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Antalya, 20. July. 1992

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Attention of: Mr. Lawrence Kaye

C O O P E N F I D E N T I A L

The surfaces of the break between the lower and upper parts of the statue are so smooth that one might think that they had been cut with a knife. Breaks of this kind can be observed in both statues and reliefs from Side Perge and elsewhere. Such smooth breaks are surprising, and, so far as I am aware, no-one has produced an explanation for them. In 1949, during the excavation of the Official Agora (Building M) at Side (1) was found a marble statue of Hygieia (2), the Goddess of Health, which is now in the Side Museum.

The statue is 2.10 m high and exceptionally well preserved, only the left hand being lost. Of the face, nose, mouth and chin are damaged. The statue was found in three pieces: head, upper part of the body, the hips, lower part of the body. In this case, too, the breaks were so smooth that they appeared to have been cut with a knife. Subsequently, they were stuck together by the restorer. While installing the statue in the new museum in Side in 1961 and while it was being <sup>up</sup>hauled up by a pulley above its base, a terrible accident occurred: the lower part of the statue including the ~~lower~~ knees broke away from the rest and fell. Luckily, no harm was caused, because by good fortune the statue was by now poised only a short distance above its intended location on the base. Both surfaces of the break were also smooth and looked as if cut with a knife. Moreover, they were completely covered with thread-like dry roots which had spread over the marble like a spider's web (3). This leads to the conclusion that such smooth breaks are not the result of a sudden shock caused by falling, but of a long process of penetration by roots. When sculptures are buried for centuries under rubble and earth, vegetation inevitably develops above and sends down roots which spread into the marble and form a tratum resembling a spider's web. Externally these sculptures usually show no cracks, as the case of the statue of

Hygieia proves.

As a further example of the way in which such breaks originate, I would like to mention a marble sarcophagus decorated with Erotes which was found in 1951 in a mausoleum in the eastern necropolis of Side.<sup>(4)</sup> When excavated, the sarcophagus appeared to be intact. Through a hole in its lid grew a fig- tree. We faced the problem of transporting the sarcophagus, which measured 2.22 m. long, 1.10 m. wide and 0.95 m. high, to the museum. The mausoleum was situated in the midst of sand dunes, far from the village street. We started by trying to lift off the lid, but as we did so we realized that it was not in one piece, as it seemed to be, but broken into many. As we removed each piece, we were able to observe that it had the typically smooth broken surface I have described in connection with the Hygieia.

After removing and sorting the fragments of the lid, we had to devise a method of transporting the box of the sarcophagus, which, too, at first looked as if it were intact,<sup>(5)</sup> but on closer inspection proved to have been split into many pieces by the roots of the fig. tree. As we raised the individual pieces, we could observe the smooth breaks which appeared to have been cut with a knife, and which were covered with a stratum of fine roots resembling a spider's web. To transport the pieces to the Old museum was a relatively simple operation. Once there, they were carefully washed, after which we began to reconstruct the box, starting with the bottom of the box and fitting together the <sup>2</sup>exactly-joining fragments which were held in position with ropes. When the whole had been recomposed in this way, it held together by itself and no adhesive was required. We reconstructed the lid in the same way, though some parts of this needed internal timber supports. The same procedure was followed when the sarcophagus was dismantled

and transferred to the New Museum in 1961. It is only recently that it has been taken to pieces again and reassembled with a modern adhesive. The photographs <sup>(6)</sup> show it before this last restoration. Characteristic of these breaks caused by roots is that they are hardly visible. The circumstances in which the sarcophagus was found, showed that it had been buried for many centuries under rubble and soil. The damage resulted from the roots of the fig. tree and of other *plants*.

During my 46 years as an excavator, I have been able to observe many such cases. It is important to note that such breaks are only met with in works which have been long buried under rubble. When separated in this way, the fragments are usually found in close proximity to each other. One can recognize breaks of this kind even after they have been stuck together again, by their straightness and by the fact that there is no gap between the lips of the join. The cleanness of the break between the upper and lower parts of the Hercules statue suggests that they must have been lying very close together. The statue probably fell from the niche in one piece, after which the present break developed slowly.

We found the lower <sup>(5)</sup> part of the Hercules statue lying on its in an east-west direction in front of the niche in which it originally stood. As we were digging from east to west, we would have expected to come upon the upper part of the statue first. The day before we uncovered the lower part of the Hercules, the robbers, who were undoubtedly workmen employed in the excavations, must have caught a glimpse of a piece of marble lying in the ground and returned to it at night to dig it out and remove it.

I base this conclusion on a parallel occurrence in the same *season* during the excavation of the South Baths. In the *Natatio* we found a fragment of a Hercules statuette (Excavation Inv. No. 80116,

Museum Inv. No. 18.7.8 + 4.13.81), of which too, by a strange coincidence, the upper part was missing. As the result of a timely denunciation, museum officials were able to recover this piece from the thief's garden.

He had noticed, before stopping work in the evening, that there was something lying under the rubble. When all the other workmen had left the site, he returned with a friend, dug the piece out and buried it in his garden. It exactly fitted the lower part of the statuette we had found. This case and that of the Hercules statue were so similar that our suspicions inevitably fall on the same person in both.

Notes:

1. A. M. Mansel. Bericht über Ausgrabungen in Pamphylien in den Jahren 1946-1955, im Archäologischen Anzeiger 1956, 58 ff. Fig. 18-26; A. M. Mansel, Die Ruinen von Side (1963); A.M. Mansel, Side (1947-1966) Yil lari kazilari ve Araştır malarinin Sonuç lari nim (1978) 170 ff. Fig. 185-206.
2. J. Inan, Roman Sculpture in Side (1975) 98 ff. No. 36 Pls. XLV, 1-2, XLVI, 1-2
3. ibid 98, note 478
4. A. M. Mansel, Die Ruinen von Side, 187 Fig. 155-156.
5. ibid Fig 155
6. J. Inan, Opcit, Pl. III, 2, A.M. Mansel, Side (1947-196 Yillari Kazilari ve arastirmalarinin sonuclari) 295 Fig. 330-331

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We found the lower <sup>(5)</sup> part of the Hercules statue lying on its *front* in an east-west direction in front of the niche in which it originally stood. As we were digging from east to west, we would have expected to come upon the upper part of the statue first. The day before we uncovered the lower part of the Hercules, the robbers, who were undoubtedly workmen employed in the excavations, must have caught a glimpse of a piece of marble lying in the ground and returned to it at night to dig it out and remove it.

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