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Timodemides' *Pinakion*. Manchester Museum 42015

The Attic bronze allotment plate published here¹ was acquired by the Manchester Museum at some point before the appointment of John Prag as Keeper of Egyptology and Classical Archaeology in October 1969, probably after ca. 1930. The Museum register states that it was allocated its current inventory number on the 16th September 1991 and had been 'found unnumbered in Bronze stores'. Accordingly, its provenance is unknown.² Such bronze allotment plates periodically surface in western European collections (see, e.g., Shefton 1969-70, 58).³

A straight strip of bronze inscribed by punching with chisels, one with a straight end and one with a half-round end (for omicron and theta). Complete and largely undamaged. Height 0.022-24 m., width 0.115-116 m; thickness 0.002-0.003 m.

Letter-height: 0.005-0.01 m. Now in the stores of Manchester Museum. Autopsy Liddel. Figures 1, 2.

ca. mid 350s - 340s BC

⊖ : Τιμοδημίδης
: Παιανιεύ(ς)

Bronze allotment plates (*pinakia*: [Arist.] *Ath. Pol.* 64.1; *chalkia*: Dem. 39.10) are known from a number of parts of the Greek world.⁴ Like many other examples the Manchester *pinakion* may have derived from the grave of its final owner alongside whom it was buried.⁵

In the middle of the left end of the strip, there is an inscribed circle with a notch in the middle, which appear to be a mal-formed theta. Parallels suggest that this represented a 'section letter' which would correspond to the letters marked the top of each column of slots on the *kleroterion* (*Ath. Pol.* 64.1). The mark inside the theta is linear rather than a dot because evidently, as John Kroll observes (*per epistulam*), the letterer used a tool 'with a short straight end with an arrow-like return' rather than a chisel with a simple point or a round, pointed, punch. The same straight-ended tool was apparently used

1. I would like to acknowledge the permission of the Manchester Museum to publish this object and also the kind advice and help of John Kroll, Stephen Lambert, Angelos P. Matthaiou, John Piprani, John Prag and Bryan Sitch. For extended discussion of the historical context of the *pinakion*, see the research blog on Classics, Ancient History, Archaeology and Egyptology at the University of Manchester (<https://clahresearch.wordpress.com/>) and the 'Ancient Worlds' blog of the Manchester Museum (<https://ancientworldsmanchester.wordpress.com/>). I also thank Elena Zavvou and Giorgos Papadopoulos, editors of *Grammateion*, for the editorial care of my paper.

2. As this object was acquired by the Manchester collection before 30 December 1973, this publication coincides with *AIA* and *AJA* policy on the publication of objects within public collections.

3. Kroll will soon publish a corpus of *pinakia* which have surfaced in recent years.

4. Athenian examples: Kroll 1972, 1984; non-Athenian examples: Kroll 1972, 268-278; Kroll 2015.

5. See Kroll 1972, 9-11.

for making the double interpuncts in the form of two vertical marks which precede the name and demotic at lines 1 and 2. On this occasion, as with others, interpuncts were used to separate inscribed section-letters from the names that follow (Kroll 1972, 134).

The appearance of a section-letter but absence of triobol seal or *gorgoneion* mark suggests that the Manchester allotment plate falls into Class VI of Kroll's typology of Athenian bronze allotment plates (Kroll 1972, 12, 59-62, nos 114-143). Other examples, like this one, are inscribed with chisel rather than punch. Class VI *pinakia* were introduced probably in the mid-350s⁶ and were used to allocate candidates to the *boule* or to magistracies (cf. *Ath. Pol.* 8.1; Dem. 39.10-12) until the constitutional changes of 322/1 BC (Kroll 1972, 63-68, 90).

Like many examples of bronze allotment plates (cf. Kroll 1972, 8), the Manchester *pinakion* appears to have been inscribed more than once. It is possible to discern partially-erased lines of the upper half of an earlier sigma beneath the final sigma of line 1; also visible are the remains of a phi between the iota and alpha in line 2. Moreover, as John Kroll points out to us, disturbances in the surface at the upper right end could represent an erased *gorgoneion* stamp, typical of earlier Athenian non-dikastic *pinakia*. According to Kroll, the *gorgoneion* was a characteristic of the earliest non-dikastic *pinakia* (Class III, which are dated to the 360s) and later appeared on those *pinakia* (Classes IV and V, also of the 360s) which were valid for both dikastic and non-dikastic allotment (Kroll 1972, 56). It is likely, then, that our *pinakion* was inscribed originally with a name and *gorgoneion* stamp in the 360s which were deleted before it was re-used by Timodemides.

The name Τιμοδημίδης derives from the name Τιμόδημος (which consists of two components, derived from the nouns δῆμος and τιμή),⁷ to which the patronymic termination -ίδης was added.⁸ The only other attested Athenian individual with this name appears on a casualty list of 423 BC in which Τιμοδεμί[δε]ς is listed among the dead of the Kekropid tribe (*IG I³* 1184.65). This individual was probably not related to our Timodemides, whose male ancestors, as a demesman of Paiania, would have belonged to the Pandionis tribe. Moreover, none of the Attic bearers of the name Τιμόδημος have been identified as demesmen of Paiania. Accordingly, there is no way that, on the basis of current evidence, that we can track down the family of Τιμοδημίδης.

The form Παϊανιεύς is unproblematic: the curtailing of demotics by any number of letters is common on *pinakia*. An extant allotment plate said to have derived from the modern village of Liopesi in Attica (close to the site of ancient Paiania) contains the abbreviated forms Παϊα(νιεύς) and Παϊανι(εύς) for two of its users (see Kroll 1972, no. 18).

The letter-forms of the Manchester *pinakion* (in particular the pi, mu and nu with slightly shorter right hasta; the sigma with sloping top bar but flat bottom bar) are paralleled among other Class VI *pinakia*.⁹ Comparing these forms to those which appear on stone inscriptions from Athens points

6. By this time the Athenians had started to use wood for the allocation of jurors: *Ath. Pol.* 63.4.

7. Τιμόδημος was common in Attica, see Osborne and Byrne, *LGPN* II, s.v., pp. 429-430 and *Athenian Onomasticon*, s.v. The other form of the compound, the name Δημότιμος, is also known but, interestingly, is relatively rare in Attica (5 listed in *LGPN* II, s.v., p. 121 and *Athenian Onomasticon*, s.v.) when compared with other parts of the Greek world (see *LGPN*).

8. It has been commented that 'names of the patronymic form, i.e. in -ίδης, were characteristic of the Athenian upper classes in the classical period' (Lambert 2012, 327), but we know nothing more about Timodemides to be able to verify this.

9. See Kroll 1972, no. 132 for an example of a Class VI *pinakion* with similar nu and pi; Kroll 1972, no. 138 (Class VI) for a similar sigma. For a delta with upward-sloping base, compare Kroll 1972, nos 35 and 36 (Class III).

towards a date early on in the period of Class VI *pinakia*.¹⁰ We suggest, therefore a date of the late 350s to 340s BC for the inscription of Timodemides' name.

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10. For examples of pi with shortened right hasta, see *IG II/III*³ 1, 294 (349/8 BC), 302 (346/5 BC), *IG II/III*³ 4, 29 (348/7 BC); for nu with shortened right hasta, see *IG II/III*³ 4, 4 (332/1 BC).



Fig. 1. Timodemides' pinakion (obverse)
(Phot. Bryan Sitch)



Fig. 2. Timodemides' pinakion (reverse)
(Phot. Bryan Sitch)