

# THE CITY OF KOURION HONOURS KALLIKLES, SON OF KALLIKLES OF ALEXANDRIA

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**P**urpose of my communication is the presentation of a new Ptolemaic honorific inscription<sup>1</sup> which was found in 1998 in the Acropolis of Kourion in southwest Cyprus. The short discussion on the evidence yielded by the new document will be followed by a brief comparative study of three other published honorific inscriptions, which refer to the same Ptolemaic official.

The new document is inscribed on a rectangular pedestal of whitish limestone (0.78 × 0.28, width 0.33) which has its upper and rear surface broken off. On the upper surface partly preserved two dowel-holes (0.06 diam, 0.06-0.08 deep), betray the support for a statue. The inscription, in eight lines, is complete, and occupies the front long surface of the statue-base (height of the inscription 0.23). Fig. 1 (squeeze).

Καλλικλῆν Καλλικλέους Ἀλεξανδρέα τὸν  
ἀρχισωματοφύλακα καὶ γραμματέα τῶν  
ἐν Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ ἰππέων καὶ εὐώνυμον παραστάτην  
καὶ διδάσκαλον τοῦ Βασιλέως τῶν τακτικῶν  
5 Κουριέων ἢ πόλις ἀρετῆς ἔνεκεν καὶ εὐνοίας  
τῆς εἰς βασιλέα Πτολεμαῖον καὶ βασίλισσαν  
Κλεοπάτραν τὴν ἀδελφὴν Θεοῦς Φιλομήτορας καὶ  
τὰ τέκνα  
καὶ τῆς εἰς ἑαυτὴν εὐεργεσίας καὶ πρὸς ἅπαντας  
δικαιοσύνης.

The honorand is Kallikles, son of Kallikles, of Alexandria. The city of Kourion erects his statue to honour him for his virtue, his devotion to the reigning king Ptolemy Philometor, the queen sister Cleopatra and their children, for his benefactions

to the city of Kourion itself and for his just conduct to everybody. In the inscription his rank and offices are enumerated: ἀρχισωματοφύλαξ, (commander of the royal body guard), γραμματεὺς τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ ἰππέων (secretary of the household cavalry in Alexandria), εὐώνυμος παραστάτης (lieutenant of the left wing?), διδάσκαλος τοῦ Βασιλέως τῶν τακτικῶν (instructor royal in the technicalities of war).

Another three Cypriot inscriptions inscribed on pedestals found at Palaipaphos in western Cyprus, refer to the same Alexandrian Kallikles, son of Kallikles. They may have been originally set up in the sanctuary of Aphrodite at Palaipaphos. Two of the documents have been published by T. B. Mitford in *BSA* 56, 1961, 20f, nos 53, 54. The third is published by the writer in the *RDAC* 1991, 200f, no. 21, pl. LVI.21. These documents have as follows:

MITFORD, T.B., *The Annual of the British School at Athens (BSA)* 56, 1961, 20f no. 53:

[Βασιλέα Πτολεμαῖον Θεόν]  
[Φιλομήτορα] Κ[αλλικλῆς]  
[Κ]αλλικλέ[ο]υς Ἀλεξανδρεὺς  
ὁ ἀρχισωματοφύλαξ καὶ ἐπὶ  
5 τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ ἰππέων  
καὶ διδάσκαλος [τοῦ Βασιλέως]  
τακτικῶν εὐεργεσίας ἕνεκα  
τῆς εἰς ἑαυτὸν καὶ [τὰ τέκνα].

MITFORD, T.B., *o.c.*, 21, no. 54 (=SEG XX, 1964, 199):

[Καλλι]κλῆν Καλλικλέ[ο]υς, τῶν σωματοφυλάκων  
Πτο-  
[λι]μαίου ἰλάρ[χη]ν, τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ τεταγ-  
μένων  
ἰππέων καὶ εὐωνύμων [ἐπιστά]την καὶ διδάσκαλον

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1. Found in 1998 by Dr Demos Christou in his excavations at Kourion, whom I thank for granting me the permission to study it.



Fig. 1.

τοῦ βασιλέως τῶν τ[ακτι]κῶν ἢ συναρχία τῶν ἐν  
 Πάφῳ  
 5 στρατηγῶν καὶ ἐστρα[τηγ]ηκότων ἀρετῆς ἕνεκα  
 καὶ  
 εὐνοίας τῆς εἰς Βασιλέ[α] Πτολεμαῖον καὶ Βασιλίσ-  
 σαν  
 Κλεοπάτραν τὴν ἀδελφὴν, Θεοῦς Φιλομήτορας, καὶ  
 τὰ τέκνα  
 καὶ τῆς εἰς ἑαυ[τ]ὴν εὐεργεσίας καὶ πρὸς ἅπαντας  
 δικαιοσύνης.

NICOLAOU, I., *Report of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus (RDAC)*, Nicosia 1991, 200f no. 21, pl. LVI.21 (=SEG XLI, 1991, 1478):

Ἡ πόλις ἢ Παφίων Καλλικλῆν  
 Καλλικλέους Ἀλεξανδρέα  
 τὸν ἀρχισωματοφύλακα ἀρετῆς [ἕνεκα]  
 καὶ εὐνοίας τῆς εἰς Βασιλέ[α] [Πτολεμαῖον]  
 5 καὶ τὴν ἀδελφὴν Βασιλίσσαν Κλεοπάτραν  
 Θεοῦς Φιλομήτορας καὶ τὰ [τέκνα αὐτῶν].

In BSA 56, no. 53 Kallikles, son of Kallikles himself, honours king Philometor. Stating his own offices in the same document he is ἀρχισωματοφύλαξ (commander of the royal bodyguard), [ἐπι] τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖ[αι] ἱππέων (commander of the cavalry in Alexandria), διδάσκαλος [τοῦ βασιλέως] τακτικῶν (instructor of the king in the tactics of war). BSA 56, no. 54: In this document Kallikles is honoured by the συναρχία τῶν ἐν Πάφῳ στρατηγῶν καὶ ἐστρα[τηγ]ηκότων (by the college of the *strategoï* of the city of Paphos, those on active service and those who served already their term of office), these are local officials. These two inscriptions from Palaipaphos were fragmentarily preserved and the text was restored by T. B. Mitford. The new document from Kourion being complete allows us to check the correctness of Mitford's restorations. Accordingly, Mitford's proposed restoration: [ἐπιστά]την in l. 3 of the inscription no. 54, is to be changed into

[παραστά]την. Also [τῶν σωματοφυλάκων] in l. 1 of the same inscription, after the new Kourion document, the Palaipaphos inscription BSA 56, no. 53, where Kallikles himself states his offices, and the RDAC 1991 no. 21, the Palaipaphos inscription no. 54, should be corrected to ἀρχισωματοφύλακα, with a change in the punctuation of Mitford's lines 1 and 2: l. 1: [Καλλι]κλῆν Καλλικλ[έους, τὸν ἀρχισωματοφύλακα Πτο] / [λ]εμαίου, ἰλάρ[ιχ]ην τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖαι τεταγμένων]. In the Palaipaphos inscription no. 53 the restoration in ll. 4-5: -- καὶ ἐπι] / τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖ[αι] ἱππέων, seems to be correct. In no. 54 ll. 2 and 3: [τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖαι τεταγμένων] / ἱππέων, without rejecting Mitford's restoration, we would propose: [γραμματέα τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖαι] / ἱππέων, after the new evidence from Kourion.

Of the four inscriptions mentioned above, that published in RDAC 1991, 200f, no. 21 mentions only one office of Kallikles, that of ἀρχισωματοφύλαξ. The new Kourion document and the Palaipaphos inscriptions BSA 56, nos 53, 54, in general are in accord with regards to the offices held by Kallikles (as stated by him in BSA 56, no. 53). They differ, however, in this: that in the document erected by the Cypriots (by the city of Kourion and by the local city *strategoï* of Paphos), an effort is made to elaborate more on the offices of the honorand, interpreting them in their own way, which betrays ignorance of the real meaning of the Ptolemaic court terminology (the new Kourion inscription: γραμματέα τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖαι ἱππέων καὶ εὐώνυμον παραστάτην<sup>2</sup>; BSA 56, no. 54: [Πτολ]εμαίου ἰλάρ[ιχ]ην τῶν ἐν Ἀλεξανδρεῖαι τεταγμένων] ἱππέων καὶ εὐώνυμον [παραστά]την.

2. For παραστάτην, see LAUNIEY, M., *Recherches sur les Armées Hellénistiques*, Paris 1949, 119; 1950, 651, 1120 (παστάτας for παραστάτας).

The presence in Cyprus of the Alexandrian Kallikles, son of Kallikles, must be related with the strengthening of the defence of Cyprus by Ptolemy Philometor, for Cyprus, after 163 B.C. was continuously threatened by Philometor's brother, Ptolemy VIII, Euergetes II, who in 154 B.C., having

landed with a force in Cyprus, found himself surrounded by Philometor's military forces and surrendered to his brother. All four inscriptions must have been erected sometime after 163 B.C. and before 154 B.C. Mitford's inscription no. 53 seems to be the earliest of all four, shortly after 163 B.C.