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## The Re-Evaluation of a New Weight from Nicomedia

### *Nikomedia'dan Yeni Bir Ağırılığın Tekrar Değerlendirilmesi*

Hüseyin Sami ÖZTÜRK \*

**Abstract:** This paper introduces a new weight from Nicomedia in the Halûk Perk Museum Collection. It is not exactly known, where the weight dating to the reign of Emperor Philippus Arabs is from. Though according to Perk Collector, it must be from Sakarya. The inscription on side A of the pentagon-shaped weight dating to the 5<sup>th</sup> regnal year of Emperor Philippus Arabs, gives the name and regnal year of Philippus Arabs and the name of L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus, the governor of *Pontus et Bithynia*; while the inscription on side B states the names of Titus Marcus Caesilius Aquila Cornelianus the *logistes*; and Marcus Ulpius Pius the *Bithyniarkhes* and *agoranomos*. The weight unit is not mentioned in the inscription.


**Keywords:** Philippus Arabs, L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus, Pontus et Bithynia, Nicomedia, Weight Inscription

**Öz:** Bu makalade Halûk Perk Müzesi Koleksiyonu'ndaki Nikomedeia'dan yeni bir ağırlık tanıtılmaktadır. İmparator Philippus Arabs zamanına tarihli bu ağırlığın geliş yeri tam olarak bilinmemektedir. Bununla birlikte, Koleksiyoner Perk'in ifadesine göre, yazıt Sakarya'dan olmalıdır. Philippus Arabs'ın 5. yönetim yılına tarihlenen beşgen biçimli ağırlık, ağırlığın A yüzündeki yazıt İmparator Philippus Arabs'ın adı ve yönetim yılı ile *Pontus et Bithynia* valisi L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus'un; B yüzündeki yazıt ise *logistes* Titus Marcus Caesilius Aquila Cornelianus'un; ve *Bithyniarkhes* and *agoranomos* Marcus Ulpius Pius adlarını vermektedir. Yazıtta ağırlık birimi verilmemiştir.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** Philippus Arabs, L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus, Pontus et Bithynia, Nikomedeia, Ağırlık Yazıtı

In 2018, we published an article about the mentioned weight found in Nicomedia, which belongs now to the Halûk Perk Museum<sup>1</sup>. However, after the inscription of the weight was published, our studies on this inscription have shown that some were published in a faulty manner. Therefore, the inscription is re-published here once again. So far, the published twenty-four lead weights attributed to Nicomedia are dated to the period beginning with AD 113-114 to 273-274<sup>2</sup>. But a new unpublished weight from Halûk Perk Museum is dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> regnal year of Domitian.

The weight made in the form of heptagonal with raised edges; pierced. According to Halûk Perk, it could be from Sakarya (Adapazarı). The weight is now at the Halûk Perk Museum (Env.

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<sup>1</sup> Öztürk 2018, 43–51.

<sup>2</sup> Haensch – Weiß 2005, 443–498; Haensch – Weiß 2007, 183–218; Dönmez-Öztürk *et alii* 2008a, 243–259; Dönmez-Öztürk *et alii* 2008b, 261–265; Haensch – Weiß 2014, 513–549 (= *CPAI* 2, Nr. 73; *CPAI* 3, 1, Nr. 413; 419). For Bithynian weights in general see *SEG* LV 1335; 1369–1388.

No. HPM13442). Lead, 95 x 110 x 12 mm; LH: 0.8-1.2 cm (A) – 0.7-1.3 cm (B).

Side A

ΕΤΟΥΣ ΕΤΩΝ ΚΥ  
ΡΙΩΝ ΗΜΩΝ ΑΥΤΟΚΡ  
ΑΤΟΡΩΝ Μ(ΑΡΚΩΝ) ΙΟΥΛΙΩΝ ΦΙ  
ΛΙΠΠΩΝ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΩΝ Υ  
ΠΑΤΕΥΟΝΤ[Ο]Σ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΑΡ  
ΧΕΙΑΣ ΛΟΥ(ΚΙΟΥ) ΕΓΝΑΤ(ΙΟΥ) ΟΥΙΚΤΟ  
ΡΟΣ ΛΟΛΛΙΑΝΟΥ ΠΡΕΣ  
ΒΕΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΤΙΣΤ  
ΡΑΤΗΓΟΥ ΤΩΝ  
ΣΕΒΑΣΤΩΝ



Ἔτους ε' τῶν κυ|ρίων ἡμῶν Αὐτοκρ|ατόρων Μ(άρκων) Ἰουλίων  
Φι|λίππων Σεβαστῶν ὃ|<sup>4</sup>πατεύοντ[ο]ς τῆς ἐπαρ|χείας Λου(κίου) Ἐγνατ(ίου) Οὐίκτο|ρος  
Λολλιανοῦ πρεσ|βευτοῦ καὶ ἀντιστ|<sup>8</sup>ρατήγου τῶν | Σεβαστῶν

**Translation:**

*In the 5<sup>th</sup> year of our Lords and Emperors Marcus Iulius Philippus (and Marcus Iulius Philippus) Sebastī, during the tenure as provincial governor of Lucius Egnatius Victor Lollianus, the delegate and legatus of emperors,*

Side B

ΚΑ<Ι> ΛΟΓΙΣΤΕΥ  
ΟΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΡΑΤΙ  
ΣΤΟΥ, ΤΙΤΙΟΥ Μ(ΑΡΚΟΥ) ΚΑΙ  
ΣΙΔΙΟΥ ΑΚΥΛΑ ΚΟΡ  
ΝΗΛΙΑΝΟΥ ΑΓΟΡΑΝΟ  
ΜΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΜΑΡΚΟΥ Ο  
ΥΛΠΙΟΥ ΠΙΟΥ Δ  
ΗΜΗΤΡΙΑΝΟΥ Β  
ΕΙΘΥΝΙΑΡΧΟΥ



κα<ι> λογιστεύ|οντος τοῦ κρατί|στου, Τιτίου Μ(άρκου) Καί|<sup>4</sup>σιδίου Ἀκύλα Κορ|<sup>8</sup>νηλιανοῦ,  
ἀγοράνο|μοῦντος Μάρκου Ο|ύλπιου Πίου Δ|ημητριάνοῦ Β|<sup>8</sup>εἰθυνιάρχου

**Translation:**

*and (during the time of) logistes, vir egregius Titius Marcus Caedilius Aquila Cornelianus (and) agoranomos Marcus Ulpius Pius Demetrianus (and) Bithyniarkhes.*

## [Control stamp]

Μ(ΑΡΚΟΥ) ΟΥΛΠΙΟΥ ΠΙΟΥ

ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΑΝΟΥ

Μ(άρκου) Ούλπιου Πίου | Δημητριάνοῦ

## Translation:

*Marcus Ulpius Pius Demetrianus' (control stamp).*

The inscription on side A of weight dating to the 5<sup>th</sup> regnal year of Emperor Philippus Arabs, gives the name and regnal year of Philippus Arabs and the name of L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus, the governor of *Pontus et Bithynia*; while the inscription on side B states the names of Titus Marcus Caesilius Aquila Cornelianus, *logistes* of Nicomedia; Marcus Ulpius Pius, the *Bithyniarkhes* and *agoranomos* of the city of Nicomedia.

The name and regnal year of Philippus Arabs is mentioned on side A. A similar statement is known on another weight dating to the reign of Philippus Arabs<sup>3</sup>. This statement in the inscription proves that Philippus Iunior had the title Augustus and began to rule jointly with his father; as Philippus Iunior was made Augustus in July or August AD 247<sup>4</sup>.

It is known from two published weight inscriptions that L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus was *legatus Augusti pro praetore* in *Pontus et Bithynia* during the reign of Decius<sup>5</sup>. In those two inscriptions, the first regnal year of Decius, i.e. AD 249. With this new weight with the inscription “5<sup>th</sup> regnal year of Philippus Arabs”, it can be seen that L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus was working in *Pontus et Bithynia* since AD 247. In the governors list that was published in 2014 by R. Haensch and P. Weiß, who works on governors of *Pontus et Bithynia* for a long time, the dates of L. Egnatius Victor Lollianus' tenure are shown as 23.IX.247–22.IX.248<sup>6</sup>. The later occupant of the post is C. Sabucius Secundus Paulus Modestus, whose tenure was – according to Haensch and Weiß – 23.IX.250–c. June 250. Apparently Lucius Egnatius Victor had stayed in *Pontus et Bithynia* province for two years. This situation can be explained with the conflict between Philippus Arabs and Decius.

From the inscription on side B, we learn that there was a *logistes* (the equivalent of Latin *curator rei publicae*<sup>7</sup>) of named Titius Marcus Caesilius Aquila Cornelianus. There are also the names of previously unknown Titius Marcus Caesilius Aquila Cornelianus. Only nine of these lead weights bear the title of *logistes* and the names of these *logistai* were written with the governor and *agoranomos* on the same weight. It is known that Nicomedia has produced a whole series of weights referring to its *logistai*, which date from about the mid-second to mid-third century. Up to now, only three governors recorded in the whole series of *Pontus et Bithynia* seems to have been as *curator rei publicae*. In generally, *logistes* being official of the central government in the provincial city were selected from equestrian order and usually held a reasonable personal fortune<sup>8</sup>. *Vir egregius* (= κράτιστος) being Titius Marcus Caesilius Aquila

<sup>3</sup> Şahin 1989, 31 (= SEG XXXIX 1342; Şahin 1990, 141; AE 1992, 1556; Haensch – Weiß 2005, 469f., Nr. 9).

<sup>4</sup> Kienast 1990, 199.

<sup>5</sup> Haensch – Weiß 2005, 470–472, Nr. 19; Dönmez-Öztürk *et alii* 2008b, 261–265.

<sup>6</sup> On the calculation method see Haensch – Weiß 2007, 207f.

<sup>7</sup> For this term, see Mason 1974, 66; 182–183.

<sup>8</sup> On *logistai* in Nicomedia, Haensch and Weiß had given information in detail. See Haensch – Weiß 2005, 481–483. See also Dmitriev 2005, 189–197; Akın-Sargın 2018, 51–64.

Cornelianus was appointed by Philippus Arabs. This title was first used as a general term for the members of the *ordo equester* under Marcus Aurelius. Licinius recognizes four grades of equestrian rank: *Perfectissimus vir*, *ducenarius vir*, *centenarius vir* and *egregius vir*<sup>9</sup>. As can be seen, *egregius* (= κράτιστος) is at the lowest level of the hierarchy. These titles were only achieved by some members of the equestrian class who completed their duties as officers in the army<sup>10</sup>.

Again from the inscription on side B, we learn that there was a *Bithyniarkhes* and *agoranomos* Marcus Ulpius Pius Demetrianus from Nicomedia. The *praenomen* Marcus and *nomen gentile* Ulpius of *agoranomos* M. Ulpius Pius Demetrianus show that the ancestors of Pius may have been obtained the right of citizenship during the reign of Emperor Traianus. The lead weights attributed to Nicomedia published recently carry about twenty-tree *agoranomoi* of Nicomedia<sup>11</sup>. The most of these *agoranomoi* mentioned on these weights obtained Roman citizenship. Only two people mentioned in these weights do not have Roman citizenship. These people must be members of the leading families of Nicomedia. Moreover, three more *agoranomoi* from Nicomedia are known from inscriptions in TAM IV 37, 42, 43.

As it is known, the *Bithyniarkhes* was a prominent person of the province as the supreme officer of the *koinon* and Marcus Ulpius Pius Demetrianus must have been one of them. There are several arguments about *Bithyniarkhes*<sup>12</sup>. After the imperial cult was established in 29 BC, one of its most conspicuous figures became *arkhiereus*. We find after a while that *arkhiereus* is with *Bithyniarkhes* in the same inscriptions or alone. So *Bithyniarkhes* is considered by Fernoux<sup>13</sup> as the presiding official of the Bithynian *koinon*. Besides, a *Bithyniarkhes* list is given by Fernoux<sup>14</sup>. According to Madsen, *Bithyniarkhes* was not only different from but also superior to that of *arkhiereus*<sup>15</sup>. It is known that some of *Bithyniarkhes* were *ex-logistai*. Hence, they may have originated from the equestrian class, though equestrian status was not a prerequisite for becoming a *Bithyniarkhes*<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> Cod. Theod. xii1, 5, l. 5. Also see Strothmaan 2002, 241.

<sup>10</sup> Eck 1998, 102. For the titles of equestrian class see also Meyer 1961, 393; Alföldy 1986, 183–195.

<sup>11</sup> Haensch – Weiß 2014, 540–546, List; Öztürk 2018, 45–46.

<sup>12</sup> Deininger 1965, 60–63; Fernoux 2004, 349–360; Bekker-Nielsen 2008, 83–86; 104–105; Giannakopoulos 2016, 370, fn. 32.

<sup>13</sup> Fernoux 2004, 353.

<sup>14</sup> Fernoux 2004, 350–352.

<sup>15</sup> Madsen 2009, 93.

<sup>16</sup> Bekker-Nielsen 2008, 105.

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