

## MITTEILUNGEN

### NOTE ON A FOOTSTOOL FROM SALAMIS

Cyprus antiquities have often produced representations of footstools. Already in the 14th century a footstool appears in a composition on a Mycenaean crater found at Aradippo<sup>1</sup>. This consists of soldiers paying homage to a female figure (a Goddess?) who is seated on a throne with her feet on a stool. Another footstool appears on an Iron Age amphora which is known as the Hubbard amphora, now in the Cyprus Museum<sup>2</sup>, and dated to the early 8th century B. C. A number of similar footstools are also known from representations on Assyrian reliefs<sup>3</sup>.

Below we shall describe the remains of a footstool found in the dromos of a large „royal“ tomb excavated recently by the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus in the necropolis of Salamis<sup>4</sup>. The same tomb contained three thrones of wood, one decorated with silver, ivory and blue paste, the other with ivory and gold, and the third only with ivory. The footstool which we shall describe was found next to the first of the thrones, almost touching it, in the corner of the propylaeum in front of the façade of the funerary chamber. The three thrones, together with a large number of other objects, were removed from the funerary chamber a few years after the first burial. They were put aside in a corner, to make room for the furniture of the second burial. They may be dated to the very end of the 8th century B. C.

The footstool was made of wood, which of course perished, but its surface throughout — except the upper flat part for the feet — was dressed with very thin sheets of silver which have been preserved in the form of thin dark grey corrosion above the soil. They preserved, however, perfectly the shape of the stool. It is rectangular, and stands on four legs, slightly double curving. The upper end of these legs is obliquely pointed, while the lower end terminates in what appears to be an animal's hoof (not dressed with silver). The sides of the stool, covering the upper half

<sup>1</sup> Recently illustrated in T. B. L. Webster's *From Mycenae to Homer* fig. 17

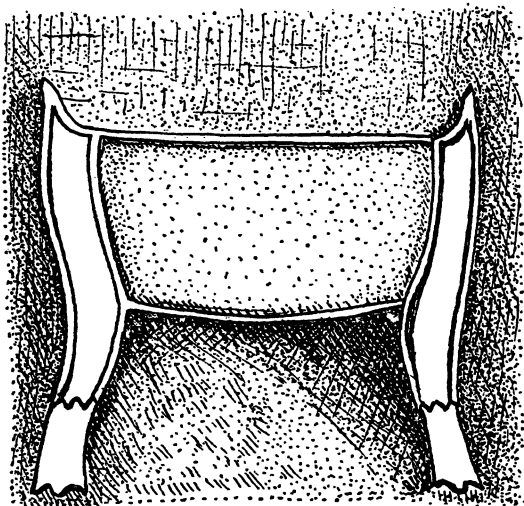
<sup>2</sup> For a recent illustration see V. Karageorghis, *Treasures in the Cyprus Museum* pl. XXI.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. B. Hrouda, *Die Kulturgeschichte des Assyrischen Flachbildes* (Bonn 1965) pl. 15, 4—9.

<sup>4</sup> For preliminary reports about this tomb see already in *Κυπριακά Σπουδαι* 29 (1966) and *BCH* 91 (1967), forthcoming.

of it all round, are also dressed with silver. The total height of it is 21 cm and the sides measure 24 cm  $\times$  19 cm. The height of the dressed sides all round is 11 cm.

The upper flat part of the stool must have been of wood on which one would expect a cushion, hence the obliquely pointed upper ends of the legs to hold such a cushion.



There is little doubt that this stool matches the first throne, mentioned above, which was also partly decorated with silver sheets. Furthermore the two were found close together.

The above has been written in relation to the frequent occurrence of the ideogram for a footstool in the Minoan — Mycenaean tablets, and the reference of it ( $\theta\rho\eta\nu\upsilon\varsigma$ ) which is often made in Homer<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> A rectangular footstool soldered to the front legs appears on a small bronze throne found at Enkomi by Professor Schaeffer and dating to the very end of the Bronze Age. Cf. C. F. A. Schaeffer, *Enkomi — Alasia I* (Paris, 1952) 372ff., fig. 115, pls. LXXII, LXXIII, LXXV

## MITTEILUNG DER REDAKTION

Mit dem Beginn dieses Jahrgangs sind die Herren Dr. Stylianos Alexiou, Ephoros von Kreta und Direktor des Archäologischen Museums in Herakleion, und Dr. Vassos Karageorghis, Leiter der Altertümerverwaltung von Zypern und Direktor des Cyprus-Museums in Nikosia, in das Herausgeber-Gremium des KADMOS eingetreten. Die Herren haben sich freundlicherweise bereit erklärt, fortan jeweils im zweiten Heft eines Jahrgangs einen Bericht über neue epigraphische Funde in ihrem Arbeitsbereich zu geben.