

Resurrecting Milkyaton's Trophy: Classical Cypriote Naval Warfare

Provides a Pedagogical Opportunity

In 391 B.C. political and territorial tensions between Greeks, Phoenicians and the Achaemenid Empire exploded into combat off the southern coast of Cyprus (Costa, 1974). The ensuing clashes pitted the Cypro-Phoenician kingdom of Kition and its Achaemenid allies against King Evagoras of Cypriot Salamis and his Greek and Egyptian allies (). To commemorate their naval victory King Milkyaton and the people of Kition erected a victory monument, which I have designated, Milkyaton's Trophy. Scholars have suggested five possible forms for this trophy including a tripod, a ship's ram, a commemorative trophy or a trumpet blowing Nike alighting on a ship's prow (Yon and Szyncer, 1992). The first part of this talk argues for a new sixth form, a bronze statue depicting an armed marine god, Melqart or Ba'al-'Oz, riding a hippocampus, based on the textual and physical evidence, as well as the relevant iconography and mythology (Elayi, 1993).

In Fall 2013, I presented this topic as part of my local AIA chapter's lecture series. After attending this talk, one of my students, excitedly approached me with the idea of creating a 3D clay model of Milkyaton's Trophy, and thus an independent study project was born. The goals and requirements of this project allowed the student to conduct research on ancient Phoenician and classical Greek iconography and art (*LIMC*, 1981). The student then applied that research and their developing artistic skills to conceptualize in a permanent 3-D format a reconstruction of Milkyaton's trophy, as an armed marine god, Melqart or Ba'al-'Oz, riding a hippocampus. A reconstruction of this particular lost late classical Cypro-Phoenician naval victory monument has not been attempted before. The second part of this talk presents a selection of the student's sketches for the model, photos of the model during its sculpting and finally the model itself.

Milkyaton's Trophy celebrates both success in battle and reflects heterogeneous cultural influences, much like the Macdonough memorial, an American naval victory monument comprised of an obelisk crowned by an eagle (Julian, 2012). However, Milkyaton's Trophy also raises questions about the appropriation by the victors of traditional symbols of the defeated. An aspect this trophy's base emphasizes since the first word of its dedicatory inscription is TRPY, the Phoenician transliteration of the Greek word *τρόπαιον* and a *hapax legomenon* (Sznycer, 2001).

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