

C O M M E N T A T I O N U M
P A R S P R I O R

Eos XCVIII 2011
ISSN 0012-7825

A NOTE ON A SYLLABIC INSCRIPTION
FROM PAPHOS-MANTISSA (*KOUKLIA* NO. 228)

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In the years 1950–1955 the British Kouklia Expedition conducted excavations on the Marcello Hill near the present day village of Kouklia. The research was continued by the German-Swiss archaeological mission in 1966–1973. The excavations have revealed the north-eastern part of the fortification of Old Paphos. The discovered part consists of the so-called north-eastern gate and a hundred and ten meter long wall dated from the 8th to the 4th centuries B.C. Apart from the fortifications, the archaeologists revealed a siege mound built by Persians or their allies during the war in 498 B.C.¹

It is very interesting that the Persians building the siege mound used not only earth, field stones or wood, but also the material coming from an archaic temple plundered and destroyed by them. This temple was located surely before the walls of the city (its exact location is unknown). That is why in the siege mound hundreds of votive gifts were found. The objects are dated to the second half of the 6th century B.C. or to the turn of the 6th and the 5th centuries B.C.²

Over two hundred of these objects contain Greek inscriptions written in the Cyprian syllabary. The inscriptions were edited in 1986 in a separate tome entitled *Les inscriptions syllabiques de Kouklia Paphos* (quoted as *Kouklia*) by O. MASSON, who used in his work to great extent the detailed notes prepared by T.B. MITFORD. The corpus contains almost only votive inscriptions carved on

¹ The fights on Cyprus at that time are mentioned in Herodotus' *Histories* (V 115).

² On the excavations see the introductory part of the corpus of the inscriptions with further literature (*Kouklia* p. 1f.).