

Eleni Zavvou
Epigraphic Museum
Athens

An honorary monument from modern Asopos area (Laconia)

ABSTRACT

The inscribed monument that will be presented was discovered southwest of the Papadanika village, on the western side of the Maleas Peninsula in Southern Laconia. It bears two different inscriptions. The similarity of their letter forms show that they must have been inscribed at the same time.

According to the inscriptions, the honorary monument was erected by the Laconian city of Viantyna, known only from the geographer Claudius Ptolemaius when he enumerates the coastal sites of the Peloponnese.

In the inscription on the right side of the inscribed surface of the monument which is the better preserved, the city of Viantyna honors Iulia Panteimia, daughter of Laco. She is known by one other inscription written at the base of her honorary monument IG V 2, 542, erected by the city of Megalopolis at the sanctuary of Despoina at Lycosoura in Arcadia, along with a similar honorary monument of her brother Caius Iulius Cratinus (IG V 2, 541). She is considered as the daughter of Caius Iulius Laco and grand-daughter of Caius Iulius Eurycles, who was one of the most notable statesmen of roman Greece. Eurycles had taken Octavian's part in the naval battle of Actium against Marc Antony, and became Sparta's ruler. His son, Caius Iulius Laco succeeded him at the rule of the *civitas libera* of Sparta but was sent into exile by the emperor Tiberius in 33 A.D., soon after the fall of Lucius Aelius Seianus, along with his son Argolicus and Pompeia Macrina, Argolicus' wife and descendant of the Mytilenean family of Pompeius Macer (Tac. *Ann.* VI, 18). Later he was reinstated under Claudius.

The inscription on the left side of the inscribed surface of the monument, which is preserved in poor condition, refers to a certain Πονπητίαν. The paper discusses if it would have been possible that this Pompeia was Pompeia Macrina, the wife of Argolicus (son of Laco), or if she was another woman related to the family of Eurycles.