kökenli Roma Senatörleri*, p. 48.
- 22 Henry W. Pleket, Ronald S. Stroud, *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum* (SEG), vol. XLI, Brill, Leiden, 1994, no. 1394; Thomasson, *Fasti Africani: Senatorische und ritterliche Amtsträger in den römischen Provinzen Nordafrikas von Augustus bis Diokletian*, p. 96; Thomasson suggests that Tib. Cl. Telemachus should be dated before Telemachus in TAM II 194.
- 23 Baker, "Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents", p. 55; Takmer, "Stadiasmus Patarensis için Parerga (2): Sidyma I. Yeni Yazıtlarla Birlikte Yerleşim Tarihçesi", p. 111.

The honorary inscription discussed here is related to the genealogy of Tiberius Claudius Telemachus' daughter recorded in TAM 194. There are two inscriptions already known from the city (T 194, 281) regarding the daughter of Tib. Claudius Telemachus, whereas there is one (T 281) associated with her husband. However, these documents do not provide information on the child(ren) of the daughter. The inscription forming the subject of this paper clearly expresses the name of her daughter as Tib. Claudia Aurelia Arsasis and the name of her grandson as Marcus Aurelius Attalus alias Heracleides.

As seen above, the *Telemachi* is a very extended family with the citizenship of both Xanthus and Sidyma. The epigraphical records found so far related to the family are all honorary inscriptions. As a result, the last part of the stemma of the family of Tib. Cl. Telemachus belongs to the household of Telemachus in TAM II 194, which gives the names of two children of Tib. Cl. Telemachus: Tib. Cl. Stasithemis and Cl. Arsinoe. The inscription examined in this paper contributes to the family tree by adding new family members from the daughter of Tiberius Claudius Telemachus' side. Consequently, the family's stemma is now expanded as follows²⁴:



²⁴ Baker, "Les Telemachi de Xanthos Réflexions préliminaires à partir de nouveaux documents", p. 55.

Evaluation

This study presents a newly discovered honorary inscription from the *Telemachi* family of Xanthus, offering a comprehensive portrayal of Lycian aristocracy during the Roman period. The inscription reveals Marcus Aurelius Attalus, also known as Heracleides, as a previously unrecorded member of this prominent family, highlighting their elevated status and social ascent within the Roman Empire. The inclusion of the *Telemachi* family members in the senatorial class and their active roles in local governance reflect the strategic relationships Rome established with regional elites. This finding sheds light on how local elites in the eastern provinces were integrated into the Roman administrative system and how this integration influenced cultural and social hierarchies.

The inscription not only honors a member of the *Telemachi* family but also reveals the broader significance of such honorary inscriptions in the Roman social structure, demonstrating how local elites intertwined with imperial authority. It thus serves not merely as a genealogical record of one family, but as a critical source for understanding the power dynamics in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.

The findings are crucial for understanding the complex social and political dynamics in the eastern provinces of Rome. The *Telemachi* family's ability to secure high-ranking positions, including their inclusion in the senatorial class, demonstrates how local elites were integrated into the broader Roman administrative and political systems. This new evidence clarifies previously ambiguous familial connections, contributing to a deeper understanding of the social and political structures of the Roman East.

In light of this discovery, future research can further explore the role of local elites like the *Telemachi* family within the Roman Empire. Such studies will be instrumental in understanding the long-term political strategies of the Roman administration and the contributions of local elites to imperial governance. Ultimately, this inscription not only expands our knowledge of the *Telemachi* family's genealogy but also provides a broader perspective on the social and administrative integration of elite families within the Roman Empire's eastern provinces.

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Fig. 1: In situ location of the inscription in the northeast corner of the Dipylon.



Fig. 2: View of the statue base with slots on the upper surface.

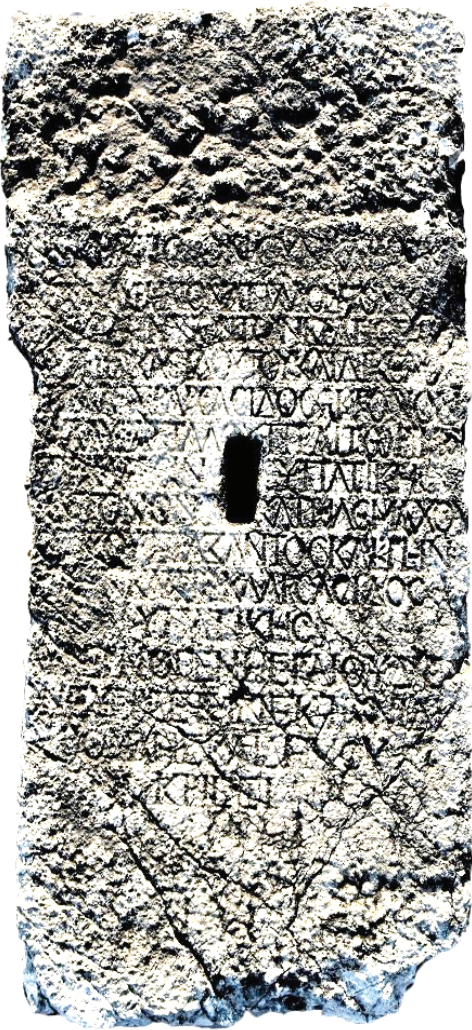


Fig. 3: Close-up of the inscribed block.

