A Corpus of the Inscriptions of Chios (IG XII 6.3)

Epigraphy on Chios and the IG Corpus

Although George Forrest in a brilliant sketch ‘Epigraphy in Chios – Cyprus of America to Stephanois, Chios, A Conference at the Homereion of Chios 1964, ed. J. Boardman, C.E. Vaphiopoulos-Richardson (Oxford, 1964), 133-38) traced epigraphical enquiries on Chios back to Cyriacus of Ancona and to the Grazianian Palace in the winter of 1466 (the homoeoteleuton for Commodos’ Cynara Augusta which he recorded is illustrated below), systematic work on a Corpus of Chian inscriptions only began in the later nineteenth century. Alfred Rehm received formal commission from the Berlin Academy to compile a Corpus of Chian inscriptions for a fascicule of IG XII 6 in 1906, but in the ensuing century the project has experienced a series of interruptions and restarts.

Epigraphy on Chios: the ancient city of Chios lies largely under the modern town. Much of the monumental existence of the city was incorporated in the walls of the Byzantine and Genoese Kastro and the houses built within it. Some inscriptions remain in the walls of Kastro walls and buildings within the town, as in the stubble below, but the majority have been removed – first to the gymnasium, then to a museum in the former mosque, and now to the splendid Archaeological Museum, with its exemplary epigraphical gallery. Few inscriptions are now, in any obvious sense, in situ or close by.

The Fate of Chian Inscriptions: archaeology and content

The ancient city of Chios lies largely under the modern town. Much of the monumental existence of the city was incorporated in the walls of the Byzantine and Genoese Kastro and the houses built within it. Some inscriptions remain in the walls of Kastro walls and buildings within the town, as in the stubble below, but the majority have been removed – first to the gymnasium, then to a museum in the former mosque, and now to the splendid Archaeological Museum, with its exemplary epigraphical gallery. Few inscriptions are now, in any obvious sense, in situ or close by.

A New Corpus

The corpus will include c. 750 texts, including a significant number of modern. Recent epigraphical finds have been limited, but texts found in the 1930s remain unpublished (for example, a decree recorded by J. Bover in 1937, illustrated opposite right). The recent publication of the Chian Symposion in Memory of George Forrest (Adams, 2006) offers some glimpses of this new material.

Inscriptions recorded in Chios town and throughout the island have been revisited and checked wherever possible, but most of the work has taken place in the Chios Archaeological Museum, where 450 of the inscriptions are now held. A comprehensive catalogue of the Museum has been established by Matthias and Malouchou, and will be published separately as preparation for the Corpus Volume. The inscriptions in the Museum have been rephotographed by Monadh and Derow, and new collations, systematically undertaken. Earlier publications in many cases contain series of readings. Even the dossier of Claudia Metrodora (illustrated below), subject of a characteristically incisive discussion by Louis Robert in Rhodos épigraphique et philologique in 1938, has needed revision in detail.

Acknowledgments

Work on the Corpus has been assisted by access through the kindness of Glen Bowersock and Denis Roussot, to the resources of St. Louis Louis Robert, including a splendid album. Few, now (Chios Archaeological Museum) concerning relations between Chios and the Aetolians; the text is to be published by Georgia Malouchou in her book on Aetolian poetry.

The family of Antonios Stephanou has made available material from his Necrology. Work on the Corpus has been partially supported by a generous contribution from the Missios family.

Epigraphy in Chios: the ancient city of Chios lies largely under the modern town. Much of the monumental existence of the city was incorporated in the walls of the Byzantine and Genoese Kastro and the houses built within it. Some inscriptions remain in the walls of Kastro walls and buildings within the town, as in the stubble below, but the majority have been removed – first to the gymnasium, then to a museum in the former mosque, and now to the splendid Archaeological Museum, with its exemplary epigraphical gallery. Few inscriptions are now, in any obvious sense, in situ or close by.