

Summary

Two Stelae Depicting Funerary Meals From Myndos

The two stelae discussed in this article are today in the Bodrum Museum and were most probably discovered in Myndos, today called Gümüşlük. The antique city of Myndos, what little remains of it today, is situated on the west coast of the Caria Peninsula close to Halicarnassus (Bodrum).

According to the Museum records, Stele I, which depicts a scene of a funerary meal, must have come from Myndos (Gümüşlük). The main subject of this representation is a male figure reclining on the *kline*, who can be considered to have been immortalised by this posture and by the *Rhyton* he holds in his right hand. On the right side of him, a woman is sitting. We observe that the woman is depicted as a *Pudicitia* or *Pudicitia Saufeia* from the way she carries her mantle and holds her arm, while with her right hand, she holds her mantle close to her chin. Judging from stylistic criteria, Stele I can be dated to the 3rd quarter of the 2nd century B.C.

A similar representation can be observed carved on Stele II. In this scene, the man reclining on the *kline* can also be considered to have been immortalised with the picture of a snake and also by the *Rhyton* held in his right hand. The position of the man's feet and the way the woman sits in front of him are seen as rare examples of the depiction of this pose within the iconography of votive stele. Since the upper part of the woman's body is not covered, but exposed, she can also be considered to have been immortalised. With regard to stylistic criteria, this stele can be dated to the same period as stele I, to between 160 and 150 B.C.

Although information about where Stele II was found is not recorded in the Museum records, both stelae can be understood to have originated from the same workshop, because of the resemblances shared between them, and this sculptural workshop most probably was located at Myndos.