

# A Revision of A Published Inscription Found in Keraia

## Keraia'da Bulunan Bir Yazıtın Yayımı Üzerine Bir Düzeltme

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### Abstract

An inscription found in Keraia was first published by G. H. R. Horsley and S. Mitchell in 2000, and was later reviewed and revised during our epigraphic surface survey in 2014. It was found in Belören Village in the district of North Pisidia located in the antique city Keraia. It is the second inscription to have been found in the city until now, and as one of the two inscriptions found in the city, it is of considerable importance. Although the tomb's lid, which is found inside the ruins of a Heroon located in the cemetery on the eastern part of the city, is still partly buried, the remaining part of the lid is easily legible. The detailed autopsy we performed revealed mistakes on the length of letters, as well as orthographic mistakes. It was also determined that the uppermost line of the inscription is missing. We thus identified and removed the errors and issues in this publication, and the full name of the person who built the Heroon was corrected as Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor.

**Keywords:** Keraia, L. Flavius Aurelianus Nestor, sarcophagus

### Özet

G. H. R. Horsley ve S. Mitchell tarafından 2000 yılında ilk kez yayımlanan Keraia'dan bir yazıt, 2014 yılındaki yüzey araştırmalarımız kapsamında yeniden görülerek revize edilmiştir. Kuzey Pisidia bölgesindeki Belören Köyü yakınında kurulu olan Keraia antik kentinde ele geçen bu belge, kentte şu ana kadar bulunmuş yalnızca iki yazıttan biri olması bakımından önemlidir. Kentin doğu tarafındaki mezarlık alanı içerisinde yer alan bir hereon kalıntısı arasındaki lahit kapağının bir bölümü bugün hala toprak altında bulunmakta, ancak yazıtlı kısım kolayca okunabilmektedir. Yaptığımız ayrıntılı otopside lahit ve harf ölçüleri yanında bazı ortographik hatalara da rastlanmıştır. Bunun dışında yazıtın üstten bir satırının eksik kaydedildiği tespit edilmiştir. Dolayısıyla bu yayımda tespit ettiğimiz eksiklikler ve hatalar giderilerek, hereon'u yaptıran kişinin tam adı Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor olarak düzeltilmiştir.

**Anahtar sözcük:** Keraia, L. Flavius Aurelianus Nestor, Lahit

We found a number of new findings in the systematic archaeological and epigraphic surface survey conducted in ancient Keraia and its surroundings in 2014. Based on these new findings, we revised the *tabula ansata* previously published by G. H. R. Horsley and S. Mitchell in 2000, which is from Keraia in the district of North Pisidia, just 10 kilometers away from Kremna.

**Dimensions:** The length of the tomb's lid is 195 cm, while its width (short side) is approximately 77 cm, and its height is 50 cm. The surface length and surface width are 40 cm and 78 cm, respectively, while the length of the letters which are in good shape is 2.50 cm.

**Ligature:** 2<sup>nd</sup> line (ΩP); 3<sup>rd</sup> line (ΩN); 4<sup>th</sup> Line (MB); 6<sup>th</sup> line (ΩN); as Horsley-Mitchell claimed that there is no ligature in the 5<sup>th</sup> line (AY) letters. And there is no ligature in the letters (AY) in line 6.

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**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

*Old text (Horsley-Mitchell 2000: 95-96, no. 84)*

Αύρηλιανὸς Νέστωρ τὸ ἡρῶ-  
 ον ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων κατεσκεύα-  
 σεν ἑαυτῷ καὶ τῇ συμβίῳ αὐ-  
 4 τοῦ Ἀφρανία Ἰαδι καὶ τέκνοις  
 αὐτῶν καὶ τέκνων τέκνοις.  
 εἰ δέ τις ἕτερος βουληθῆ  
 σκῦλαι τὸ ἡρῶον  
 8 εἰσώσει  
 εἰς τὸ ἱερώτατον ταμεῖον \* βφ´ (leaf)

*Revised new text*

Λούκιος Φλαούιος  
 Αύρηλιανὸς Νέστωρ τὸ ἡρῶ-  
 ον ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων κατεσκεύα-  
 4 σεν ἑαυτῷ καὶ τῇ συμβίῳ αὐ-  
 τοῦ Ἀφρανία Ἰάδι καὶ τέκνοις  
 αὐτῶν καὶ τέκνων τέκνοις.  
 εἰ δέ τις ἕτερος βουληθῆ  
 8 σκῦλαι τὸ ἡρῶον  
 εἰσώσει  
 εἰς τὸ ἱερώτατον ταμεῖον \* βφ´ ♥

Translation:

*Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor built the tomb at his own expense for himself and his wife Aphrania Ias and for their children and grandchildren. If anyone else happens to plunder the tomb, he shall pay 2500 dinarii to the most sacred treasury.*

Turkish translation:

*Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor, bu heroonu kendi cebinden, bizzat kendisi ve hayat arkadaşı (eşi) Aphrania Ias ve kendi çocukları ve çocuklarının çocukları (torunları) için yaptırdı. Her kim bu heroonu tahrip etmeye/yağmalamaya kalkışursa, o kimse en kutsal devlet hazinesine 2500 dinar ödeyecektir.*

The tomb built by Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor for his wife, Aphrania, children and grandchildren inside the Heroon (which no longer exists today) is in good condition. The tomb was re-examined during our comprehensive surface excavations carried out within the borders of the city on 21 August 2014. It was too difficult for us to reach the tomb, which was buried by thick bushes and the ruins of the Heroon in the eastern part of the city. After a close and careful re-examination of the tomb, we found that there was a missing line on its uppermost part. In its first publication, the inscription was described as consisting of nine lines; however, we determined that it was made of ten lines, and so revised it as a ten line inscription rather nine line. After the revision, we ascertained the full name of the person who built the inscription, who was actually Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor. What makes this document so important is that it is one of two inscriptions found in ancient Keraia<sup>2</sup>. Based on the Tomb's letter form and onomastic features, the *tabula ansata* can roughly be dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

Line 1-2. Λούκιος Φλαούιος Αύρηλιανός Νέστωρ. Keraia is recognized only by this inscription. It seems that Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor was the person behind the construction of the large ruins seen in the city cemetery, which proves that he was a leading and well-known figure in the city. We hope that the archeological excavations to be carried out in the city in the coming years will reveal more wealthy families in the city, such as that of Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor.

Line 5. Ἰάδι dative form of Ἰάς<sup>3</sup>, but here Ἰάς, was written in masculine form (cf. Horsley-Mitchell 2000: 96)<sup>4</sup>. It was a female name used in Ionian dialect<sup>5</sup>.

Line 8. σκῦλαι is aorist infinitive active of σκύλλω (cf. σκάλλω, σκύλος), the verb commonly used in inscriptions means "to destroy", "to harass" and "to disturb"<sup>6</sup>.

### Abbreviations and References

CRAI	Comptes-rendus de l'académie des inscriptions et belles lettres.
Dörtlük 1988	K. Dörtlük, "İlk Keraitai Yazıtı", <i>Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi</i> 27, 1988: 69-71.
Horsley	G. H. R. Horsley, <i>New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity</i> , Vol. 4, 1979.
Horsley-Mitchell 2000	S. Mitchell-G. H. R. Horsley, <i>The Inscriptions of Central Pisidia</i> , IK 57, 2000 Bonn.
I Laodikeia am Lykos	T. Corsten, <i>Die Inschriften von Laodikeia am Lykos</i> , IK 49, Bonn 1997.
I Nikaia I	S. Şahin, <i>Katalog der antiken Inschriften des Museums von Iznik (Nikaia) I</i> , Nr. 1-633 (Stadtgebiet und die naechste Umgebung der Stadt), IK 10, Bonn 1979.
I Nikaia II, 1	S. Şahin, <i>Katalog der antiken Inschriften des Museums von Iznik (Nikaia) II, 1</i> , Nr. 701-1210 (Entfernte Umgebung der Stadt), IK 10, 1, Bonn 1981.
I Nikaia II, 2	S. Şahin, <i>Katalog der antiken Inschriften des Museums von Iznik (Nikaia) II, 2</i> , Nr. 1230-1597 (Entfernte Umgebung der Stadt), IK 10, 2, Bonn 1982.

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<sup>2</sup> See Dörtlük 1988: 69-71; *SEG* 38, 1988, 1321; *AE* 1989, 728; Horsley-Mitchell 2000: 94-95, no. 83.

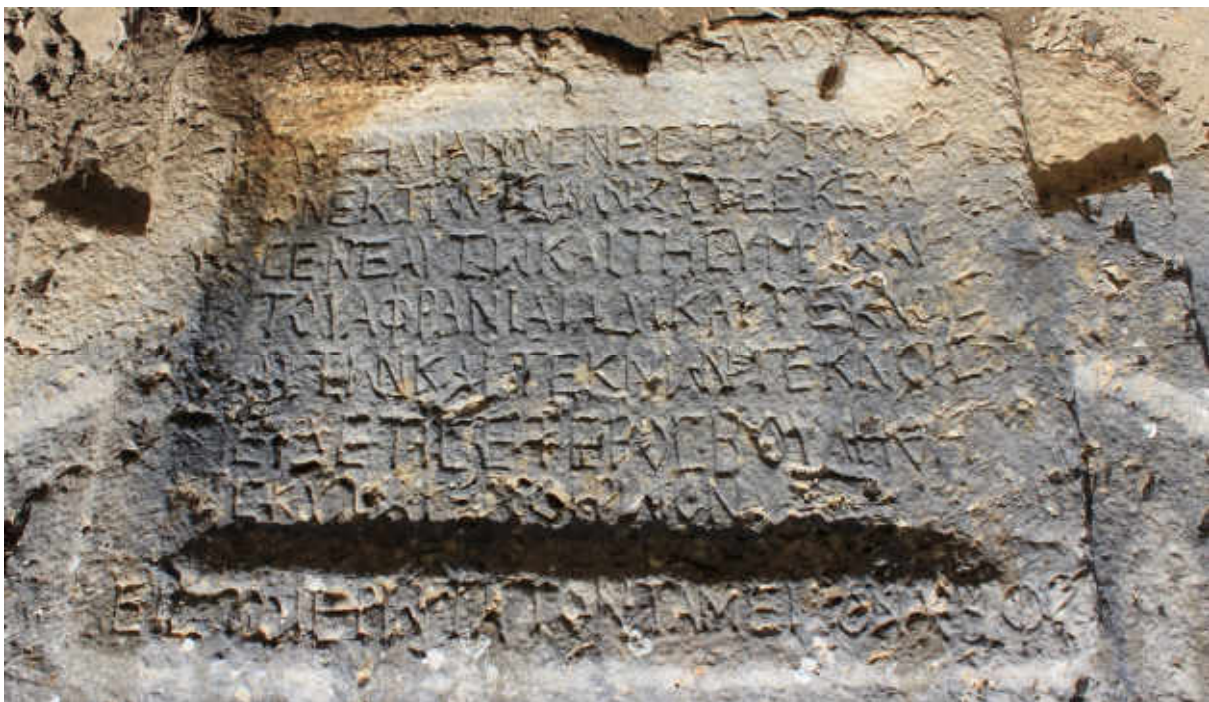
<sup>3</sup> Cf. *SEG* 17, 607: Τρωϊλος| ἰδία θυ|γατρι| Ἰάδι| μνή|μης χάριν; I Laodikeia am Lykos, no. 85.

<sup>4</sup> See *LGPN*, I, 1987: 229; *LGPN*, VA, 2010: 221; *LGPN*, III A, 1997: 215; *CIL* X 2118, 2476 and 2464; Zgusta 1964: 447-1.

<sup>5</sup> Pape-Benseler 1911.

<sup>6</sup> Horsley-Mitchell 2000: 96; Robert 1978: 269-270; Strubbe 1997: 401; I Nikaia I, no. 120, 128, 195, 559; I Nikaia II, 2, no. 1378, 1472; Peek 1980: 38, no. 21a; Horsley 1979: 25-28 no. 6 (with a comprehensive literature).

LGPN, I , 1987	P. M. Fraser-E. Matthews (ed.), <i>Lexicon of Greek Personalnames, Volume I: The Aegean Islands Cyprus Cyrenaika</i> , Oxford 1987.
LGPN, III A, 1997	P. M. Fraser-E. Matthews (ed.), <i>Lexicon of Greek Personalnames. Vol III A: The Peloponnese Western Greece Sicily and Magna Graecia</i> , Oxford 1997.
LGPN, VA, 2010	T. Corsten (ed.), <i>Lexicon of Greek Personalnames, Volume VA: Coastal Asia Minor: Pontos to Ionia</i> , Oxford 2010.
Pape-Benseler 1911	W. Pape-G. Benseler, <i>Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen I-II</i> , Braunschweig 1911.
Peek 1980	W. Peek, <i>Griechische Versinschriften aus Kleinasien. Ergänzungsbände zu TAM 8, (DÖAW. Phil.-hist. Klas. 143)</i> , Wien 1980.
Robert 1978	L. Robert, "Malédictiones funéraires grecques", in: <i>CRAI</i> 1978: 241-289.
SEG	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum graecum</i>
Strubbe 1997	J. Strubbe, <i>Arai Epitumbioi. Imprecations against Desecrators of the Grave in the Greek Epitaphs of Asia Minor, IK Bd. 52</i> , Bonn 1997.
Zgusta 1964	L. Zgusta, <i>Kleinasiatische Personennamen</i> , Prag 1964.



**Photo no. 1:**

The tomb was built by *Lucius Flavius Aurelianus Nestor* for his wife, children and grandchildren.