

“Nestor’s Cup”
later 8th c. B.C.

- This graffito is on a crude cup found in a grave in the Bay of Naples (not at all physically comparable to the one in *Iliad* 11.631-636!). It is the earliest surviving Greek alphabetic inscription of this length.
- The continuous use of right-to-left writing is virtually unique. (On the other hand, there are many examples of inscriptions whose writing snakes along continuously, in alternating lines of left-to-right and right-to-left. This is called *boustrophedon* since it goes along like the “turning of oxen” who plow a field: an example is included in this packet.)
- The complete part of the image is a reconstruction from the damaged original.

Νέστορος: ε[]ι: εὔποτον: ποτέριον:
ὁς δ’ ἂν τῷδε: πίεσι: ποτερίο: αὐτίκα κῆνον
ἥμερος: χαιρέσει: καλλιστεφάνο: Ἀφροδίτες

In the first line εἶμι is perhaps a more likely restoration than ἔρροι (“Nestor’s cup begone! This cup is better.”).

With the alphabet/spellings familiar to us:

Νέστορός εἶμι εὔποτον ποτήριον·
ὁς δ’ ἂν τοῦδε πίησι ποτηρίου αὐτίκα κῆνον [= ἐκεῖνον]
ἥμερος αἰρήσει καλλιστεφάνου Ἀφροδίτης.

I am Nestor’s cup, good to drink from.
Whoever drinks from this cup, straightaway
desire for beautiful-crowned Aphrodite will seize him.

An example of boustrophedon writing:

a funerary inscription on a statue base in the Kerameikos of Athens, ca. 550's B.C.

deceased = Chairedemos

dedicator = his father Amphichares

sculptor = Phaidimos

- ← Χαιρεδεμο: τοδε σεμα: πατερ εστε[σε]
→ [θ]ανοντος: Ανφιχαρ<ε>σ: αγαθον: παιδα ο-
← λοφυρομενος Φαιδιμος εποιε

Χαιρεδήμου τόδε σῆμα πατήρ ἔστησε
θανόντος Ἀμφιχάρης ἀγαθὸν παῖδα
ὀλοφύρομενος. Φαίδιμος ἐποίει.

This tomb of Chairedemos his father Amphichares erected after he died, lamenting a good child. Phaidimos made it.

Athens honors Oiniades
408/7 B.C.

- Note the use of iota adscript not subscript (e.g. ᾱι ῶι ῆι, not ᾱ̣ ῶ̣ ῆ̣).
- Cases where o is written for ou or ε is written for ει are boldfaced and underlined.

Θ ε ο ί
ἔδοξεν τῆι βολῆι καὶ τῶι δήμωι, Ἀντιοχίς ἐπρυτάνευε, Εὐκλείδης ἐγραμμάτευε, Ἱεροκλῆς ἐπεστάτ**ε**, Εὐκτήμων ἦρχε· Διειτρέφης εἶπε· ἐπειδὴ ἀνὴρ ἐστι ἀγαθὸς Οἰνιάδης ὁ Παλαισκιάθιος περὶ τὴν πόλιν τὴν Ἀθηναίων καὶ πρόθυμος ποιεῖν ὅ τι δύναται ἀγαθόν, καὶ εὖ ποιεῖ τὸν ἀφικνόμενον Ἀθηναίων ἐσκίαθον, ἐπαινέσαι τε αὐτῶι καὶ ἀναγράψαι αὐτὸν πρόξενον καὶ εὐεργέτην Ἀθηναίων καὶ τῶς ἐγγόν**ο**ς αὐτῶ, καί...

G o d s.
Resolved by the Boule and the People, Antiochis held the prytany, Euklides was Secretary, Hieroklides presided, Euktemon was Archon. Daitrephes made the motion: Since he is a good man, Oiniades of Palaiskiathos, to the city of the Athenians, and zealous to do whatever good he can, and is of benefit to (any) Athenian who comes to Skiathos,¹ commendation shall be given him and he shall be recorded as proxenos and benefactor of the Athenians and his descendants (as well); and...

¹ ἐσκίαθον = εἰς Σκίαθον

Iliad 2.856-864

- PLATE I, a 2nd c. A.D. papyrus
- PLATE II, a 10th c. manuscript, with scholia

αὐτὰρ Ἀλιζώνων Ὀδῖος καὶ Ἐπίστροφος ἦρχον
Odios and Epistrophos led the Halizones

τηλόθεν ἐξ Ἀλύβης, ὅθεν ἀργύρου ἐστὶ γενέθλη.
from Alybe far away, where silver was first begotten.

Μυσῶν δὲ Χρόμις ἦρχε καὶ Ἔννομος οἰωνιστής·
Chromis, with Ennomos the augur, was lord of the Mysians;

ἄλλ' οὐκ οἰωνοῖσιν ἐρύσσατο κῆρα μέλαιναν,
yet his reading of birds could not keep off dark destruction

ἄλλ' ἐδάμη ὑπὸ χερσὶ ποδώκεος Αἰακίδαο
but he went down under the hands of swift-running Aiakides

ἐν ποταμῷ, ὅθι περ Τρῶας κεράϊζε καὶ ἄλλους.
in the river, as he slew other Trojans beside him.

Φόρκυς αὖ Φρύγας ἦγε καὶ Ἀσκάνιος θεοειδής
Phorkys and godlike Askanios were lords of the Phrygians

τῆλ' ἐξ Ἀσκανίης· μέμασαν δ' ὑσμῖνι μάχεσθαι.
from Askania far away, eager to fight in the onfall.

Μήσοισιν αὖ Μέσθλης τε καὶ Ἄντιφος ἡγησάσθην
Mesthles and Antiphos were leaders of the Maionians,