The Re-Evaluation of a New Weight from Nicomedia

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The Re-Evaluation of a New Weight from Nicomedia

Nikomedia’dan Yeni Bir Ağırlığın 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 5th 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


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

In 2018, we published an article about the mentioned weight found in Nicomedia, which belongs now to the Halûk Perk Museum1. 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 273-2742. But a new unpublished weight from Halûk Perk Museum is dated to the 11th regnal year of Domitian.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 (Adapazari). The weight is now at the Halûk Perk Museum (Env.

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1 Öztürk 2018, 43–51.

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 ΚΥΡΙΟΝ ΗΜΩΝ ΑΥΤΩΚΡΑΤΩΡ
ΑΤΩΡΟΝ ΜΙΑΡΚΩΝ ΙΟΥΛΙΩΝ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ
ΛΙΠΠΟΝ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΩΝ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΤΙΣΤΡΟΦΗΤΟΥ
ΡΟΚ ΛΟΛΛΙΑΝΟΥ ΠΡΕΣΔΕΠΙΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΤΙΣΤΡΟΦΗΤΟΥ
ΡΑΦΗΓΟΥ ΤΩΝ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΩΝ

"Ετους ε' των κυριων ημων Αυτωκρατωρ ατωρων Μιαρκων Ιουλιων
Φιλιππου Σεβαστων ύπουργου και αντιστροφητου των Σεβαστων

**Translation:**

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

**Side B**

ΚΑΙ ΛΟΠΤΕΥΕΝΟΤΟΥ ΚΡΑΤΙΟΥ ΤΙΤΙΟΥ ΜΙΑΡΚΟΥ ΚΑΙ
ΣΙΛΙΟΥ ΑΚΥΛΑ ΚΟΡΟΥ
ΝΕΛΙΑΝΟΥ ΑΓΟΡΑΝΟΥ
ΜΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΜΙΑΡΚΟΥ ΟΥ ΠΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΑΝΟΥ Β ΕΙΣΩΝΙΑΡΧΟΥ

και λοπτευεν του κρατιου τιτιου μιαρκου και σιλιου акыла кору
νелианоу агораноу μοунтоу миарку оу пию дηмитрианоу β ейсωνиархου

**Translation:**

and (during the time of) logistes, vir egregius Titius Marcus Caedilius Aquila Cornelianus (and) agoranomos Marcus Ulpius Pius Demetrius (and) Bithyniarkhes.
The inscription on side A of weight dating to the 5th 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. 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.

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. In those two inscriptions, the first regnal year of Decius, i.e. AD 249. With this new weight with the inscription “5th 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. 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) 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. Vir egregius (κράτιστος) being Titius Marcus Caesilius Aquila

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4 Kienast 1990, 199.
7 For this term, see Mason 1974, 66; 182–183.
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. 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.

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-three agoranomoi of Nicomedia. 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. After the imperial cult was established in 29 BC, one of its most conspicuous figures became archiereus. We find after a while that archiereus is with Bithyniarkhes in the same inscriptions or alone. So Bithyniarkhes is considered by Fernoux as the presiding official of the Bithynian koinon. Besides, a Bithyniarkhes list is given by Fernoux. According to Madsen, Bithyniarkhes was not only different from but also superior to that of archiereus. 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.

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9 Cod. Theod. xii1, 5, l. 5. Also see Strothmaan 2002, 241.
10 Eck 1998, 102. For the titles of equestrian class see also Meyer 1961, 393; Alföldy 1986, 183–195.
15 Madsen 2009, 93.
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ACM Acta Classica Mediterranea.
AE L’Année épigraphique.


Chiron Chiron: Mitteilungen der Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts.


CPAI 2 O. Tekin – G. Baran-Çelik, Corpus Ponderum Antiquorum et Islamicorum, Turkey 2: Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic Weights in the Department of Metal Objects. Istanbul 2013.


DNP Der neue Pauly.


EA Epigraphica Anatolica.


SEG Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum.
Strothmaan 2002

Şahin 1989

Şahin 1990

TAM IV(1)