

# Decree of the cleruchs of Myrina

ELA id: 256

## IG 2[2] 1224+

Inv. number	EM 7737 + British Museum + EM 7737 + EM 7644 + EM 7520 + Ag. I 453
PHI	3439 <a href="https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/3439?bookid=5&amp;location=7292658">https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/3439?bookid=5&amp;location=7292658</a> <a href="https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/292658">https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/292658</a>
Translations	<a href="https://www.atticinscriptions.com/inscription/IGII2/1224">https://www.atticinscriptions.com/inscription/IGII2/1224</a>
Images	<a href="https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/100797">https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/100797</a> <a href="http://ascsa.net/id/agora/object/i%20453?q=i%20453&amp;t=&amp;v=list&amp;sort=&amp;s=2">http://ascsa.net/id/agora/object/i%20453?q=i%20453&amp;t=&amp;v=list&amp;sort=&amp;s=2</a>

## Description

Date	<p>145 BCE (?)</p> <p><b>Period:</b> 2nd century BCE --&gt; first half --&gt; after 168 BCE, battle of Pydna, 2nd century BCE --&gt; second half --&gt; after 146 BCE, sack of Corinth</p> <p>✓disputed</p> <p><b>Reasons:</b> historical context, prosopography</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>The text refers to the context following the battle of Pydna, after which Athens regained control over Lemnos (Plb. XXX 20). Nevertheless, the mention at l. e 13 of a Caius Laelius, under whom a decree of the Senate was issued, may point to the 140s, since a man by that name - C. Laelius Sapiens - is known to have been praetor in Rome in 145 and then consul in 140 BCE. The decree, perhaps issued under the praetorship of Laelius, when he may have replaced the consuls as president of a Senate assembly, should then refer either to the context of the Achaean war, when Athens may have lost control of some Aegean islands - perhaps Skiathos, Peparethos and Ikos - and then regained them with the support of a Roman army, or perhaps to the conflict between Andrisco and the Romans in the northern Aegean (148 BCE). As Knoepfler 2018 289-294 recently pointed out, Andrisco may have claimed, among others, control over Lemnos, so that - when he was defeated - the Romans may have restored the island to the</p>
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Athenians in order to secure again the routes from and towards the Straits.

This date would coincide with the chronology established by Tracy for the activity of the cutter of the present inscription; he dated the inscription to ca. 150 BCE (Tracy 1990 243). The mention of Herakleitos son of Poseidippos as hoplite general for the second time (ll. ab 9) corroborates a date in the 140s; cf. Oros. 5, 9, 5: «tumultus servilis ab Heraclito praetore discussus est».

See Kallet-Marx, *Chiron* 27, 1997, 186-187; Habicht 1995 (2 éd., 2006) 300-301.

For a full discussion on the chronology of the document see Knoepfler 2018 270-294

## Text category

decree, dedication

### Notes:

The text reports a decree of the Athenian cleruchs in Myrina providing significant information about the relationships between Athens and its cleruchy on Lemnos in the mid-second cent. BCE (cf. ELA id: 255 = IG 2[2] 1223 of the Hephaistian cleruchs).

It opens with the dating formula, which parallels the formulae normally reported in the decrees of Athens (ll. d 1-5). In Frg. e the text deals perhaps with the historical context of the aftermath of the Third Macedonian War or, more likely, of Andriscos' attempt, speaking of the Romans as "common benefactors" (l. e 9), of an alliance (ll. 9-10) and of a senatorial resolution under Caius Laelius (ll. 11-13).

Frgs. a+b+c preserve the major part of the text, reporting of the donation of a gold crown by the cleruchs to Athena. It was to be sent to Athens, bearing testimony to the benevolence of the cleruchs in Myrina to the motherland, and was to be decorated by the following inscription: «The people of the Athenians in Myrina (dedicated this) as a token of gratitude to [Athena, ancestress and saviour] of this city, for the [confirmation received in front of the Senate] of the Romans about (the reassignment of) the islands previously held to the people of the Athenians, [when in Athens] Herakleitos son of Poseidippos (...) was hoplite [general] for the second time, and in Lemnos Philarchos of Paiania was strategos and Telesidemus son of Aminias from Hekales was hipparch for the second time» (ll. ab 6-11).

After that, five ambassadors are elected among all the cleruchs to get to Athens, deliver a copy of the decree of the cleruchs and perform sacrifices to Athena as a token of gratitude for the glory and safety of the people of Athens, its friends and allies as well as the citizens in Myrina (ll. ab 12-15). They shall later dedicate the crown and the inscription together with the names of the strategoi in service in Athens and in Myrina and congratulate to the Athenian Boule and Demos for the victory in the judgement taken in the Senate about the restoration of the islands (ll. ab 15-21). After the publication clause, the names of the ambassadors closes the decree (ll. ac 27-29).

As the new fragment would suggest (Knoepfler 2018 281-282), below the text of the decree stood a dedication - consistent with the contents of the decree itself - of the Boule and Demos of the cleruchs of Myrina in honour of the Boule and Demos of the Athenians of the motherland, perhaps due to the εὐνοία they showed towards the cleruchs. The traces of a wreath, visible on the fragment, perfectly match the donation of a crown by the cleruchs to Athena as it is described in the decree.

On Herakleitos son of Poseidippos and his family see Tracy 1990 155.

## Monument description

**Monument type:** pedimental stele

**Material:** white marble

✓ornamentation

✓crown

**Letters Height Mt:** 0.006-0.010

**Same stonecutter as:**

Tracy 1990 149 assigns the present text to the "Cutter of Ag. I 6006", who worked in Athens between 169/8 and 135/4 BCE; cf. more recently Tracy, *Hesperia* 84, 2015, 577.

See previously Tracy, *Hesperia* 47, 1978, 261-266 on the "Cutter of Ag. I 6006": 148/7-135/4 BCE

### Notes:

The stele was decorated on top by an aetoma with flowers, partially preserved on the upper part of Frg. d.

At the bottom of the text, after a vacat of 0.045 from l. 29, it stands a wreath dedicated by the Athenian cleruchs in Myrina.

For a very good reconstruction of the fragments in their original position see Knoepfler 2018 268, fig. 1

## Physical features

### Frg. a

**Measurements:** h: 0.23 \* w: 0.274 \* t: 0.053

**State of conservation:** Broken on all sides

### Notes:

It joins Frg. b to the right. The join was first proposed by Kirchhoff, *Hermes* 1, 1866, 217-225

## Frg. b

**Measurements:** h: 0.26 ca. \* w: 0.34 ca. \* t: n.a.

**State of conservation:** Right side probably preserved

## Frg. c

**Measurements:** h: 0.17 \* w: 0.27 \* t: 0.072

**State of conservation:** Right side preserved

**Legibility:** Good. Seven lines of text, ll. ac 23-29 (right portion)

### Notes:

Lower-right portion of the stone.

Photo of the fragment in Knoepfler 2018 275, fig. 3

## Frg. d

**Measurements:** h: 0.29 \* w: 0.30 \* t: 0.53

**State of conservation:** Upper aetoma preserved

**Legibility:** Quite good, especially in the first two lines. Five lines of text, ll. d 1-5 (central portion)

### Notes:

Upper-central part of the stone with decorated aetoma.

Photo of the fragment in Knoepfler 2018 278, fig. 5

## Frg. e

**Measurements:** h: 0.17 \* w: 0.26 \* t: 0.065

**State of conservation:** Left side preserved

**Legibility:** Very good. Sixteen lines of text, ll. e 1-16 (left portion)

### Notes:

Upper-left part of the stone.

Photo of the fragment in Knoepfler 2018 278, fig. 6

## Frg. added

**Measurements:** h: 0.10 \* w: 0.30 \* t: 0.15

**State of conservation:** Small portion of the right side preserved

**Legibility:** Quite good. Two lines of text (left and central portion)

**Reuse:** Reused as material building

**Notes:**

A few traces of a crown's leaf are preserved below l. 2.  
The fragment was recognized only as parallel to IG 2[2] 1224 by Kirchner in his edition (IG 2[2] 3215; cf. Ath.Agora 18 C33). In 1946 Raubitschek, *Hesperia* Index 1-10, 184 firstly suggested that it may belong to (and perhaps even join) IG 2[2] 1224, as later Tracy, *Hesperia* 47, 1978, 262 believed also plausible. It has been definitely adjoined to the other fragments of IG 2[2] 1224 by Knoepfler 2018 281-282.

Photo of the fragment in Ath.Agora 18 pl. 3 (C33)

## Findspot

### Frg. a

Acropolis --> Parthenon (east of)

**Date of discovery:** 1836

**Circumstances:** archeological excavation

**First edition:**

Pittakis, *AEph* 1853, 1015 no. 1848 = IG 2 593.  
See *APMA* 5 no. 33

### Frg. b

✓ unknown

**Details:**

It was discovered somewhere in Athens and there bought by Lord Elgin, who brought it to England between 1803 and 1805. Afterwards, in 1816, it passed to the British Museum together with the others Elgin Marbles

**Date of discovery:** Parthenon (west of)

**Date of discovery:** 1840

**Circumstances:** archeological excavation

**First edition:**

Pittakis, AEph 1853, 911 no. 1460 = IG 2 494.  
See APMA 5 no. 278

## Frg. e

Acropolis --> Parthenon (south-east of)

**Date of discovery:** 1859

**Circumstances:** archeological excavation

**First edition:**

Pittakis, AEph 1859, 1869 no. 3618 = IG 2 424.  
See APMA 5 no. 145

## Frg. added

Agora --> Panathenaic Way (east of) --> #Q-R15: modern house 646/2

**Details:**

Found in a modern house wall south of the Library of Pantainos

**Date of discovery:** 1933

**Circumstances:** archeological excavation

**First edition:**

Meritt, Hesperia 3, 1934, 67-68 no. 62 = IG 2[2] 3215,  
then Ath.Agora 18 C33

## Original location

Acropolis --> Between Parthenon and the Propylaia

**Details:**

The decree was to be erected in two copies, one on the Acropolis of Athens, the other inside the Artemision of Myrina. It is not clear on the

Acropolis where this stele may have been located precisely. On one side the findspots of the fragments composing the inscription, mainly located around the Parthenon and by the Asklepieion just below it, seem to support strongly the idea that the monument was erected somewhere in the Southern sector of the Plateau by the imposing temple that dominated that area of the Acropolis. On the other side the presence of other decrees concerning Lemnos and the cleruchies settled there, whose fragments have been found in an area spanning from the sector west of the Propylaia to the south-east corner of the Plateau, appears to suggest that the Acropolitian "monumental archive of Athenian suzerainty over Lemnos" postulated by Kallet-Marx and Stroud, *Chiron* 27, 1997, 173, may be searched somewhere between the Parthenon and the Propylaia, where this decree may have also been set up. This location established perhaps an ideological relationship with the so-called "Lemnian Athena" realized in the V cent. BCE by Phidia on commission from the Lemnians (Paus. I 28, 2), that stood in front of the north-east hall of the Propylaia.

✓ uncertain

#### Notes:

On the position of the "Lemnian Athena" see Phillips Stevens, *Hesperia* 5, 1936, 454-455 and figs. 7, 62, 63.

On the location of the sanctuary of Artemis in Myrina see SEG 42, 121 (Beschi); SEG 43, 584 (Parker); SEG 53, 150 (Beschi); ASAA 86, 2008, 13 fn. 15 (Marchiandi); ASAA 88, 2010, 358-359 and fn. 65 (Culasso).

## Publication provisions and other related clauses

Publication clause	(Decree, ll. ac 23-24): ἀναγράψαι τό]δε τὸ ψήφισμα [ε]ἰς στήλας λιθίνας διττὰς [καὶ στήσ]αι τῇ μὲν μίαν   Ἀθήνησιν ἐν] ἀκροπόλει, τὴν [δὲ] ἑτέραν ἐμ Μυρίνῃ ἐ[ν τῷ ἱερῷ] τῆς Ἀρτέμιδος]
More copies	2 (Athens, Myrina)
Location	ἐν ἀκροπόλει
Hortatory Intention	(Decree, ll. ab 21-23): ἵνα δὲ καὶ ὑπόμνη[μα ὑπάρχει τῆς τῶν ἐμ   Μυρίνῃ οἰκούντων] πολιτῶν εἰ[ς] τὸν δῆμον τὸν Ἀθηναίων εὐχ[αριστίας καὶ φιλοτιμίας]



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