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A new Honorary Decree from Nysa ad Maeandrum

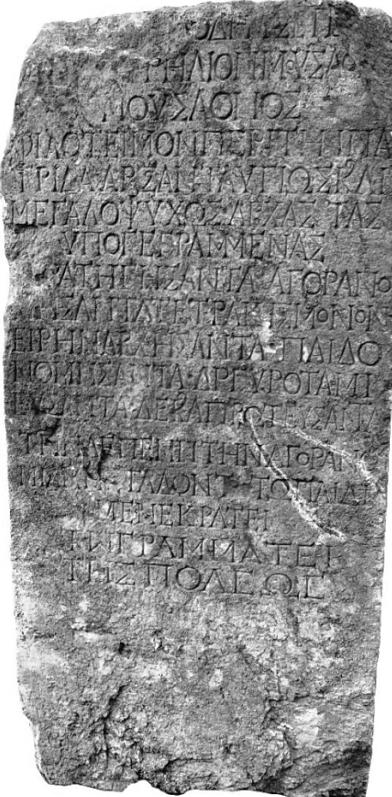
Abstract: This article presents an inscribed block which was unearthed during the excavations at Nysa ad Maeandrum in 2014. It bears a honorary decree of the demos and the council of Nysa for the prominent citizen M. Aur. Mousaōn. Mousaōn was appointed to offices such as *strategia, agoranomia, eirenarchia, paidonomia, argyrotamia* and *dekaproteia*. He was definitely a wealthy member of the civic elite and so was expected to give some benefactions during the fulfilment of these offices.

Keywords: Nysa ad Maeandrum; Marcus Aurelius Mousaōn; *strategos; agoranomos; eirenarches; paidonomos; argyrotamias; dekaproto*.

A marble statue base was found in situ in 2014 during the excavations and surveys at Nysa ad Maeandrum, situated on the north side of the *plateia* (orientated east-west). The sides of the stone were skived and the back side is unengraved; the upper left side of the stone is damaged. The inscription consists of seventeen lines. The letters are carefully ornamented, well ordered and clearly legible except for the first two lines. On the top of the stone there is a big, deep hollow in which a bust of M. Aur. Musaōn would presumably have been placed.

Height: 125 cm; width: 56 cm; depth: 51 cm; letter height: 3,0–3,5 cm (*omicron*: 1,5 cm).

	[Η βουλὴ καὶ] ὁ δῆμος ἐτε[ίμησαν]
	[Μ]ᾶ[ρκ]ον Αὐρ[ε]λίου Μουσάον[va]
	vac. Μουσάονος vac.
4	φιλότειμον περὶ τὴν πα-
	τρίδα ἄρξαντα ὑγιῶς καὶ
	μεγαλοψύχως ἀρχὰς τὰς
	ὑπογεγραμμένας·
8	[στ]ρατηγίσαντα, ἀγορανο-
	μήσαντα τετράκις μόνον,
	εἰρηναρχίσαντα, • παιδο-
	νομήσαντα, • ἀργυροταμι-
12	εύσαντα, • δεκαπρωτεύσαντα,
	τὴν δὲ πέμπτην ἀγορανο-
	μίαν μεταδόντᾳ τῷ παιδὶ
	vac. Μενεκράτει vac.
16	vac. τῷ γραμματεῖ vac.
	vac. τῆς πόλεως. vac.



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This inscribed block was unearthed in the summer of 2014 during the excavations at Nysa ad Maeandrum under the Directorate of the Aydın Archaeological Museum and academic consultant Doç. Dr. S. Hakan Öztaner. The inscriptions of Nysa have been under research by Ebru N. Akdoğu Arca and me since 2013.

«The council and the people honored Marcus Aurelius Musaōn, son of Musaōn, a lover of honour concerning his fatherland, who held the undermentioned offices soundly and magnanimously: having served as *strategos*, *agoranomos* four times himself alone, *eirenarches*, *paidonomos*, *argyrotamias*, *dekaprotos*, having shared the fifth *agoranomia* with his son Menecrates, the secretary of the city.»

Date: Antonine or Severian period. The Roman citizenship could be granted to this family on individual basis before the Constitutio Antoniniana.

We understand that Marcus Aurelius Musaōn was honored by the council and the people for having held the foremost liturgies in the city. He fulfilled some significant liturgies as a native person in his city Nysa. These were listed severally: *strategia*, *agoranomia* four times himself alone, *eirenarchia*, *pai-donomia*, *argyrotamia*, *dekaprotia* and sharing the fifth *agoranomia* with his son Menecrates, the secretary to the city.

Holding such offices clearly indicates that M. Aur. Musaōn and his son Menecrates were prominent citizens in their own city. The inscription does not give direct proof of his affluence, but holding offices such as *dekaprotia*, *strategia*, *agoranomia*, *eirenarchia* strengthen the idea that he was wealthy and a member of the elite in Nysa.

The first office mentioned in the inscription is the *strategia*. Although the text does not give any further data on his duties, his responsibilities and obligations can be inferred from similar inscriptions from other cities. The *strategia* became the foremost civic office in the Imperial period, having been primarily a military office in the Hellenistic period.¹ As Philostratus pointed out, the *strategos* formerly levied the troops but later had charge of the food supplies and the provision-market.² Moreover, similar inscriptions from other cities can illustrate the character of the office: Aulus Fabricius Priscianus Charmosynos from Tralleis was honored by the council, the people and the Roman residents in Tralleis (in 129 A. D.). One of his offices was the *strategia*, and he personally defrayed its expenses.³ Being named as a *strategos* also required many expenses for the office: Aurelius Abaskantos from Thyateira spent a lot in this office (after 212 A.D.).⁴ Besides, it is also known that *strategoi* could propose legislative measures, i.e. they could perform as if they were *prytaneis*.⁵ *Strategoi* from Miletus put up the priesthood of Asclepius for sale (14–50 A. D.).⁶ Some inscriptions from Ephesus give us a particularly clear picture of the role of the *strategoi*. An honorary decree mentions that the council and the people have decided to honor Dionysiodoros the *prytanis*. The secretary and the *strategoi* loyal to the emperor declared this decision.⁷ In another inscription from the Imperial period, the secretary to the people and the *strategoi* confirmed the people's decision.⁸ Under the reign of Emperor Hadrian the council and the people took a

¹ Abbott – Johnson, Municipal Administration 78; Macro 1980, 678. Dio of Prusa pointed out that the *strategia* was the top office in Rhodus: 32.52.

² Philostr. Vit. Soph. 526, 23.

³ I. Tralleis 80: [ἡ βουλὴ καὶ ὁ δῆμος καὶ οἱ ἐν Τράλλεσι] | κατοικο[ῦ]γτες Ῥωμαῖοι ἐτείμησαν Αὐλὸν Φαβρίκιον | Πρεισκιανὸν Χαρμόσυνον στρατηγήσαντα | τῆς πόλεως αὐθαιρέτως κτλ.

⁴ TAM V,2 942: [Αὐρή]λ. Ἀβάσκαντ[ον δεκαπρω]τεύσαντα, ἐ<ργ>επισ[τα]||τήσαντα ἐμβόλου τῆς κρ[α]||τίστης βουλῆς, ἐλεωνήσα[ν]||τα, στρατηγήσαντα ἐνδόξ[ως] | καὶ πολυδαπάνως, ἀποδοχέα κτλ.

⁵ Magie, Roman Rule 60 and n. 29. See also Abbott – Johnson, Municipal Administration 56.

⁶ Milet I 7, 204, A. 1: ἀγαθὴ τύχη. οἱ στρατηγοὶ τῆς π<ό>λεως Τι(βέριος) Κλαύδιος Διονυσόδωρος, Λεύκιος Ἰούνιος Ῥοῦφος, Τι(βέριος) Κλαύδιος Ἀπολλώνιος, Θεόμνηστος Θεομνήστου, Εἰσίων || Ἐπιγόνου, Εὔτυχος Ἐπεράστου πωλοῦντες ἱερωσύνην Ἀσκληπιοῦ πρὸ πόλεως καὶ τῶν ἐντεμενίων αὐτοῦ θεῶν πάντων, χωρὶς εἴ τι προπέπραται ὑπὸ τοῦ δήμου, νόμον τίθενται τῇ πράσι τόνδε, ἐφ' ὅ || ὁ πριάμενος ιέρεω ἀπογράψει παραχρῆμα κτλ.

⁷ I. Eph 1024: [ἔ]δοξεν τ[ῇ β]ουλῇ καὶ τῷ δήμῳ φιλοσεβάστοις, περὶ ὃν ἐνεφάνισαν| ὃ τε γραμματεὺς τοῦ [δ]ήμου Κλαύδιος Πρωρόσιος καὶ οἱ στρατηγοὶ τῆς πόλεως φιλοσεβάστοι. See also I. Eph 449, 1. 1–10.

⁸ I. Eph 1396, 1. 5: [δεδόχθαι τ]ῷ δήμῳ γενέσθαι καθότι προγέγραπται· ώμολόγησαν στρατηγοὶ καὶ ὁ γραμματεὺς

decision concerning *iatroi*, and the *strategos* approved this.⁹ They also confirmed the decision regarding the month Artemision in an inscription dated to 162–164 A. D.¹⁰ In another inscription, Marcus Aurelius [---] donated 5000 *denaria* to reduce the price of oil in his capacity as first *strategos*.¹¹ We can also conceive that this office could be performed with another office simultaneously: Aurelius Ephemos from Aizanoi performed the first office two times – στρατηγεῖν was used within the inscription – and was also president of the senate of the city.¹² An inscription from Smyrna indicates that an individual became a *strategos* in the course of his sixth priesthood.¹³ *Strategoi* are also attested as overseers (= *epimeletai*) in inscriptions: The *boule* and the *demos* of Teos erected a statue in honour of the emperor through Aulus Iulius the overseer who was also *strategos* and the first archon of the city.¹⁴ Musaōn must have performed the *strategia* only once as it is not mentioned additionally. However, generally, holding the office more than once is frequently attested in inscriptions: In Didyma (I. Didyma 255), Akrassos (Bakır; IGR IV 1161) and Aizanoi (IGR IV 585) twice; in Aizanoi (IGR IV 577), Iasos (I. Iasos 229) five times; in Eumeneia (Işıklı; IGR IV 739) even six times.

Musaōn's second office, *agoranomia*, is often considered as a first step to a political career.¹⁵ It is not mentioned that he performed the *agoranomia* (four times) at his own expense, but he must have fulfilled this office in the same way as seen in other cities during the Imperial period.¹⁶ Moreover, he must have been well off to handle the heavy financial demands of his office, i.e. Musaōn was expected to intervene where the grain supply fell and prices rose.¹⁷ Although several inscriptions from the Imperial Period denote¹⁸ the term of the office for four¹⁹ or six²⁰ months, its duration is not inscribed in the Nysa inscription. Thus, Musaōn's term of the office is not stated.

He performed the other offices mentioned above before his last (fifth) *agoranomia*. Repeated tenure of this office is well attested in the inscriptional evidence.²¹ He shared the last period of office with his

τοῦ δήμου.

⁹ I. Eph 4101A, l. 14–15.

¹⁰ IEph 24B, l. 1–7: [ἔδ]οξεν τῆς πρώτης καὶ με[γίστης | μητρ]οπόλεως τῆς Ἀσίας καὶ δίς νεωκ[όρου τῶν | Σεβα]στῶν καὶ φιλοσεβάστου Ἐφεσίων πόλεως | τῇ βο[ύ]ην καὶ τῷ δήμῳ περὶ ὅν εἰσηγή[σατο | . . . Λ]αβέριος Ἀμοινος φιλοσέβαστος, ὁ γραμμ[ατεὺς | τοῦ δήμου· ἐπεψήφισαν δὲ οἱ στ[ρ]ατηγοὶ τῆς | πόλεως φιλοσέβαστοι. See also I. Eph 614C, l. 1–5.

¹¹ I. Eph 3071, l. 7–9: ...[κ]αὶ στρατηγὸν πρῶτον, δόντα ἐν τῷ | καιρῷ τῆς στρατηγίας ἵς παράτειμον | [ἐ]λαίου *, ε, καὶ εἰρήναρχον μόνον κτλ.

¹² MAMA IX 29: Αὐρ. Εὐφημο[v] | Βειθέως τὴν | πρώτην ἄρχην | στρατηγήσαντα | δίς κὲ βουλάρχη[|]σαντα κτλ.

¹³ I. Smyrna 697: δὲ τὸ δ՞?, [ἐπὶ τοῦ ιεροῦ Εὐ]άρεστος τὸ σ' | ἐφ' οὖ στρατηγοῦντος ὑπέσχοντο | οἶδε: κτλ.

¹⁴ LW 99: [Αὐτοκράτορα --- δημαρχι]κῆς ἔξουσία[ς] | [τὸ .] ὑπατον τὸ β', ἀν|[έστησεν ἡ βουλὴ]ν καὶ ὁ δῆμος ὁ Τ|[η]ν, ἐπιμεληθέντ]ος · Α(ύλου) · Ἰουλίου Διο|[τίμου? τοῦ πρώτο]ν ἄρχοντος καὶ | [στρατηγοῦ] τῆς πόλεως. Besides that, they leased out the properties which were abandoned to the city in Keramos: Magie, Roman Rule 644.

¹⁵ Bekker-Nielsen 2008, 75.

¹⁶ Kaunos: BÉ 1972, no. 430; I. Erythrai 66.

¹⁷ Magie, Roman Rule 60–61; Jones, Dio Chrysostom 19; Quass, Honoratiorenschicht 260–263; Bekker-Nielsen 2008, 75; Macro 1980, 679; Erdkamp, Grain Market 296; I. Magnesia 179.

¹⁸ For the list see Liebenam, Städteverwaltung 539–542. See also Magie, Roman Rule 646; Dmitriev, City Government.

¹⁹ I. Magnesia 164; TAM V 932; I. Erythrai 104; I. Prusias ad Hypium 13.

²⁰ I. Stratoneikeia 524; TAM V 930; I. Stratoneikeia 1006. Twice: I. Smyrna 779, 781 and 786. Three times: I. Smyrna 780.

²¹ Liebenam, Städteverwaltung 363; Nikolaos was a citizen of Smyrna and performed the *agoranomia* twice. One from the same city performed this four times: I. Smyrna 779. For the terms *pleonakis* and *pollakis* see I. Prusias ad Hypium 46; I. Prusa ad Olympum I 21.

son, Menecrates. Performing liturgies for one's children is attested several times in the Imperial Period²² and also sharing with the son is attested in Nysa.²³ Moreover, this office was also performed with another office(s) such as *strategia*, *eirenarchia*, *grammateia* simultaneously.²⁴ Musaōn's third office, *eirenarcheia*, is attested once in Nysa so far.²⁵ “Although the *eirenarchai* were appointed by the *proconsul* to protect the peace in the province as a whole, their activity is generally thought to have been relevant to individual cities. The office of the *eirenarches* was a socially prestigious and financially burdensome *leitourgia*: Aristides desperately tried to avoid it, and as his text and other sources demonstrate, appointment to this office was associated with the “first men” in individual cities of the province”.²⁶ The *eirenarches* was responsible for public discipline against bandits and thieves.²⁷ The *eirenarcheia* has been documented several times in the region without any further data.²⁸

Musaōn's fourth office, the *paidonomia*, brought responsibility for the education of children and is documented mostly in honorary and votive inscriptions.²⁹ A *paidonomos* would be expected to perform benefactions during his office: Hermaiskos from Iasos financed a building during his *paidonomia*.³⁰

The fifth office of Musaōn, *argyrotamieia*, is attested only once in Nysa so far.³¹ Liebenam states that this office did not exist before the reign of Trajan, was similar to the *curator kalendari*, and had a Roman influence.³² The *argyrotamias* was responsible for financial matters: in an inscription from Ephesus, the *arygrotamias* of Teos intervenes to build a temple for the Emperor Vespasian.³³ An inscription from Phokis mentions that the council and the people erected a statue for the Emperor Hadrian from the money belonging to the *tamias* and the *argyrotamias*.³⁴ It was emphasized in such inscriptions that the officer was *endikos* and how he was trustworthy.³⁵ Additionally, an *argyrotamias* of the *boule*'s property is attested: TAM IV 1 262 (Bithynia); I. Pergamon 596. Financial matters could be diverse: Aurelius Catulinus from Nikαι in Bithynia performed the *agoranomia* twice and became the *argyrotamias* of *sitonias* (*sitonikos chrema*),³⁶ i.e. the treasurer.³⁷ Also worthy of mention are some inscriptions from Prusias ad Hypium: Cl. Tineius Asclepiodotus was the purchaser of oil for the city.³⁸ In an inscription from

²² TAM V 947; I. Prusias ad Hypium 20; TAM II 838d (= IGR III 649); SEG 411360.

²³ Ramsay 1883, 272–74, no. 15.

²⁴ I Eph. 742, 847, 962, 1061, 3070; Quass, Honoratiorenschicht 264 n.1075.

²⁵ Ramsay 1883, 272–74, no. 15 l. 13–19: ὄμοιώς καὶ τὸν ἔτ[ε]||ρον νίὸν Ἀτταλον ἐπιδόντ[α] | εἰς τε γραμματείαν καὶ εἰρ[η]||ναρχίαν καὶ γυμ<ν>αστιρχία[ν] | καὶ ἀγορανομίαν καὶ ἀργυ[ρο]||ταμίαν καὶ ἐπὶ ταῖς φθανουσαις λειτουργίαις.

²⁶ Dmitriev, City Government 208.

²⁷ Quass, Honoratiorenschicht 379 and n. 127; Magie, Roman Rule 647, 1514 and n. 46. Cf. Liebenam, Städteverwaltung 358; Dmitriev, City Government 159, 199. Generally in Asia Minor see also *op. cit.* 206 and n. 89.

²⁸ Keramos: I. Keramos 31; Tralleis: I. Tralleis 6, 73, 90, 134, 145; Aphrodisias: Holleaux – Paris 1885, 76–77, no. 6, MAMA VIII 520. For the data from Karia s. Brélaz, Sécurité publique 350–553.

²⁹ The inscriptions in the region: SEG 16 649 and 651 (Halikarnassos); I. Iasos 99–100, 102; I. Magnesia 98; I. Mylasa II 909, 341; I. Stratonikeia 1101; I. Tralleis 120.

³⁰ I. Iasos 236.

³¹ Ramsay 1883, 272–74, no. 15.

³² Liebenam, Städteverwaltung 294.

³³ I. Eph 740. See also I. Eph 1789; MAMA V 178.

³⁴ IG IX,1 144.

³⁵ I. Nikαι 56.

³⁶ Quass, Honoratiorenschicht 267 and n. 1085; cf. Bekker-Nielsen 2008, 75.

³⁷ I. Nikai 60.

³⁸ I. Prusias ad Hypium 1, 13, 46.

Attica, a decision was taken to be paid a mortgage by the *arygrotamiai* and the *keryx*.³⁹

Musaōn's last office listed in the inscription, the *dekaproteia*, was also concerning with financial matters. This was a committee composed of the first ten men on the list of councillors, who served as intermediaries between the Roman governor and the local administration.⁴⁰ Some remarkable examples from Asia Minor: Demetrius from Arneai performed the office for 68 years from the reign of Hadrian to that of Commodus.⁴¹ Pericles from Idebessos fulfilled properly the *dekaproteia* of the *sympoliteia* (TAM II 834). In an inscription from Iotape (dated to 141–161 A.D.) Kendeas became the officer several times and collected in a trustworthy manner the imperial taxes for the *fiscus*.⁴² A honorand from Ephesos performed the office concerning the revenues of the Artemision.⁴³ *Dekaprotoi* could also hold other offices simultaneously: in an inscription from Euboia dated after 212 A.D., Lucius Novius Lusanius acted as *strategos* during his *dekaproteia*. (IG XII, 9 906.13–15: τὰ ψηφίσματα ἐγένοντο γραμματεύοντος Ἰουλίου Μαμερτείνου, στρατηγοῦντος τοῦ δεκαπρότου Λ(ευκίου) Νοούντος Λυσανίου).

Marcus Aurelius Musaōn shared his last *agoranomia* with his son Menecrates, the secretary to the *polis*. This secretaryship required experience for its responsibility was to inscribe the decisions in the public records. The *grammateis* are most commonly named on the imperial coinage of Nysa.⁴⁴ This shows that this office was a very senior magistracy at Nysa by the 2nd century A. D. The terms *grammateus* of the *boule* and the *grammateus of the demos* have often been documented, but the *grammateus* of the *polis* is rare. Examples in Caria and Ionia include Nysa,⁴⁵ Tralleis⁴⁶ and Ephesos.⁴⁷ Schulte's study points out that the term secretaryship of the *polis* might be equivalent to the *secretary of the demos*.⁴⁸ Menecrates could also have been regarded as one of the most prominent citizens, from whom some building projects in the city might have been expected.⁴⁹

To sum up: Marcus Aurelius Musaōn fulfilled the highest offices for his city. They seem to be listed in reverse chronological order, i.e. the *strategia* first mentioned seems the last office held by him. What we miss in his *cursus honorum* are priesthoods and the archonship, the highest office of the city. It also seems that Musaōn held no offices in the Koinon of Asia. His son Menecrates was also a member of the office-holding elite. He was the secretary of the *demos* when his father was honored.

³⁹ IG II² 1104.

⁴⁰ Magie, Roman Rule 1517 n. 48. Burton 2001, 207; Samitz 2013, 2; Macro 1980, 677; Magie, Roman Rule 648. See also Dmitriev, City Government 197 with n. 41. Further see Liebenam, Städteverwaltung 490 n. 1, 552; Seeck 1901, 147–148; Hula 1902, 197–198; Jones, Greek City 139–140; Magie, Roman Rule I, 648; II, 1517–1518 and n. 48; Wörrle, Stadt und Fest 162–163; Quass, Honoratiorenschicht 177; Wörrle – Wurster 1997, 449–450; I. Side II, 395 n. 70; Adak – Şahin 2004, 91 n. 10.

⁴¹ TAM II 765 with Reitzenstein, Bundespriester 215.

⁴² CIG 4411a-b, l. 9–11: δεκαπρωτεύοντας τῶν εἰρῆνης | καὶ γενάμενον ἐπ' ἀρχείων [βου]λῆς καὶ δεκαπρωτεύοντας τῶν κυριακῶν φόρων πιστῶς. Cf. Samitz 2013, 14 and n. 48.

⁴³ SEG 34 1107: πρωτεύσαντα τῶν ἱερῶν [---] | καὶ γενάμενον ἐπ' ἀρχείων [βου]λῆς καὶ δεκαπρωτεύοντας τῶν κυριακῶν φόρων πιστῶς | προσόδων τῆς κυρίας Ἀρτέμιδος].

⁴⁴ Regling 1913, nos. 84–89, 94–97, 112, 121, 124–126.

⁴⁵ Ramsay 1883, 272–274 no. 15; CIG 294 and 2948.

⁴⁶ I. Tralleis 69.

⁴⁷ I. Eph 338.

⁴⁸ Schulte, Grammateis 21.

⁴⁹ For other examples see also Schulte, Grammateis 103–111.

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Özet

Nysa ad Maeandrum'dan Yeni Bir Onurlandırma Yazıtı

Makalede Nysa ad Maeandrum'da 2014 yılı kazı çalışmaları sırasında gün yüzüne çıkartılan yazıtlı bir kaide tanıtılmaktadır. Onyedi satırlık kaideye, Nysa kentinin seçkinlerinden biri olan Marcus Aurelius Musaōn'un memuriyetleri belirtilmektedir. Musaōn, *strategos*, dört kez tek başına *agoranomos* ve ayrıca *eirenarkhes*, *paidonomos*, *argyrotamias*, *dekaprotos* olmuştur ve beşinci *agoranomos*'luğunu *polis* yazmanlığını yürüten oğlu Menekrates'le birlikte paylaşmıştır. Musaōn, şüphesiz kentinin önde gelen vatandaşlarından birisidir ve yazitta sadece aldığı görevler açıklanırken, bunlar esnasında ne gibi faaliyetlerde bulunduğu da dephinmemiştir. Fakat yine de kendisi için yazitta kullanılan sıfatlardan kentine karşı cömertçe davranışının olduğu düşünülmelidir.

Yazıtın çevirisi şöyledir:

«Danışma ve halk meclisleri, onursever insan, vatani için aşağıda yazılı memuriyetleri alınının akiyla ve yüce gönüllü bir şekilde yapmış olan, Mousaōn oğlu Marcus Aurelius Musaōn'u onurlandırdılar: *Strategos*, tek başına dört kez *agoranomos*, *eirenarkhes*, *paidonomos*, *argyrotamias*, *dekaprotos* olan, beşinci *agoranomia*'sının oğlu, kentin yazmanı Menekrates'le paylaşmış olan.»

Anahtar Sözcükler: Nysa ad Maeandrum; Marcus Aurelius Musaōn; *strategos*; *agoranomos*; *eirenarkhes*; *paidonomos*; *argyrotamias*; *dekaprotos*.