

PERSONAL NAMES AT HALMYRIS

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Keywords: name, *gentilice*, cognomen, men, women, marriage, army, administration, province, father, mother, son, daughter, inscription, evidence.

Abstract: The study analyses a list of 60 personal native, Greek and Roman names known thus far from epigraphic and literary evidence found or referring to Halmyris. Beside the examination of every single PN, this onomastic approach discusses aspects from the daily social life: families, social mobility, age and death, religion of the subjects, involvement in economic, juridical, administrative and military life of this key strategical fortress at the Lower Danube.

Cuvinte cheie: nume, *gentilicium*, cognomen, bărbați, femei, căsătorie, administrație, provincie, tată, mamă, fiu, fiică, inscripție, dovadă.

Rezumat: Studiul analizează o listă de 60 de nume autohtone grecești și romane cunoscute până în prezent în sursele epigrafice și literare care se referă la Halmyris. Pe lângă analiza fiecărui nume în parte, această abordare onomastică discută aspecte din zona vieții sociale: familii, mobilitatea socială, vârstă și moarte, religia subiecților, implicarea în viața economică, juridică, administrativă și militară din arealul acestei așezări de o importanță strategică majoră la Dunărea de Jos.

The thirty years systematic excavations in the Halmyris fort occasioned the unveiling of a huge amount of evidence in a broad field envisaging its history, social and economic development, and environmental evolution. If artefacts offered material evidence and answers for many key aspects while historical sources a general frame of the settlement's long existence, epigraphic discoveries unveiled the living facet of this society with its daily events, characters involved in local official or private activities, their misfortunes and good opportunities, social mobility, group or individual attitudes, religious believes.

The gazetteer is conceived to collate and discuss the names of the thus far known individuals who resided permanently or temporarily in the ancient Halmyris area (fortress and civil settlement). It includes 49 PN recorded on funerary and votive inscriptions, and on building material (bricks, pottery shards) as well (no. 1-9; 10-13; 16-20; 24-31; 34-55; 57-58) found between 1981 and 2010. All these names were summarily discussed in the volume II of the Halmyris Monograph, General Editor Mihail Zahariade, *The Greek and Latin Inscriptions from Halmyris*, eds. Mihail Zahariade, Cristina-Georgeta Alexandrescu, BAR International Series 2261, Oxford 2011 (further on GLIH).

I considered necessary to incorporate in the list eight names (no. 10, 14-15, 21, 22, 32-33, 56) recorded in a hagiographic source, *Vita Sanctorum*

Epicteti presbyteri et Astionis monachi, which all have a particular significance for the Halmyris society in late 3rd-early 4th century. Also, an individual (no. 23) is recorded by a church author as being present at Halmyris in a literary source in a critical moment in the history of the fort.

1. AELIA BENDSI

Bendsi: var. (local) fem. PN for the theophoric fem. *Bendis*¹; derivation from the name of the deity worshipped in Thrace, Athens, Bithynia and identified with Artemis (Diana) or Hekate. PN in Thracian environment or amidst a milieu of Thracian tinge of Asia Minor². *Bendi-Bendis* is rather frequent; a mistake of the lapicid is possible, but less probable. **B.** from Halmyris could be a *hapax*. The pronunciation must have been presumably *Bentsi*>

¹ Zgusta 1955, 279-280, no. 557; Dechev 1976, 50-51.

² Var. e.g. *Bendi Paibis (filiae)* (Philippi, Macedonia); *Sises Mucasenius et Bendina marita* (CIL III, 6137; ILB, no. 176; OPEL I, 117: Breshte, Bulgaria); Φλ(αμία) Βένδης (Kazarov 1938, 257: Doganovo, Bulgaria); Βένδης Ζείπαδος (Picard 1921, 171 no. 33); Βένδης (Picard 1921, 173, no. 46: Thasos; Βένζει θυγάτηρ Μουκαπόρειος (IOSPE II, 223; Zgusta 1955, 279-280, no. 557: Panticapaeum). As Gr. PN few records (LGPN I, III A; IV s.v. Βενδής; Βενδής var. Βενδοῦς); for the name in general: Tomaszek 1980², II 2, 12; Cojocaru 1997, 44, no. 8; Dana 2006, 131; Vlahov 1976, 38, 100; *Bendis*, daughter of a marine, C. Iulius Bithus, from Philippopolis (discharged in 160), RMD 105; *Aurelia Bendia*, *coniuncx* with *Valeria Valerix filia heredes of Valerius Bitieus discens ousni* (i.e. *uncinari*) in legio II Partica at Qal'at el Mudik (215-217, or 231-233) (unpublished; information W. Van Regen).