
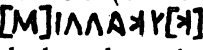


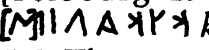
GERALD M. BROWNE

A NEW LYDIAN TEXT

In its 112th Buy or Bid Sale (Closing Date: 13 Jan. 2000), Harlan J. Berk, Ltd. presented as No. 2 a Lydian electrum trite which the catalogue describes as displaying on the obverse “two lions facing with inscription KIKAAIA upwards and retrograde between them”. The excellent color plate in the publication permits improvement in the reading, and I would now suggest , i.e. *kukalim*.

The second letter has a short stroke projecting to the upper right (ʔ) – i.e. Y rather than I – and the final letter can easily be a damaged M. The text, *kukalim* “I am of Kukaś”, consists of the noun stem + possessive marker *-li* + enclitic verb;¹ it is also found on three other Lydian coins, which now, thanks to the Berk specimen, may be properly read:

1) Numismatic Fine Arts International, Inc., Auction 30 (8 December 1992) No. 95: electrum trite, with the legend , [k]ukalli[m]. The appearance of *-lli-* for *-li-* is attested elsewhere in Lydian: see Gusmani (above, n. 1), p. 71. Here and in the following two specimens, the Berk coin shows that *u* (ʔ) is preferable to *r* (ʔ); the latter I had suggested in “Notes” (above, n. 1), p. 50.

2) L. Weidauer, *Probleme der frühen Elektronprägung* (Typos 1 [Fribourg 1975]) No. 114, electrum hekte, with the legend  *kukalim*. The photograph in the original publication (M. Thompson, *Some Noteworthy Greek Accessions*, ANSMN 12 [1966] Pl. I 1) shows a clear Ψ before the letter that the editor described as ʔ (p. 2); the plate in Weidauer is less clear. This coin and the Berk specimen – as the catalogue noted – were struck from the same obverse die.

¹ See R. Gusmani, *Lydisches Wörterbuch, Ergänzungsband 2* (Heidelberg 1982), pp. 58 and 71; cf. also my *Notes on Two Lydian Texts*, *Kadmos* 35 (1996), p. 50.

3) Weidauer No. 115, electrum hecte, with the legend [M]IAAAY[*] [*k*]*ukalim*.

The Lydian name *kukaś* is probably none other than Gyges (Greek: Γύγης), king of Lydia ca. 680–644 B.C.,² i.e. in the period before Alyattes, whose appearance on coins I document in “Notes” (above, n. 1), pp. 50–52. For Lydian *k* entering Greek as γ, cf. *srkastus* and Συργάστης; see Gusmani, *Lydisches Wörterbuch* (Heidelberg 1964), p. 199.

In his *Historia Numorum* (Oxford 1911, p. 643), B. V. Head assigned the earliest Lydian coins to the early seventh century. For the past fifty years or so it has become fashionable to lower that date to the last third of the seventh century, if not even later: see Kagan (above, n. 2, p. 353) and S. von Reden, *Money, Law and Exchange: Coinage in the Greek Polis*, JHS 117 (1997), p. 156 n. 16. The evidence presented in this note suggests that Head’s view – recently supported by Weidauer and Kagan – deserves serious reconsideration.

² For the dating see A. J. Spalinger, *The Date of the Death of Gyges and its Historical Implications*, JAOS 98 (1978), pp. 400–409, and cf. D. Kagan, *The Dates of the Earliest Coins*, AJA 86 (1982), p. 350 n. 66.