

## SEVEN NEW FRAGMENTARY INSCRIPTIONS FROM ISTROS AND TOMIS

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**Cuvinte-cheie:** *inscripții inedite, inscripții grecești, Istros, Tomis, decrete, dedicații imperiale, inscripții funerare, inscripții votive.*

**Keywords:** *new inscriptions, Greek inscriptions, Istros, Tomis, decrees, imperial dedications, funerary inscriptions, votive inscriptions.*

**Rezumat:** *Autorul publică șapte inscripții grecești inedite, trei inscripții din Istros: 1. un nou fragment din decretul pentru Diogenes, fiul lui Diogenes (ISM I 2 + 3); 2. fragment dintr-o placă opistografă cu dedicații pentru împărați din dinastia Antoninilor; 3. un nou fragment din stela funerară ISM I 303; și patru inscripții din Tomis: 4. fragment dintr-o inscripție monumentală pentru împăratul Hadrian pusă în 120 p. Chr. de autoritățile locale și de legatul Gaius Ummidius Quadratus; 5. inscripție fragmentară de natură incertă; 6 și 7. două inscripții votive fragmentare dintr-un vicus din teritoriul cetății.*

**Abstract:** *The author publishes seven new Greek inscriptions, three from Istros: 1. a new fragment of the decree for Diogenes, son of Diogenes (ISM I 2 + 3); 2. fragment of an opisthographic plaque with dedications to the Antonine emperors; 3. a new fragment of the funerary stele ISM I 303; and four inscriptions from Tomis: 4. fragment of a monumental dedication to the emperor Hadrian set up in AD 120 by the city and the legate Gaius Ummidius Quadratus; 5. fragmentary inscription of uncertain character; 6 and 7. two fragmentary votive inscriptions from a vicus in the territory.*

More than one hundred inscriptions on stone from Scythia Minor, written in Greek or Latin, are still unpublished<sup>1</sup>. Many of them will offer little satisfaction to

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<sup>1</sup> Some were unearthed recently through systematic and rescue excavations, but most of the inscriptions still unpublished to date were acquired by the National Museum of Antiquities in Bucharest in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. For a short overview, see AVRAM & HĂLMAGI 2019, p. 108. Many of these inscriptions were recorded in the

editors, for they are often incomplete and short, sometimes even barely legible. Still, they deserve some attention and occasionally excite the keen interest of epigraphists and other classical scholars. I present in this article 6 fragmentary inscriptions discovered recently in Histria and Constanța, together with one other inscription of undocumented provenance, which must be from Tomis, as well.

### Inscriptions from Istros

1. Small marble fragment with Greek inscription (**Fig. 1**), found in 2021 in spoil heaps from previous excavations. Dimensions: 15 x 9 x 10.5 cm, letters: 0.8–2 cm, interval between lines: 0,8–1 cm.

-----  
 ----- . ΗΣ *vac.*  
 -- --MONET[.]  
 -- --NTHΙΑΓ[.]  
 -----ΣΔΕ  
 -----

The inscription contains several letters from the decree for Diogenes, son of Diogenes (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC). It comes from the same stele as ISM I 2 and 3, two fragments measuring together 25.5 x 34 x 11 cm (**Fig. 2**)<sup>2</sup>, and reads:

-----  
 [αὐτοῦ θυγατριδοῦς, δίδωσι χρυσοῦς χιλί]  
 1 [ους καὶ πεντ]ακ[ο]σί[ους] ἀ[τόκους ἐμ παι]-  
 [σὶν ὧν ὅπως] ὑπάρξει τροφή τ[ῶι δῆμωι *vac.*]  
 [ἐπαινέ]σαι ἐπὶ τούτοις Διογ[ένην Διογέ]-  
 [νου]ς καὶ ἀναγράψαι εὐερ[γέτην τοῦ δή]-  
 5 μου· στεφανοῦσ[θ]αί δ' αὐ[τὸν καὶ ἐμ πᾶσι]  
 τοῖς ἀγῶσι χρυσῶι στ[εφάνωι ἀρε]τῆς *vac.*  
 ἔνεκεν καὶ εὐνοίας τῆ[ς εἰς τὸν δή]μον· στ[η]-  
 σαι δ' αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰκό[να χαλκῆν ἐ]ν τῇ ἀγ[ο]-  
 ραί οὗ ἂν αὐτὸς θέλ[η]· ἀνατεθεικότ]ος δὲ  
 10 τὸ Μουσεῖον τοῦ πα[τρὸς αὐτοῦ Διογένους]  
 [τοῦ Γλαυκίου καὶ λελοιπότης εἰς θυσίαν]  
 -----

manuscripts of G.G. Tocilescu. For instance, the inscription edited in AVRAM & HĂLMAGI 2019, p. 108, no. 1 is also mentioned in the BAR mss. 5132, f. 325 and 326 with Constanța as place of origin. Other inscriptions were lost. Such is the inscription from Pazarlia, today Târgușor, mentioned on f. 206, an epitaph from either Istros or Tomis. The facsimile is unfortunately full of errors: at the end of the inscription I discern χαίρετε (XATPETE; *sigma* must have been rectangular or lunate).

<sup>2</sup> Edited as separate inscriptions by Pippidi, and together by AVRAM 2000–2001, p. 337–339, no. 1 (following the suggestion of J. and L. Robert in BÉ 1966, 272) and AVRAM 2007, 81. ISM I 3 preserves the left margin of the stele.

*Translation:* ... his daughter's son, lent 1500 gold staters with no interest, when he was still a boy, in order to supply food for the people. Let Diogenes, son of Diogenes, be praised on account of these and inscribed as benefactor of the people and let him be crowned with a gold wreath, in all the contests, for his virtue and goodwill towards the people. And a bronze statue of his should be set in the agora in a place of his choosing. And since his father, Diogenes, son of Glaukias, set up a temple for the Muses and left for sacrifices ...

2. Fragment from an opisthographic marble plaque, found in 2008 behind the apse of the Crypt Basilica in a context securely assigned to first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century<sup>3</sup>. Dimensions: 14.5 x 12 x 4 cm, on face A (**Fig. 3**) letters: 3 cm, interval: 1.5 cm, on face B (**Fig. 4**) letters: 3.3–3.5 cm, interval: 1.8–2 cm.

A  
 -----  
 -----..  
 ----- πατ[ρι-  
 -- ὑπάτ]ω τὸ [-  
 -----υ·Μ-----  
 -----

The lower parts of two vertical strokes are visible in the first line, most likely from two different letters.

B  
 -----  
 -- αὐτοκράτορι] τὸ δ'-----  
 ----- Ποντ[ίου Λαελιανού--  
 -----ΤΟΥ-----  
 -----

Both inscriptions were dedicated to emperors. The inscription on face B appears to have been set up in AD 166–167, during the joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, when Pontius Laelianus was legate in the province. The other one could be contemporary or slightly earlier.

3. Two joining fragments from the upper half of a limestone stele with gorgoneion in pediment and palmette acroteria, measuring together 157 x 97 x 32 cm (**Fig. 5**). The stone was reused in the foundations of the Holy Trinity and Saint Nicholas Church in Istria, where it was discovered in December 2012<sup>4</sup>. Kept today in the same church, it is easily accessible to visitors.

The stele contains three registers: two scenes carved in low relief and an inscription. The upper scene depicts the funerary banquet. A male is reclining on a couch with a wreath held in his raised right hand. He is accompanied by three

<sup>3</sup> ACHIM 2014, p. 273, n. 33.

<sup>4</sup> Information from Thibaut Castelli, who also announced the discovery in 2013 on his blog.

other figures, two boys and a girl, before a table laden with food, a seated woman, and two slaves. The lower scene depicts the “Thracian horseman”, the heroized deceased wearing a chlamys on horseback, trotting to the right towards a snake-entwined tree (type A in Katsarov’s classification). The raised right hand originally held a spear. The monument should be assigned to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The inscription has only one remaining letter of 4.5 cm, a *kappa*. By chance, I found the lower half of the stele in the Museum of Histria (ISM I 303) and the full inscription reads:

Θ(εοῖς) Κ(αταχθονίοις)  
 Χρύσιππος Σίδη[ροῦ]  
 ζῶν κατεσκεύασα ἐ-  
 αυτῶ τε καὶ τῇ συμβίῳ Πώ-  
 5 μη Ἀρίστωνος καὶ τέ-  
 κνοις · Ἀρίστωνι ζήσαντι  
 ὡς ἔτη · δ' · Ζούθει ὡς ἔ-  
 τη · α' · Σιδηρῶ ὡς ἔτη · ι' ·  
 Ἀρτεμιδώρῳ ὡς ἔτη  
 10 · ιη' · μνήμης · χάρις.  
 χαίροιτε.  
 χαῖρε καὶ σὺ παροδίτα.

*Translation:* To the Gods of the Underworld, Chrysisippos, son of Sideros, while living built for the sake of remembrance (a stele) for himself and for his wife Pome, the daughter of Ariston, and for the children Ariston, who lived for 4 years, Zouthe, who lived for 1 year, Sideros, who lived for 10 years, and Artemidoros, who lived for 18 years. Farewell! Farewell to you, as well, passer-by!

Chrysisippos and his wife are represented in the funerary banquet scene, along with their sons, Sideros and Ariston, and their daughter, Zouthe. Their elder son, Artemidoros, is most likely the heroized horseman. All their children died tragically at young ages.

Some names are worthy of note. Sideros is rare in the Greek world, but is borne by one of the *gerousiastai* recorded in ISM I 193 (col. I, l. 50): Σιδηρὸς Σιδηροῦ. The name Πώμη is, to my knowledge, unique: perhaps a hypocoristic of Ἀγαπωμένη. Two of their sons bear the names of their grandfathers, while the name of their daughter is perhaps related to other feminine names from the region<sup>5</sup>. Her name could indicate a Hellenized non-Greek family, but it may also point to a mixed marriage: in this case, we may well wonder whether Pome was a freedwoman.

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, ISM II 266 = ISM III 237 from Urluchioi, a former village on the shores of lake Techirghiol: *Aur(elio) Daleni ex vic(o) Am\ [i]laidina et q(uondam) prae\ torianorum | Aurelia Suthis | uxor eius*. Suthis could be a Latin spelling for Zuthis. For some critical notes on the location and the name of the village, see HĂLMAGI 2015, p. 46–48.

## Inscriptions from Tomis

4. Limestone fragment of unknown provenance, measuring 52 x 34 x 18 cm and bearing a Greek inscription in 6 lines (**Fig. 6**), today at “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest (MNA, inv. L 1500). The fragment was cut from a monumental block. The letters are 3.5–4 cm in height and lightly carved, with an interval of 1.7–2.2 cm between the lines.

The inscription was dedicated to the Emperor Hadrian. The name Σεπτίκ[ιος] can be discerned with some certainty in the penultimate line. From all the polynymous governors of this period, the most likely candidate is Gaius Ummidius Quadratus (c. 118–124)<sup>6</sup>, whose full name is mentioned in a bilingual inscription from Tomis: S[– –]rio in Latin, [– –]ρωριος in Greek<sup>7</sup>. The restoration suggested below is conjectural and it accounts only minimally for variations in spacing. At any rate, judging from the similar text, the monument was likely set up in the same city at the same time, in AD 120.

-----  
 [Αὐτοκράτορι Καίσαρι θεοῦ Τραϊανοῦ Παρθικοῦ υἱῶ θεοῦ]  
 [Νέρουα υἱῶν Τραϊανῶ] Ἀδ[ριανῶ Σεβαστῶ ἀρχιερεῖ]  
 [μεγίστῳ δημαρχικῆ]ς ἐξουσία[ς τὸ δ' ὑπάτῳ τὸ γ']  
 [βουλή ] *vac.* δῆμο[ς *vac.* Τομειτῶν]  
 5 [Γ. Οὐμμίδιος Κοδράτ]ος Σεπτίκ[ιος Σερωριος]  
 [πρεσβευτῆς τοῦ Σεβαστ]οῦ καὶ ἀν[τιστρατήγος καθιέρωσεν.]  
*vacat*

*Translation:* For the Emperor Caesar, son of the deified Trajan Parthicus, grandson of the deified Nerva, Trajan Hadrian Augustus, *pontifex maximus*, with tribunician power four times, consul three times, the council and the people of Tomis (erected). Gaius Ummidius Quadratus Septicius Sertorius, *legatus Augusti pro praetore*, dedicated.

5. Small marble fragment with Greek inscription of uncertain character (**Fig. 7**), found in Constanța in 2018 during rescue excavations at 9 Mai street, nr. 1, in a circular pit filled with stones. Dimensions: 25 x 11 x 7 cm, letters: 2.3 cm (smaller omicrons), interval: 1–1.3 cm (*réglage*). Based on letter-shapes, the inscription should be dated to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

<sup>6</sup> Other legates of Moesia Inferior with full names recorded in inscriptions: Gaius Bruttius Praesens Lucius Fulvius Rusticus (c. 124–128) in AÉ 1950, 66 (Mactaris, Africa Proconsularis); Gnaeus Minicius Faustinus Sextus Iulius Severus (c. 128–132) in CIL III 2830+9891 (Burnum, Dalmatia).

<sup>7</sup> The three fragments of the inscription were edited together by RĂDULESCU & MUNTEANU 1977, p. 84–87, no. 5 (cf. ISM II 48). The editors restored hesitantly S[*everus*], adducing the epigram I.Ephesos 1539 as evidence. GROAG 1902 pointed out that the poem was dedicated to Cn. Claudius Severus by the sophist Hadrianus of Tyre (cf. SYME 1968, p. 102–103). The son of the former might have been adopted by M. Ummidius Quadratus, consul in AD 167.

---vestigia litt.---  
 ----Σ Ι Ο Υ----  
 ----Κυιντ----  
 ----ΩΝΑΕΙ----  
 ----οις ύπ----  
 5 ----Ο Ι Σ----  
 -----

The first line can equally be read e.g. Διονυ]σίου or Γάϊο]ς Ιού]λιος, the third line τελαμ]ῶνα εἰ]ς or --]ων ἀεὶ --. Perhaps future excavations in the neighbourhood will reveal other fragments of this monument.

6. Small fragment from a marble stele with relief and Greek inscription (MINAC, inv. 38362, **Fig. 8**). Dimensions: 10 x 12 x 3 cm, letters 1.3–2.5 cm. It was found in 2010 during rescue excavations on the ring road of Constanța at km. 8.400–9.500, which unearthed a vicus situated at 8 km as the crow flies from the center of the ancient city towards the west<sup>8</sup>. Paleographically, the inscription dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

The relief is lost and only a few letters survive:

[Σατ]ύρου Ἡρ----

See the discussion below.

7. Small fragment from a marble stele with relief and Greek inscription (MINAC, no inv., **Fig. 9**). Dimensions 13.5 x 20 x 2.5 cm, letters 1–1.8 cm, interval 0.7–1 cm. It was found in the same spot as the previous inscription and it dates from the same period.

Only a small part of the relief is still visible, the lower legs and feet of a standing, fully draped figure. Under the relief:

----Χρυσίπου  
 ----ς Σκῶρει

Both inscriptions are votive and the stelae were deposited in the first phase of the settlement. The language and the onomastics reveal a Greek speaking community. Perhaps one of the structures of the site served as a small, rural sanctuary.

One name deserves more attention. Scoris occurs in two other Tomitan inscriptions: Σκῶρεις Ἐστιαίου ἱερεὺς in ISM II 26, l. 6, the stele of an association of vineyard neighbours (ἀμπελογεῖτονες)<sup>9</sup>, and the patronym Σκῶριτος in the funerary inscription ISM II 258. The same name appears *more Graecorum* in two

<sup>8</sup> For the description of the site, see TALMAȚCHI & CLIANTE 2016, p. 294–295.

<sup>9</sup> HĂLMAGI 2021, p. 185–186.

Latin epitaphs from Tropaeum Traiani: Herculanus Scorinis in ISM IV 58, and Scoris Mucapori in ISM IV 59. Further south, in Odessos, IGBulg I<sup>2</sup> 164 is the funerary stele of Διονύσιος Αντιφίλου ὁ καὶ Σκῶρις. The patronym Mucapori and two other inscriptions indicate that the name probably originated in Thrace<sup>10</sup>: IGBulg I<sup>2</sup> 354 *quater*, a votive stele found in Goritsa, not far from Mesembria, on the southern slopes of Haemus, dedicated to an epichoric Asclepius by Ταρούλας Βεῖθους ὁ καὶ Σκῶρις, and IGBulg III 1406, another votive stele found in Izvor, a village just south of Philippopolis, set up by man called Σκῶρις and his spouse. The Thracian names began to appear in Scythia Minor relatively late, after the creation of the Roman province. There were undoubtedly changes in the epigraphic habit and individuals of lower social status began to engrave their names in votive inscriptions, association catalogs and epitaphs. Nonetheless, the increasing mobility and migration, free or forced, must have played an important role, as well<sup>11</sup>. The onomastic parallels between the cities of Scythia Minor and the rural inland of Thrace and Macedonia may contain clues to the settlement of veterans and other migrants, possibly also to the acquisition and manumission of slaves.

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##### *Abbreviations*

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 BAR Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest.  
 BÉ *Bulletin épigraphique* in REG.  
 CIL *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, Berlin 1863 –.  
 I.Ephesos H. Wankel, R. Merkelbach et al., *Die Inschriften von Ephesos*, vol. I–VII, IGSK 11–17; Bonn, 1979–1984.  
 IAB “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest  
 IGBulg G. Mihailov, *Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria repertae*, vol. I–V, Sofia, 1958–1997.  
 IGSK *Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien*, Bonn.  
 ISM I D.M. Pippidi, *Inscriptiones Scythiae minoris Graecae et Latinae*, vol. I. *Inscriptiones Histriae et vicinia*, Bucharest, 1983.  
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<sup>10</sup> The seemingly related Σκωρίλος is attested in Dacia, but it might also originate south of Haemus, as well, cf. IGBulg III 1090 (Pazardzhik), corrected in SHARANKOV 2016, p. 318: Βεῖθους Αὐλουζένεος κ[αὶ Φ]ακέτης(?) Ἀσκαλνίου καὶ Σκωρίλ[ος ὁ καὶ] Σαδάλας. The name could be a hypocoristic if the suffix is borrowed from Greek or a cognate, cf. Σῶσις/Σωσίλος, Γόργις/Γοργίλος etc. For Greek formations in -ις, -ίλος, -ύλος, see MONZÓ GALLO 2019.

<sup>11</sup> For patterns of migration documented in the inscriptions of the Greek East, see HIN 2016; TACOMA & TYBOUT 2016.

MNA	National Museum of Antiquities (“Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology), Bucharest.
REG	Revue des études grecques, Paris.
ZPE	Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Bonn.

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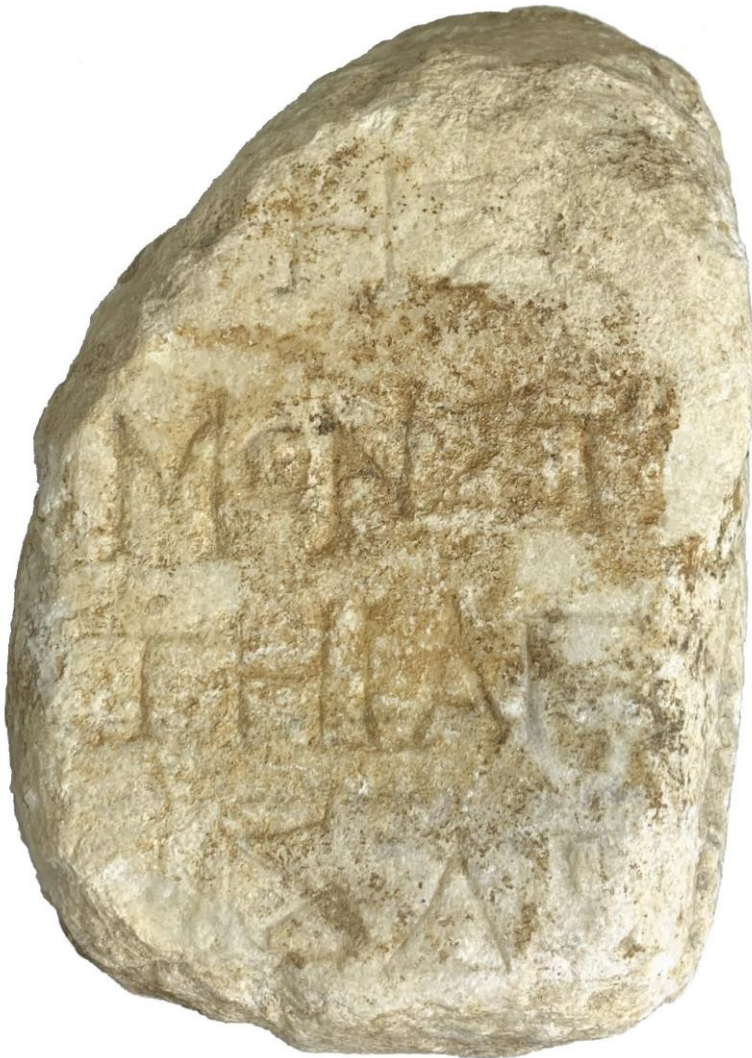
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**Fig. 1.** Fragmentary decree from Istros. Photograph by Denisa Murzea.



**Fig. 2.** The decree for Diogenes, son of Diogenes, ISM 2+3 + a new fragment. Photographs by Denisa Murzea and the author.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Fig. 3. Imperial dedication from Istros. Photograph by the author;  
Fig. 4. Imperial dedication from Istros. Photograph by the author.



Fig. 5. Funerary stele from Istros: the upper half of ISM I 303. Photograph by Laurențiu Clianțe.



**Fig. 6.** Imperial dedication to Hadrian from Tomis. Photograph by the author.



Fig. 7. Inscription of uncertain character from Tomis. Photograph by Denisa Murzea.

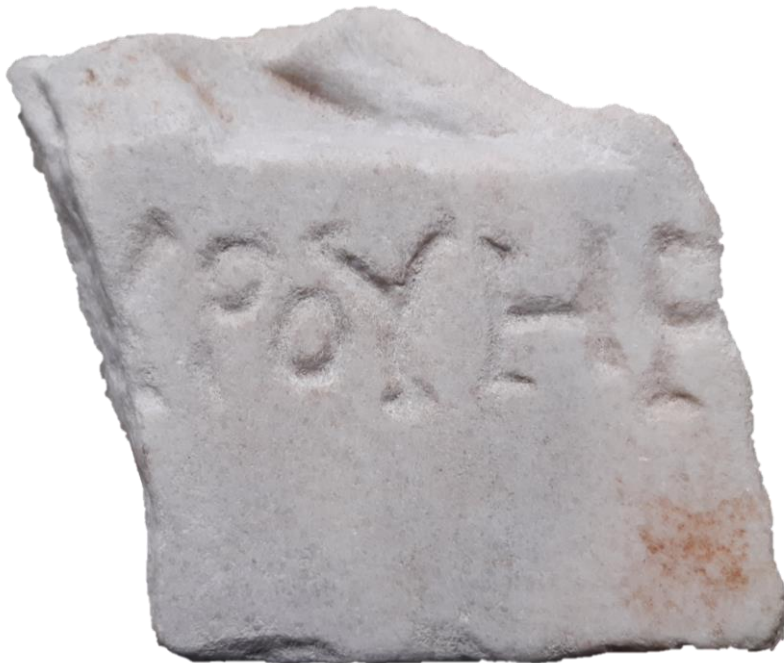


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

Fig. 8. Votive inscription from a vicus near Tomis. Photograph by the author.  
Fig. 9. Votive inscription from a vicus near Tomis. Photograph by the author.