

Stephanos of Byzantium s.v. Κόριον

George Huxley

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 ἱερὸν 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.¹ P. Faure described Pendlebury's site as a Roman village,² and M. S. F. Hood thought that it was mediaeval or later;³ 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 *γένονεν* inclusive are quite clearly not at home here: they belong at the end of the article s.v. *Κορησσός*, where Stephanos discusses Keian Kores(s)os. The article s.v. *Κορησσός* should end: *καὶ Κορησία πολίχνιον τῆς Κέω καὶ ἐπίνειον. ὁ πολίτης Κορήσιος. καὶ λίμνη Κορησία. καὶ Ἀθηνᾶς ἱερὸν Κορησίας. ταῦτα δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ κόρη γέγονεν.* The *λίμνη* mentioned here is the great natural inlet, the best harbour in Keos, in the north of the island. Its modern name is Ay. Nikolaos. Ancient Koressia lay on its southern shore. For the use of *λίμνη* to mean an arm of the sea, *Μαλίδα πὰρ 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 ἱ 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 †cypri 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.⁴ 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 *τινός* 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.⁵ 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, πόλις Κρήτης ὡς Ξενίων ἐν περιορίου Κρητικοῦ τόπου. τὸ ἐθνικὸν Καντάνιος. (τόπου RV, τύπου Pp, τόπω A).*

Seeing that *περιορίου* is corrupt, the editor commented "tenebricosa verba nemo dum expedit. scribendum videtur ὡς Ξενίων. ἐν [τῷ] περὶ Ὀρίου." 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 (τοὺς Ὀρίους) 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, Liso 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.⁶

However, Orion is not elsewhere attested as a Cretan place name; Oreioi—the people—cannot be a *τόπος*; and their land is called Oreia, not Orion, in their treaty with Magas. As Jacoby says:⁷ "Gegen die einföhrung der Ὀριοι bestehen palaeographische und sachliche bedenken." Xenion's work is known solely as *Περὶ Κρήτης* or *Κρητικά*; so there is no point in emending to *ἐν περιόδῳ Κρητικῶν 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 *Κρητικά*.

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 F 8, n.24.

4.528–529).⁸ 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 *-οριου*, and will be in west Crete, as is Kantanos.

The difficulty over *Ὀριοι* is removed if for the corrupt *περιορίου* we substitute *περὶ 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: *πόλις Κρήτης, ὡς Ξενίων ἐν <τῷ> περὶ Κορίου Κρητικοῦ τόπου. τὸ ἐθνικὸν Καντάνιος. περὶ 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 Melambes (*Βουλγάρη Ἀρμυοκάστειλλα*) in the province of Ayios Vasilios. From here came an inscription mentioning *ἅ πεντηκοστὸς ἅ πόλιος Κωρίων*.⁹ The neighbourhood has been described by Hood and Warren.¹⁰ If ancient Korion was in fact near Melambes, 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 Melambes with *Κόριον*.¹¹

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⁸ Mueller's alternative suggestion (*FHG, loc.cit.*) was *ἐν Παρορίου (-είου) Κρητικῷ τόπῳ*. He also tried *ἐν παρορίῳ Κρητικῆς τόπῳ. ἐν παρωρείῳ Κρήτης τόπῳ* (Kirsten, *RE* 18.1 [1939] 1063 *s.v.* *ΟΡΙΟΙ*) has also been suggested.

⁹ N. Platon, *Κρητικὰ Χρονικά* 13 (1959) 391. If *κωρίων* is not a proper noun, it can hardly be a genitive plural of *κώριον*, 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.