

A New Boundary stone from the Southern Golan

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The stone was first noticed by Mr. S. Beker at reference point 2154–2420, about 300 meters before the eastern end of the highway connecting Kibbutz ‘Ein-Gev with the southern Golan Heights. The lands of Kibbutzim Kafar Haruv (Kaffar Harib) and ‘Afiq (Fig) are situated nearby.

The stone served originally as a boundary mark, but was later converted into a tomb cover. The tomb, made of fine basalt blocks, was fully excavated. It contained the remains of two skeletons and fragments of pottery and glass. At an earlier stage, it had probably been looted. More recently, during the construction of the highway, it was damaged. The area has yielded numerous other tombs of this type.

This slab of black basalt, broken at right and bottom, is 90 cm. long, 50 cm. wide at the top and 30 cm. wide at the bottom. Its thickness varies between 12 and 15 cm. The height of the letters ranges between 2.5 and 5 cm. The lower part of the stone, which was originally embedded in the ground, was probably shortened while being converted into a tomb-cover: on other extant boundary stones, the inscription occupies only about one third of the surface. The stone is now in the Beit-Gordon Museum at Kibbutz Degania A.

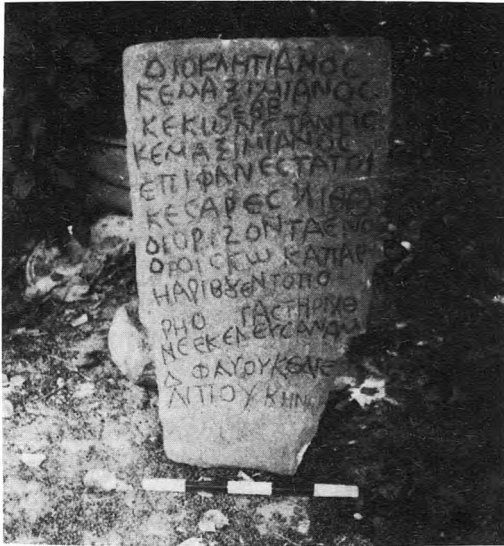
The diphthong AI is spelt throughout E.

1. ΔΙΟΚΛΗΤΙΑΝΟΣ	Διοκλητιανός
2. ΚΕΜΑΞΙΜΙΑΝΟΣ	κὲ Μαξιμιανός
3. ΣΕΒΒ	Σεββ(αστοι)
4. ΚΕΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΣ	κὲ Κωνσταντι(ος)
5. ΚΕΜΑΞΙΜΙΑΝΟΣ	κὲ Μαξιμιανός
6. ΕΠΙΦΑΝΕΣΤΑΤΟΙ	Ἐπιφανέστατοι
7. ΚΕΣΑΡΕΣ ΛΙΘΟ	Κέσαρες λίθο(ν)
8. ΔΙΟΡΙΖΟΝΤΑΕΝΟ	διορίζοντα ἐν {ο}
9. ΟΡΟΙΚΩΚΑΠΑΡ	ὄροις Κώ(μης) Καπαρ
10. ΗΑΡΙΒΘΕΝΤΟΠΟ[·]	Ἡαριβου ἐν τόπο[ις]

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 11. ΡΗΟ[...] Γ Α Τ Η Ρ Ι Χ ΘΗ | ΠΗΟ[...] Γ Α στηριχθῆ |
| 12. ΝΕΕΚΛΕΥ Κ Α Ν Α Μ [-] | νε ἐκέλευσαν Α Μ [-] |
| 13. Δ[] Φ Λ Υ Ο Υ Κ Ε Α Γ Ε | Δ[] Φ Λ Υ Ο Υ κέ 'Αγέ- |
| 14. Λ Ι Π Ο Υ Κ Η Ν Κ | λιπου κηνσ(ιτόρων). |

The Augusti Diocletian and Maximian, and the most illustrious Caesars Constantius and Maximian, have ordered the erection of a boundary stone on the borders of the village Kapar Haribos in the place (called) REO[...]**Γ**A, by the tax-assessors Α**Μ**[..]**Δ**[.**]**Ο**Λ**Υ**Ο**Υ and Agelippos.

Some thirty boundary stones of this type have been found so far in northeastern Israel and south- and northwestern Syria.¹ The stereotypical opening formulae appearing on the majority of these stones leave no doubt



1 Y. Aharoni, "Three New Boundary-Stones from the Western Golan," *Atiqot* 1 (1955) 109-114; H. Seyrig, "Inscriptions grecques", in G. Tchalenko, *Villages antiques de la Syrie du Nord* 3 (Paris 1958) 6-11; Y. Aharoni, "Two Additional Boundary Stones from the Hule Valley," *Atiqot* 2 (1959) 152-4; Y. Aharoni, "Three New Boundary-Stones from the Hule Valley," *Atiqot* 3 (1961) 186-7; G. Dunand, "Nouvelles Inscriptions du Djebel druze et du Hauran," *RBi* 41 (1932) 561-80, at 572; S. Applebaum, B. Isaac, Y. Landau, "Varia Epigraphia," *SCI* 4 (1978) 134; S. Applebaum, B. Isaac, Y. Landau, "Varia Epigraphia," *SCI* 6 (1981-2) 98.

that the context of their erection was the survey and registration of lands for taxation decreed by the Augusti Diocletian and Maximian (that is, Aurelius) and their deputy-Caesars Constantius and Maximian (that is, Galerius).

The newly discovered stone clearly follows this pattern. As the other boundary stones bearing the names of all four rulers, it can be dated to the period between the institution of the Tetrarchy in 293 C.E. and the abdication of Diocletian and Maximian in 305 C.E. Unlike Seyrig (1958) nos. 8, 8a–d, and 9, the inscription does not contain a clue to a more precise date.

The titles of the Tetrarchs are almost identical to those appearing on other boundary stones. Constantius and Maximian, who are normally styled merely as ‘Caesars’, are here also characterized as *epiphanestatoi*, as, for instance, in Aharoni (1955) no 10, Dunand (1932) p. 572, and Applebaum, Isaac and Landau (1978) p. 134.

Lines 8–11 mark a departure from the pattern displayed in the other boundary stone inscriptions. Normally, λίθον διορίζοντα is followed by terms such as ἄγρους κώ(μω)ν (or κώμ(ης)) (Aharoni [1955] nos. 1, 6, 8 and 10), ἄγρος ἐποικίου (Aharoni [1955] no. 4), ἄγ[ρου]ς [κώμης] ... κ[αί] ὄ[ρι]α κώ[μ(ης)] (Aharoni [1955] no. 7), ὄρους μητροκομίας (Aharoni [1955] no. 9). These terms, in turn, are followed by the names of the communities whose holdings were marked. A good example is Aharoni (1955) no. 8: λίθον διορίζοντα ἄγρους κώμης Βετοεμαρας κε κώμης Ἐνακαένας that is, a stone marking the boundary between the lands of the villages Betoemara and Enakaena. In the newly discovered inscription, by contrast, the boundary stone is said to be set up on a specific place called, presumably, RHO[...]ΓΑ, *on* or *along* the borders of Kapar Haribos. As in Aharoni (1955) no. 4, the text does not make it clear to whom the adjacent holdings belonged. Only the discovery of more boundary stones will show whether these are exceptions to the general pattern or the first examples of a new type, or sub-group, of inscriptions.

The name HARIBOU stands for Ḥaruv or Iaḥriv, as in the Rehob Synagogue inscription,² where the name of the village is spelt כפר יחריב, that is Kefar Iaḥriv.

2 Y. Sussman, “The Inscriptions in the Synagogue at Rehob,” *Qadmoniot* 32 (1975) 123ff. (Hebrew). For the different Hebrew spellings of Kafar Haruvi, see Y. Sussman, “A Halakhic Inscription from the Beit Shean Valley,” *Tarbiz* 43 (1973–4) 124 [Hebrew with English summary].

The name of the first of the two tax assessors who set up the stone is illegible. The second is Agelipos.³ The title of these officials, κηνοσίτωρ (Latin *ensor*), also appears in this context in Aharoni (1955) nos. 9, 10 and 12 and Seyrig (1958) p. 7. The term φροντίδι which in other boundary stone inscriptions precedes the name of the official(s), is here omitted.⁴

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3 Cf. W. Pape, *Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen* (Graz 1911) p. 9, spelt 'Αγέλιπος and P. Fraser and E. Matthews, *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names* (Oxford 1987) 5, spelt 'Αγγέλιπος.

4 The editors would like to thank Dr. G. Herman for his help in the preparation of this article for publication.