

The monument for the Hekatomnid *basileis* from Iasos

The discovery of the monument

In 2005, the excavations of the Italian Archaeological Expedition in Iasos, directed by Fede Berti, brought to light a statue base made of local limestone, reused during the imperial age in a room that opens on the back of the West *stoa* of the *agora*. The block belonged originally to the central part of a large monument consisting of several blocks. On the upper surface, almost intact, close to the edge on the right looking at the block, there is a cutting for the dowel of the right foot of a bronze statue. Inscribed on the front is a fourth-century BC epigram honoring the *basileis* and the satrap Idrieus.

Αὔξοντες [πόλιν οἱ βα]σιλεῖς κλεινοὺς παρὰ θνητοῖς
στήσαν τοὺς [Ἰα]σεῖς πρώτοι ἐπ' εὐτυχίαις
σώσαντος π[α]τρίαν ἀρχὴν Ἰδριέω[[ς] 'Ἐ[κατόμν]ω]]
[ἐκ] δεινῶν παθέων ἤγαγε ἐς εὐνομίαν

«Fostering its growth, the kings were first to bring to prosperity
the Iaseans, illustrious among mortals.

*Idrieus, son of Hekatomnos, after saving his paternal power,
led them from terrible sufferings to the good order of law.»*

Dr. Maurizio Sonnino provided crucial advice for the translation of this text. The end of line 3 was intentionally erased for the space of 8 or 9 letters. The few legible traces are compatible with the patronym 'Ἐκατόμνω, which seems the most likely supplement (see below). It appears that the author of the epigram used a genitive absolute instead of a nominative participle, following a usage very rare in poetry and more frequent in prose.

Our team from the Università di Perugia is also studying the inscriptions from Iasos that were brought to the Istanbul Archaeological Museums in 1887. In September 2008, during our first survey of the material, a large base catalogued as "of unknown provenance" caught our attention because its white-greyish limestone looks like it might come from Iasos. The block (inv. 3274) was the last on the right of a rectilinear base consisting of various blocks. The upper surface has two cuttings for the dowels of the feet of a bronze statue. On the front, close to the left edge, there is a fourth-century inscription reading:

Αβα Ὑσσαλδομου

Louis Robert published the inscription in *Sinuri*. He considered it of unknown provenance and rightly recognized in Aba an otherwise unknown sister of Hekatomnos, the father of Maussollus and of the other satraps of the dynasty. Robert did not mention another inscription, now upside down on the very damaged right short side of the stone. What remains of the text makes it possible to identify it as an honorary inscription for a well-known athlete from Iasos, Ti. Flavius Metrobios (*I. Iasos* 107; 108; *SEG* 48, 1333), who won the *dolichos* in the first Capitoline Games (86 AD) and was the first *periodonikes* from Iasos (Berti *et al.*, *Wandering Marbles. Marbles of Iasos at the Istanbul Archaeological Museums*,

Istanbul 2010, nr. 1 and 4). This later reuse confirms that the block indeed comes from Iasos. The mouldings and the size of the two blocks, the *ductus* of the inscriptions and their distance from the *apophyge* show that the block from Istanbul and the block from Iasos originally belonged to one and the same large monument in honor of the Hekatomnids. A comprehensive publication of this monument, which was taken apart under the Flavians at the latest, will appear in *La Parola del Passato*.

Interpretation of the epigram and reconstruction of the monument

The presence of Aba in the monument can be explained only assuming that she was the mother, and not just the aunt, of Idrieus, and therefore the wife of Hekatomnos. This would prove that sibling marriage was practiced in the family of the satraps of Caria one generation earlier than hitherto documented. Consequently, a statue of Hekatomnos must have been part of the monument, as well. This explains the erasure of his name and justifies the supplement in line 3 of the epigram: it seems safe to assume that the name was erased when the statue was taken down.

The honorary statues on the monument must represent the *basileis* who are praised for their benefactions. This means that, at least in the language of praise, in Caria the Hekatomnids could be granted the title of *basileis*. Such a title has often been regarded as traditional, but it is actually documented only from the fourth century BC (only one clear testimony, a fragment of the Athenian comic poem Epigenes, fr. 6 K.-A.), and was then often attributed to the Hekatomnids in later sources. However, the Hekatomnids never appear as *basileis* in their own dedications and decrees, nor, up to now, in texts in their honor. It appears that the title started to be referred to them when they were satraps, possibly at first, as at Iasos, only in the language of praise and in the framework of reciprocity between benefactors and recipients of benefactions, a relation that in the case of Iasos was already documented by the construction of a Maussolleion (G. Maddoli, «PP» 62, 2007, nrr. 11-13).

The allusion to Idrieus' difficulties in maintaining ancestral power and to the troubles of Iasos, the reference to *eunomia*, the hostility towards Hekatomnos showed by the erasure of his name and the elimination of his statue, pose further questions that cannot be dealt with here.

In the most likely reconstruction, the monument must have consisted of five blocks, supporting four statues. On the sides, each on one block, there were probably two women, Ada and Aba, the wife and the mother of Idrieus. In the center stood Idrieus and his father Hekatomnos, the founder of the dynasty. This reconstruction presupposes blocks of similar size and a balanced spacing of the statues. Assuming that the inscriptions were distributed in a balanced fashion, too, the epigram on the second block presupposes another one on the fourth.



Agora of Iasos, West *stoa*.

The stone with the epigram for Idrieus and its place of discovery.



Iasos.

Front side of the pedestal block with the epigram for Idrieus.



Iasos.

The epigram for Idrieus.



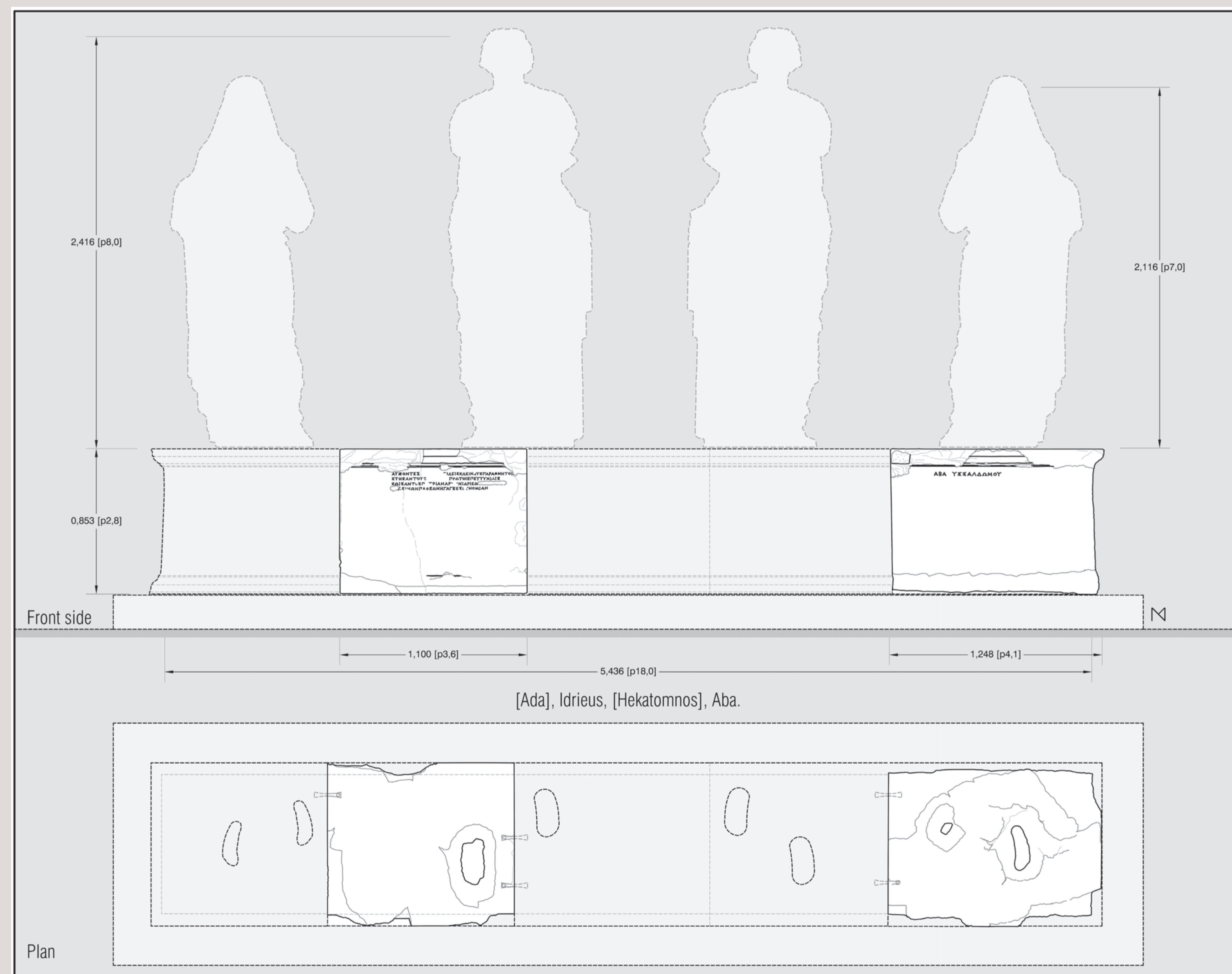
Istanbul Archaeological Museums, inv. 3274.

Front side of the pedestal block with the inscription for the bronze of Aba. The honorary inscription for Metrobios is on the short right side.



Istanbul Archaeological Museums, inv. 3274.

The Aba inscription.



The monument for the Hekatomnid in Iasos.

Reconstruction drawing. The silhouettes reproduce the so-called Maussolos and Artemisia from Halikarnassos in the British Museum