
The Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) Greek Epigraphy Project and the Revolution in Greek Epigraphy

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the history, purpose and importance of the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) Greek Epigraphy Project are discussed.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The PHI Greek Epigraphy Project is funded by the Packard Humanities Institute at the behest of David Packard Jr., and has been in existence for the past 17 years. Its goal is to compile and make accessible for word searches computerized texts of as many ancient Greek inscriptions as possible, from all areas and periods. There are two separate teams that work on the project, one at Cornell University and the other at The Ohio State University Center of Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies. The former is administered by Kevin Clinton and under the direction of John Mansfield and Nancy Kelly. The latter is administered by Stephen V. Tracy and under the direction of Philip Forsythe. John, Nancy and Philip have worked on the project full-time since its inception and the three of them are the most responsible for the results of the project. There have also been many other contributors to the project, far too many to name here. I myself have worked for the Ohio State team for the past 15 years, first as a graduate student, then full-time for almost two years, and since 1998 part time as my teaching load has permitted. I come here, then, not as an official spokesman for PHI project, nor as one who is ultimately responsible for its content, but simply as one who is intimately familiar with it.

Areas that I have worked on for previously published disks include Thessaly, Epeiros, Illyria, the Upper Danube, Thrace, Moesia Inferior, Scythia Minor, Dacia, North Black Sea, Rhodes, The Rhodian Peraia, Kos, Cyprus, Aegean Islands, Italy, Sicily and the West. Since the last disk was published in 1996 I have done some work on the area of Macedonia and now I am working on the Megarian and Boiotian material. It is this new Megarian and Boiotian material that I will refer to mostly today.

The primary purpose of the data bank is to reproduce already published texts, such as *Inscriptiones Graecae* (IG hereafter) volumes, in order to allow them to be searched on CD as quickly and efficiently as possible by a variety of computers with appropriate programs. The number of entries in the database is well over 150,000 and will probably expand beyond 200,000 this year. The project does not aim to replace or fully re-edit the published editions of the texts that are presented-if it did, the texts themselves would take too long to be available for searches and thus run counter to the purpose of the project. Consequently, those who work on the project do not attempt to do an autopsy of the stones, nor do they present complete bibliography, critical apparatus, commentary, or images, as one should expect from a complete epigraphical publication.

However, while the goal of the project is more modest in this regard, those who work on it do much of the same work as is necessary for any epigraphical corpus. Initially, for any region extensive bibliographic work is conducted to determine what material exists

and where it has been published. For this stage sources such as the *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum* are consulted. The searching for bibliography is followed by a lengthy process of obtaining as many of the relevant publications as possible. This process is easier, of course, for areas where a major epigraphical corpus, such as a volume of the *Inscriptiones Graecae*, already exists. However, even in this case, those who work on the project often compile its source publications in order to confirm texts and citations. Also, there is usually new material to be added, and, always, corrections and new editions.

Although the project does not aim to replace or fully re-edit the published editions of the texts that are presented, at Ohio State we present the texts accurately and in a single, consistent editorial style (the Leiden Conventions). For accuracy, we consult the photographs, copies and commentaries supplied by the edition in question, as well as other editions and on occasion, even squeezes. Through this process of careful scrutiny we have identified and corrected thousands of mistakes, both small and not so small. As a result, the texts we present are quite often more accurate than the editions we consult.

A simple example of how we reproduce what was actually on the stone rather than what the editor prints in his small-caps text may be found throughout *IG VII*. For all the archaic inscriptions in this corpus Dittenberger gave a small-caps text that often did not match what was on the stone in order that he might print the standard spelling. For a long epsilon that later would normally be spelled epsilon iota, for example, he gives an epsilon and iota in his small-caps text, or if the stone had kappa sigma he writes a xi.

We give only what was on the stone, as far as it can be determined from facsimiles or pictures or other sources.

Up until 18 months ago we did all our word processing on the old 'Ibycus' machines, which were

the first computers classicists used to search and view the PHI and Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) CDs (Fig. 1). To quote an article in *Classical Outlook* 71.1 (1993) 21-24:



(Fig. 1) The first computers classicists used to search and view the PHI.

'Originally, the only easy way to access, search, and excerpt material from the TLG disk was by means of the specially designed Ibycus computer. The Ibycus had grown up almost as a sibling to the electronic TLG. David Packard, a member of one of the founding families of the Hewlett-Packard computer company, is a classicist with a strong faculty for computer applications. He created the Ibycus computer as a machine dedicated specifically to working with classical languages, complete with a Greek/Roman alphabet word processor and a text-search tool for the TLG built in.'

Now, however, Wilkins Poe, a long-time computer guru at PHI, has developed a new Beta Code Editor program that can be used on Macs, so the material will henceforth be word-processed on Macs and published on the web. The project already has a preliminary web site up and running (which was not available during the conference, but is now freely available to the public at <http://epigraphy.packhum.org/inscriptions/>). I have

published some compelling corrections to a few lines in *BCH* 70 (1946), which I have just incorporated into the PHI text. Thus I give a sort of composite text here (Fig. 4). Since it is a series of epebes under different archons and inscribed at different times and by different hands, it poses some real challenges to represent. Keramopoulos gives a line count in the left margin, which I try to reproduce, but not every column has every line filled in, so I must indicate every *vacat* and restart the line count often. As we must keep name and patronymic together for search-string purposes, we cannot lay out our small-caps text in a pictorial fashion, as Keramopoulos did. For instance under ‘archon 4’, Dionysodoros, we have three irregular columns of names and many empty lines. This is what I have thus far, but this is just

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~a"AE Chronika"b"1936:30,197"x"archon 1"y""z1
~-a"Boiotia"b"Thespiai"d"post 171a."e"BCH 70 (1946) 483,11 (Plassart, corr.)"
[— —κ]λείος ἄρχων[ος]
~z"
<z2>vacat>z2
~z2
[— — —]έους [— — —],
~z"
<z2>vacat>z2
~z3
[— — —]τος Φιλαιέτου,
[— — —]όκριτος Ταυρίνου,
~z"
<z2>vacat>z2
~z5
Καλλικλῆς Ὀμολωίχου,
Ξενότιμος Δαμοκρίτου,
Ἀγαθοκλῆς Τίμων[ος],
Ἴσμηνίας Θηβαγγέλου,
<φ>αράδας Θηβαγγέλου,
<πρ>ωτέας Δημοφώντος,
Κρίτων Σιμίτου,
Εὐήμερος Ἐπικράτους,
~z"
<z2>vacat>z2
~z13
Νέων Νέωνος,
~z"
<z2>vacat>z2
~z14
Ἀριστομένης Διονυσοδώρου,
~z"
<z2>vacat>z2
~z15
Δάμων Ἀγαθοκλέους,
Διονύσιος Πυθοδώρου,
Ἀρτέμων Θεοξένου.
~x"archon 2"y"col 1"z18
Καλλικλέους ἄρχοντος
Μενεκράτης Ἀνίχου,
Σωσ[—]ων Καλονίκου,
~y"col 1"z1

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(Fig. 4) A sort of composite text.

preliminary. Philip Forsythe at Ohio State will make any final decisions on how to best represent this text.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PHI PROJECT

Greek Epigraphy is, of course, a discipline that is essential to almost every facet of Classics, including historians, art historians, philologists, students of religion and linguists. It last underwent a major revolution over one hundred years ago with the publication of the *Inscriptiones Graecae (IG)* volumes and other aids such as *Bulletin épigraphique* and, sometime later, the *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum* series. In the past twenty years, however, it has undergone an equally, if not more profound change with the publication of the PHI Greek Epigraphy CD-ROM disks, which have taken much of this published material and converted it into digital format thus allowing students and scholars in Classics to carry in their pocket an immense library of Greek inscriptions.

What is more important, searching all this material, for things such as prosopographical purposes or to find parallel formulae, used to require months and even years, but now with the disks search times have been reduced to mere minutes and with the web site they have been reduced even further to the blink of an eye. Another advantage to the PHI corpus is that it uniformly employs the Leiden Conventions, so the user no longer has to worry about disparate editing sigla. It is thus a fairly unified corpus of published Greek inscriptions that mainly differs from traditional corpora by the fact that it is in digital form, which is its distinctly new contribution. In many geographical areas where an *IG* corpus was never realized, such as Macedonia, it provides the only real corpus available. In other areas where an *IG* corpus was published more than one hundred years ago, our work provides a significantly updated corpus, such as the current

<p>Διονύσιος Μενελάου, Σωτήριχος Θεοδότου, Σωσικράτης Σωσικράτους, ~x"archon 3"y"col I"z1 Καλλιστράτου ἄρχοντος Εὐήμερος Δημητρίου, Παραμόνος Διονυσίου, Ἀπολλώνιος Διονυσίου, Φιλό(λο)μουσος {²⁶Φιλόμουσος} Διοδότου, Εὐφρόσυνος Ἀντι[ιγό]νου, ~y"col II"z3 Σωτήριχος Δημητρίου. ~x"archon 4"y"col I"z1 Διονυσιοδώρου ἄρχοντος ἀπε-ε->λθ<ε>ίοντες ἐκ τῶν ἐφεί- ~z"¹¹ %⁸¹ ~z3 βων ἐν τάγμα' ~z"¹¹ <²²vacat>²² ~z4 Ἀντίγονος Σατυρίνου, ~z"¹¹ <²²vacat>²² ~z5 Ἐρμαῖος Δορκύλου, Νου-μ>ήνιος Νου-μ>ηνίου, Μουσικός Ἡδωνοῦ {²⁷[— —]σικος Φίλωνος (<²²jamot>²²)²⁷, Δαμασίας Γαλισιώνος(?), ~z"¹¹ <²²vacat>²² ~z9 Κάλλων Καλλικλέους, Ξενοκράτης Ἀπολλοδώ[ρου], ~z"¹¹ <²²vacat>²² ~z11 Βίων Σύρου, Ὀμολύχος Μελαγκόμα,</p>	<p>~z"¹¹ <²²vacat>²² ~z13 Σύρος Θεοπόμπου, Ζώπυρος Ζωπύρου, ~z"¹¹ <²²vacat>²² ~z15 Εὐάμερος Σωσινίκου, ~y"col II"z1 Λοκρίων Διονυσ[— —], ~z"¹¹ {²<²²quinque versus vacant>²²}² ~z2 Δημήτριος Δημητρίου, [— —]ος Παραμό- νου, Κλέων Πρήσκου(?), Ἴπποδρομος Μολόρ- κου, Διονυσόδω- ρος Εὐπόρου, ~z"¹¹ {²<²²duo versus vacant>²²}² ~z12 Κη[φι]σόδωρος Κη- [φι]σόδωρου, Ἰσίων Ἀντιόχου, Μνάσων Χρεμαῖου, Σωσικλειδῆς Διονυσίου, ~y"col III"z1 ΑΚ[— —]ΔΩ[— —]ΑΚ[— — — —] Καλλιστ[ε]όνικος Παραμόν[ου]. ~x"archon 5"y"col I"z3 Σαμίχου ἄρχοντος Δάμων Ἀριστίωνος, Διοκλῆς Διοκλέους, Εὐπομος Κε[ρ]μεισίχου(?), Δωρόθεος Ἡρακλίδου,</p>	<p>Παράμονος Παραμόνου ~z"¹¹ τοῦ Σωσιν[ί]κου, ~z9 Φιλοκλῆς Εὐήμερος, Ἀριστοκλῆς Φιλοξένου, Πρωτέας Πρωτέου, Σφόδρις Καλλιτί{μι}%⁸¹μου {²⁶Καλλιτίμου}²⁶ ~y"col II"z1 C[— — — — —](?) ~x"archon 6"y"col I"z12 Σωξένω ἄρχοντος ἀπελθεῖοντες ἐκ τῶν ἐφήβων ἐν τάγμα' Λούσανδρος Καλλικράτους, Θηβάγγελος Προκλέους, Σωκράτης Δίωνος, Ἡρακων Κηφισοδώρου, Ἀρίστων Ἀριστωνος, Ἀθανίας Θεοδότου, Μενέλαος Διογένους, Ἀλέξανδρος Ἀλέξανδρος, Σώτων Στωτηρίδου, Πίστων Πίστωνος, Πραξίων Σιμίου, Κάλλιππος Ἀριστονίκου, Ἀγαθοκλ[η]ῆς {²⁶Ἀγαθοκλῆς}²⁶ Ἀγαθοκλέους, ~y"col II"z16 Ἀμφικλῆς Θεογένο[υς].</p>
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(Fig. 5) PHI corpus.

work on Megara and Boiotia (*IG VII* was published in 1892). The PHI project also has the added merit that as new inscriptions are published, they can easily be added without having to wait one hundred years for an update. Should future plans for the PHI web site be realized, it will essentially become a full-service corpus. (Fig. 5).

Unlike traditional ancient literary sources, which come down to us in copies of copies of copies, inscriptions speak directly to us with no intervening hand. They put us into direct contact with the past, and while they may contain mistakes, provide official

misinformation, lack a context, or be worn and fragmentary, we can be more sure of their intended text, especially if it survives in full, than any other type of document from the ancient world. Their important character as primary documents is the reason that scholars from all fields of ancient studies return to these texts again and again, and the PHI project is ensuring that texts of these Greek inscriptions are more accurate, accessible and efficiently searchable, while also helping to ensure that they survive the jump from printed to digital form and thus will be available to scholars in the future.