

A New Inscription of Arrian

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NOT LONG before his untimely death J. H. Kent was able to witness the publication of his volume of inscriptions discovered at Corinth between the years 1926 and 1950.¹ The texts he published have already led to fruitful discussion and further discovery;² doubtless, as scholars scrutinize Kent's edition and additional evidence accumulates, still more will emerge from the Corinthian documents. An elucidation of one of them is offered here.

Inscription no. 124 has been preserved in four fragments.³ Kent perceived clearly their relation to each other and was able to produce the following text:

[φιλ]όσοφ[ον(?).]
[πρεσ]βευτήν [Αὐτοκράτορος]
Καί[σα]ρος Τραια[νοῦ Ἀδρ]ι[ανοῦ]
[Σ]εβα[σ]τοῦ, ἀντιστ[ράτηγ]ον [τῆς]
ἐπαρχ[είας τῆς Καππαδ]οκ[είας. Α.]
[Γ]έλλιος Μ[ένανδρος καὶ Α. Γέλλιος]
[Ἴο]ῦστος υ(ίος) το[ῦ Γελλίου Μενάνδρου]
εὐεργ[εσίας ἔνεκεν].⁴

Kent's restorations are virtually certain (including [φιλ]όσοφ[ον]), and they are particularly valuable because he had no axe to grind.

Of the honorand Kent wrote, "In spite of the fact that he was a governor of Cappadocia and *legatus* of the emperor Hadrian, and may have been given the soubriquet 'philosopher', it is not possible to identify him."⁵ The notion that two posts are mentioned (a legateship and governorship) is mistaken. There should be no comma after

¹ J. H. Kent, *Corinth, Results of excavations conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, VIII pt. 3: *The Inscriptions 1926-1950* (Princeton 1966).

² Cf. L. Robert, "Inscriptions de l'antiquité et du Bas-Empire à Corinthe," *REG* 79 (1966) 733-70.

³ Kent, *op.cit.* pp.55-6. Cf. photographs 124a, 124b (of two fragments together) and 124c on plate 11 of Kent's volume.

⁴ I have reproduced Kent's text exactly: *op.cit.* p.56.

⁵ Kent, *op.cit.* p.56. Cf. J. H. Oliver, *Hesperia* 36 (1967) 56.

[Σ]εβα[σ]τοῦ: we have here one of the normal ways of designating an imperial *legatus pro praetore* (πρεσβευτῆς ἀντιστράτηγος). Cf., e.g., IGRR III 486: πρεσβευτὴν [[Νέρωνος]] Κλαυδίου Καίσαρος Σεβαστο[ῦ] Γερμανικοῦ ἀντικ[σ]τράτηγον, and ILS 1066: leg. imp. Antonini Aug. Pii et divi Hadriani pro pr. prov. Cappad. Now a Hadrianic governor of Cappadocia who was also a philosopher can be only one person, and that is Flavius Arrianus, the pupil of Epictetus and historian of Alexander the Great.⁶ Arrian's governorship of Cappadocia is well attested on stone and in literature; he served there for a number of years.⁷ His reputation as a philosopher is secured by his collection of the *Discourses* of Epictetus, not to mention Cassius Dio's biography of him under the title Ἀρριανὸς ὁ φιλόσοφος.⁸

The identification of the honorand of the present inscription is rendered certain by another fact. Arrian dedicated his *Discourses* of Epictetus to one L. Gellius. There has been suspicion previously that this Gellius was the important Corinthian, L. Gellius Menander, a contemporary of Arrian.⁹ It is precisely L. Gellius Menander who, together with his son Justus, honors the philosophic governor of Cappadocia.¹⁰

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⁶ PIR², F 219.

⁷ IGRR III 111=ILS 8801 (Sebastopolis in Cappadocia, A.D. 137); cf. AE 1905, 175 (Sukhum). Cassius Dio 69.15.1 (under ca. A.D. 134) records the repulse of the Alani by Arrian as governor, and Arrian himself told the story in his *Ἐκταξίς κατὰ Ἀλανῶν*. D. Magie, *Roman Rule in Asia Minor II* (Princeton 1950) 1593, registers Arrian as governor of Cappadocia from 134 to 137 (manifestly on the basis of the testimonia just quoted). Arrian, *Periplus* 17, seems to refer to a date of 131/2 (cf. PIR², F 219), but it is not clear whether Arrian was governor at the time. He was evidently succeeded by L. Burbuleius Optatus Ligurianus (ILS 1066, quoted above in my text).

⁸ Cf. G. Wirth, "Ἀρριανὸς ὁ φιλόσοφος" *Klio* 41 (1963) 221–3. See also P. A. Stadter, "Flavius Arrianus: the New Xenophon," *GRBS* 8 (1967) 155–61.

⁹ F. Millar, "Epictetus and the Imperial Court," *JRS* 55 (1965) 142. On L. Gellius Menander, PIR², G 132, with Kent, *op.cit.* nos. 125, 135, 137.

¹⁰ Hence PIR², G 125 (the Gellius in Arrian) no longer warrants a separate entry.