Stephanos of Byzantion s.v. Κόριον

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The article of Stephanos on Korion is given in Meineke’s edition (p.374, 12-15) in the following form:

Κόριον, τόπος ἐν Κρήτῃ ἀπὸ κόρης τινός. ὁ πολίτης Κορήσιος. καὶ λίμνη Κορησία. καὶ Ἀθηνᾶς ἵερον Κορησίας. ταῦτα δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ κόρη γέγονεν. ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ Κόριον τὸ ἀνάλογον Κοριεύς.

The mention of a λίμνη led Pendlebury to identify Korion with a site near Lake Kournas in Crete, south of Kavallos Metokhi. P. Faure described Pendlebury’s site as a Roman village, and M. S. F. Hood thought that it was mediaeval or later; neither favoured the identification with Korion.

In fact, there is no need to look for Korion beside a lake. In the Stephanos article the words from ὁ πολίτης to γέγονεν inclusive are quite clearly not at home here: they belong at the end of the article s.v. Κορησίας, where Stephanos discusses Keian Kores(s)os. The article s.v. Κορησίας should end: καὶ Κορησία πολέμιον τῆς Κέω καὶ ἐπίνειον. ὁ πολίτης Κορήσιος. καὶ λίμνη Κορησίας. καὶ Ἀθηνᾶς ἵερον Κορησίας. ταῦτα δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ κόρη γέγονεν. Λέγεται τῶν Μάλιδα παρὰ λίμναν in Sophokles, Trachiniai 636 may be compared.

The vague folk-etymology of Korion ἀπὸ κόρης τινός gives no help in identifying the maiden named in Stephanos’ source. Servius on Aeneid 3.111 (1.362 Thilo), however, makes some relevant comments on the Corybantes: quos quidam Corybantes dictos ideo tradunt, ἀπὸ τῆς Κόρης; Corybas enim Proserpina, quae Κόρη dicitur Graece, sine patre

1 The Archaeology of Crete (London 1939) 370. For Lake Kournas see also RE 11.2 (1922) 1734–35 and ICr II, Map.
2 BCH 84 (1960) 206.
3 BSA 61 (1966) 169 n.23.
natus. alii Corybantes ab aere appellatos, quod apud Cyprum mons sit aeris ferax, quem ἤκτυρμον coriam vocant. Corybantes are more to be expected in Crete than in Cyprus; Servius is remarking on a Cretan context in the Aeneid; and so Hill suggested that Cyprum may be a mistake here, the reference being to Korion in Crete. It is thus possible that in local Cretan myth Korion was associated both with mining or metal working and with the Corybantes, as well as with Persephone; but the τινῶς of Stephanos shows that he had not properly understood his source. It is worth noting, incidentally, that Koreion at Akrai in Sicily means a sanctuary of Κόρη (IG XIV 217).

Who was the source? Almost certainly he was Xenion, the historian of Crete (FGrHist 460), the principal authority used by Stephanos for information about the island. The dependence on Xenion in the article s.v. Κόριον would be certain if we could securely emend the entry s.v. Κάντανος to include a reference to Κόριον.

The article on Kantanos is given in Meineke’s edition (p.354) as follows: Κάντανος, τόλιπ Κρήτης ός Ξενίων ἐν περιορίου Κρήτικον τόπου. τὸ ἑθνικόν Καντάνιος. (τόπου RV, τόπου Πp, τόπω Α).

Seeing that περιορίου is corrupt, the editor commented “tenebricosa verba nemo dum expedivit. scribendum videtur ός Ξενίων. ἐν [τῷ] περὶ ὁ Πριου.” He therefore supposed a place Orion to exist, and for it he provided a hypothetical entry on p.495. He admitted that an Orion is not known elsewhere; “at Orios (ταύτῃ ὁ Ορλοῦς) habes apud Polyb. 4, 53.” Polybius here refers to the confederation of the Oreioi, who are also known from their treaty with Magas of Kyrene (Inscriptiones Creticae II, Lisos 1) and from coins. Hence in this fragment of Xenion, it has been supposed, there is a corrupt reference to the confederation of the Oreioi.

However, Orion is not elsewhere attested as a Cretan place name; Oreioi—the people—cannot be a τόπος; and their land is called Orea, not Orion, in their treaty with Magas. As Jacoby says: “Gegen die eingührung der ὁ Πριου bestehen palaeographische und sachliche bedenken.” Xenion’s work is known solely as Περὶ Κρήτης or Κρήτικα; so there is no point in emending to ἐν περιοδῳ Κρήτικων τόπων (FHG

4 Sir George Hill, A History of Cyprus (Cambridge 1949) 86 n.2.
5 P. Faure, BullBudé 1960, p.229, discusses Stephanos’ dependence on Xenion for Κρήτικα.
6 H. van Effenterre, La Crète et le monde grec de Platon à Polybe (Paris 1948 [1968]) 120-21. See also J. N. Svoronos, ArchEph 1889, 206ff; Guarducci, ICr II p.213; eadem, RivFC n.s. 16 (1938) 50-51.
7 On FGrHist 460 p 8, n.24.
4.528–529). We need, not an ethnic, but a place name discussed by Stephanos himself. The name will be in the genitive following περί, will contain the element -οπων, and will be in west Crete, as is Kantanos.

The difficulty over "Οπων is removed if for the corrupt περιοποιου we substitute περί Κορίου, but it must be admitted that there is no particular reason for supposing Xenion to have connected Kantanos with Korion. A possible text s.v. Κάντανος is: πόλει Κρήτης, ὦς Ξενίων ἐν <τῷ> περὶ Κορίου Κρητικοῦ τόπου. τὸ ἐθνικὸν Καντάνος. περί Κορίου would refer, not to a distinct work, but to a part of Xenion's Kretika.

Korion, as we have seen, is not likely to have been situated near Lake Kournas. It may however have been the name of an ancient settlement near Melambe (Βουλγάρη 'Αρμοκάστελλα) in the province of Ayios Vasilios. From here came an inscription mentioning ἄ πεντηκοστός ἄ πόλιος Κωρίων. The neighbourhood has been described by Hood and Warren. If ancient Korion was in fact near Melambe, then it lay at a considerable distance from Kantanos; in that case the proposed emendation of Stephanos s.v. Κάντανος becomes less likely. Alternatively we may look for Korion nearer to Kantanos. The form Κωρίων is, however, some support for the identification of the site near Melambe with Κόριον.

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January, 1970

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8 Mueller's alternative suggestion (FHG, loc.cit.) was ἐν Παρορίῳ (-ίον) Κρητικῷ τόπῳ. He also tried ἐν παρορίῳ Κρητικῆς τόπῳ. ἐν παρορίῳ Κρητικῆς τόπῳ (Kirsten, RE 18.1 [1939] 1063 s.v. Ορίον) has also been suggested.

9 N. Platon, Κρητικὰ Χρονικὰ 13 (1959) 391. If κωρίων is not a proper noun, it can hardly be a genitive plural of κόρη, a Doric diminutive of κόρη. This Doric form was supplied by Elmsley at Ar. Ach. 731. I have not seen the inscription.

10 BSA 61 (1966) 169–70.

11 I am grateful to Dr Peter Warren for discussion.