

answering this Purpose, there may be also some offensive or useful Qualities annexed, it may not be amiss perhaps to review some Part of the *Materia medica* for this End.

I shall add, that, besides this extraordinary Power in preserving Bodies, I have discover'd in some of these Substances a sweetening or correcting Quality after Putrefaction had actually begun. But these Experiments I shall lay before the *Society* some other time; with a Table of the comparative Force of Salts, and some further Remarks on the same Subject.

N. B. *These Experiments will be continued in the next Number of these Transactions.*

XVI. *An attempt to explain an antient Greek inscription, ingraven upon a curious bronze cup with two handles, and published with a draught of the cup by Dr. Pococke, in his Description of the East, Vol. II. Part 2. pag. 207. By John Ward, Pr. Rhet. Gresh. and F. R. S.*

Read June 28.
1750. **T**HE diameter of the cup on the inside is about thirteen inches and a half, as near as I could take it from a copy of the inscription, which is placed round the upper side of the rim. A draught of which is hereunto annexed, reduced to about two thirds of the size (1); and

(1) See TAB. II. Fig. 3.

and may also be seen in Dr. *Pococke*, with only this difference, that the characters on the cup are not cut in continued lines, as in the doctor's plate, but consist of separate points placed in the form of letters, as here represented. Letters expressed in this manner appear upon several antient coins; and may likewise be seen in the silver plates, found not long since in *Hertfordshire*, and published in these *Transactions* (1). As to the circular form of the inscription, we read in *Pausanias* of an instance not very much unlike this. *Iphitus* king of *Elis* is said to have restored the Olympic games, during which all hostilities ceased among the several states of *Peloponnesus*. Throwing the *discus* or *quoit* was one of the exercises performed in those games, and the *discus* of *Iphitus* was deposited in the temple of *Juno* at *Olympia*; upon which the cessation of arms, always observed at that solemnity, being engraved was then publicly read. Which inscription, as the historian observes, was not cut in strait lines, but in the form of a circle. Tho' whether the letters were placed on the face of the *discus*, or upon the edge, like some modern coins, is not expressly said. The words are these: Ταύτην [ἐκεχειρίαν] ἢκ ἐς εὐθύς ἔχει γεγραμμένην, ἀλλὰ ἐς κύκλω σχῆμα περιείσιν ἐπὶ τῷ δίσκῳ τὰ γράμματα. That is: *Hæc* [induciae] *non recto versuum ordine sunt inscriptæ, sed literis in disco orbem ambientibus* (2).

But

(1) *Num.* 476.

(2) *Pausanias*, *Lib. v. c. 20. p. 427. ed. Lips.* 1626. Where *Pet Faber* for ἐς εὐθύς reads ἐς εὐθύ, *Agonist. Lib. II. c. 26.*

But I return to the inscription on the cup, which, as I apprehend, may be thus read in the common *Greek* characters.

Μ Ν Δ
 ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΓΗΣ ΕΥΠΑΤΩΡ
 ΤΟΙΣ ΕΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΙΣΤΑΙΖ
 ΓΥΦΑ vel ΓΟΥΦΑ ΔΙΑΞΩΣΕ.

In *Latin* thus :

Monumentum dedit
Rex Mithradates Eupator Eupatoridis
in gymnasio [vel intra gymnasium]
Gypha [vel Gupha] servavit.

I. The letters Μ Ν Δ stand by themselves over the rest, which are placed below them in the form of a circle; which circle is made up of the four segments here put one under another, when united in one orbicular line. And the situation of these three letters in the annexed draught shews, over what words of the circular part they are placed. All the words from ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ to ΕΥΠΑΤΟΡΙΣΤΑΙΖ take in above half the circumference of the rim of the cup; and the division of this last word was occasioned, as I suppose, by one of the handles being fixed there. The two last words stand at a considerable distance from the rest, on the remaining part of the rim.

II. If those three letters above the rest are not a date, they may, as I conjecture, stand for *μνημόσυνον δῶκε* for *ἔδωκε*, without the augment. Where the word *μνημόσυνον* seems to be used in the same sense, as we meet with it in *Catullus*, when he says, *Verum est μνημόσυνον mei sodalis* (1).

III.

(1) *Epigram. ad Asinium.*

III. In the circular line *Μιθραδάτης* is put for *Μιθριδάτης*, as his name is usually written. And so it is spelt in two other inscriptions, both found by *Spon* in the isle of *Delos*, at a considerable distance from each other, and published in his *Voyage d'Italie etc* (1). The like spelling may also be seen both on the coins of this prince (2), and in the edition of *Tacitus* published by *Lipsius*. These inscriptions were cut on the remaining pedestals of two statues, which had formerly been placed there, one in honour of *Mithridates Euergetes* the father of this prince, and the other of himself. I shall here transcribe them both, as they will serve to illustrate that on the cup. The former runs thus :

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ
 ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΣ
 ΜΑΡΑΘΟΝΙΟΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΩΝ.

In Latin :

*Regis Mithradatis Euergetae Seleucus
 Marathonus gymnasio praefectus
 statuam posuit.*

The latter is as follows :

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ ΕΥ
 ΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΕΥΤΥΧ.....ΤΟΥ
 ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ
 ΔΙΟΝΤΣΙΟΣ ΝΕΣ.....ΝΟΣ
 ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΗ
 ΣΑΣ ΑΝΕΘΗΚΕΝ.

In Latin :

Regis

(1) *Tom. III. pag. 86.*

(2) *Numism. Pembroch. Par. II. tab. 66.*

Regis Mithradatis Eupatoris Eutyche. filii Mithradatis Energetae Dionysius Neseus Atheniensis gymnasio praefectus posuit statuam.

It appears highly probable by these inscriptions, that there was a *gymnasium* (1), or college, at that time in *Delos*. And the same writer observes, that near to the former he found eleven pillars standing without chapiters, and others lying on the ground. At which place, as he says, the inhabitants of the neighbouring isles (for *Delos* was then uninhabited) have a tradition, that a college antiently stood; and he further adds, that the corsairs still continue to call this island by the name of *The schools* (2). And therefore it is not improbable, that this cup, which some years since was found in the port of *Antium*, and (as Dr. *Pococke* says) is now placed among the antiquities of the capitol at Rome, might formerly have been brought from that island: and the name *Eupatoridae* given to those of the college, in honour of this king *Mithridates*, their benefactor; who seems to have been pleased with the name *Eupator*, ascribed to him in the latter inscription, since he built a city in *Paphlagonia*, which he called *Eupatoria*, as we are told by *Pliny* (3) and *Appian* (4). By the latter of whom we learn also, that he was fond

(1) By the word *gymnasium* among the Greeks was meant a number of contiguous buildings, with portico's and open walks, so disposed as to be fitted, some for bodily exercises, and others for the study of the liberal arts and sciences.

(2) *Tom. I. pag. 177.*

(3) *Nat. Hist. Lib. VI. cap. 2.*

(4) *Rom. Hist. pag. 251, ed. Steph.*

fond of fine ornaments, and elegant furniture ; and had made a vast collection of them, of which vases were always esteemed a considerable part (1). The imperfect word ΕΥΤΥΧ. which follows *Eupatoris* in the same inscription, may perhaps stand for ΕΥΤΥΧΟΣ, *Eutycheis*, or *Felicis* ; as that word occurs at length in another inscription discovered by *Spon* in the same island, of which the two names ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ ΕΥΤΥΧΟΥ then only remained (2). Tho indeed I have not met with that name elsewhere ascribed to *Mithridates* ; notwithstanding *Cicero* mentions a large catalogue of extravagant titles, which had been heaped upon him by his flatterers. *Mithridatem*, sais he, *Deum, illum Patrem, illum Conservatorem Asiae, illum Euium, Nysium, Bacchum, Liberum nominabant* (3). But yet it is possible, that the title *Eutyches* might have been given him, on account of his great success in war for many years. As *Sylla* afterwards assumed that of *Felix*, for the like reason ; and upon his triumph at *Rome*, for his victory over that powerful prince, had also his other titles of *Conservator* and *Pater* ascribed to him, as we are told by *Plutarch* (4). These inscriptions give us also the names of two presidents of that college, the former of whom is called *Seleucus of Marathon* ; and the latter *Dionysius of Athens*, who might possibly have taken the

(1) *Rom. Hist.* pag. 251. ed. Szepb.

(2) *Tom.* III. pag. 87.

(3) *Pro Flacc.* c. 25.

(4) *Vit. Syll.* *Tom.* v. p. 865. ed. Steph. See likewise *Pigkii Annot.* ad *A. U.* 672.

the name *Dionysius* from his patron *Mithridates*, who besides the name *Eupator* assumed also that of *Dionysus* as the same author relates (1). But the second name of this latter president *Nes. . . nus* being imperfect, I am at a loss how to fill it up.

IV. The letters next following *Ευπαλωρ* upon the cup I take to stand for *τοῖς ἐνὸς*; tho they are strangely confused, by reason of a mistake, which seems to have been made at first in writing the inscription. In the word *γυμνασίῳ* the two letters *να* are united in one character. And as to the expression *ἐνὸς γυμνασίῳ*, which here refers to place, and not to time, as it more usually does; *Hesychius* has, *ἐντὸς τοῦ σώματος*; *Phavorinus*, *ἐνὸς οἰκίας*; and *Apollonius Rhodius*, as cited by *H. Steph.* *ἐνὸς ἄστεος*. And in the word *Ευπαλορίσταιζ*, the letters *στ* are put for *δ*, and *ζ* for *ς*.

V. Of the two last words upon the cup, which (as has been observed) stand separate from the rest, the former is a proper name; but whether the first character in it was designed only for a *Γ*, or a combination of the two letters *ΓΟ*, I am not certain. In the following word *διάξωζε* without the augment, for *διέσωσε*, *ξ* is put for *σ*; and likewise *ζ*, as in the preceding word *Ευπαλορίσταιζ*. I should have been led to imagine, that *Gypha*, or *Gupha*, might be the name of the sculptor, and *διάξωζε* stand for *διέξυσε*, *exsculpsit* or *persculpsit*; it being a common practice for artists to set their own names to their works; had it not appeared an objection to this, that

(1) *Ibid.* pag. 250. See also *Plus. Sympos.* L. I. q. 6.

that the inscription is no better executed; and likewise that neither the form, nor combination, of the letters seems to suit with the age of *Mithridates*. I am therefore inclined to think, that the cup did not come into the hands of this person till a considerable time afterwards; who seems to have been no great scribe, but was willing however to preserve both the memory of so curious a vase, and his own as the possessor of it.

As the several variations from the common manner of spelling, which occur in this inscription, are to be met with in *Greek* writers; I shall trouble this Assembly with no further remarks upon them, than just to observe, that *Lucian* in his humorous discourse, intitled *Judicium vocalium*, complains, that among many other innovations, which had then crept into the language, τ had invaded the place of δ , and both ξ and ζ that of σ .

Thus I have attempted to offer my thoughts upon this intricate inscription, and explain it in such a manner, as appeared to me the most probable, from a copy of it, communicated to me some years since by *Smart Lithieullier* esquire, a worthy member of this Society, who had it from Father *Revillas* at *Rome*.

G. C. *Sept.* 15.
1749.

John Ward.

Postscript.

Spon was at *Delos* in the month of *August* 1675, when he copied the two inscriptions mentioned above. But it seems to be owing to the smallness of his page, that the former of them is printed in four lines;

for *Wheeler*, who took it at the same time, brings it into three, in the following manner:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΣ (¹) ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ
 ΕΤΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΣ
 ΜΑΡΑΘΟΝΙΟΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΩΝ (²).

Tournefort, who was there in *October* 1700, confirms this draught of *Wheeler*, as to the form of it; and says, the inscription was cut upon a square pedestal, two feet five inches high, and two feet one inch broad. And as part of it was defaced at the beginning of the lines, I have here transcribed the copy published by him, of what then remained.

..... ΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ
 ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΣ
 Σ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΩΝ (³)

But Dr. *Anthony Askew*, a worthy member of this Society, who was there in *October* 1747, tho he found the pedestal pretty much broken, in the manner described by *Tournefort*; yet observed more letters of the inscription then remaining, than are given us by him. The difference will appear by the following copy, with which the Doctor was pleased to oblige me out of his large and curious collection of inscriptions, and other valuable antiquities:

..... Σ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ
 ΟΥ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΣ
 Σ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΩΝ.

The

(1) The O in this word seems to be a mistake in the print for Ω.

(2) *Travels*, pag. 56.

(3) *Voyage du Levant*, Tom. I. pag. 297. a Paris 1717. qu.

The latter inscription mentioned above, as erected in honour of *Mithridates Eupator*, was found, as *Spon* informs us, upon a round basis, at a great distance from the other. It is likewise taken notice of by *Wheeler*, tho he has given no draught of it. But *Tournefort* supposes it to have been gon, before he was there; because, upon searching for it, he could not find it. Which indeed is not to be wondered at; since we are told by *Spon*, that *Delos* being intirely in ruins, and without any inhabitants, the antient remains, being of *Parian* marble, are frequently carried away by strangers, either for curiosity or use.

However *Tournefort* discovered part of another pedestal, in the shape of a cylinder, not far from the former of the two already mention'd. It lay half buried in the sand, but being opened and washed, an imperfect inscription was found upon it. The remaining words of which are these:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΝΙΚΟΜΗΔ..
 ΤΟΥ ΕΥΓΟΝΟΥ (1) ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ
 ΝΙΚΟΜΕΔΟΥ (2) ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ
 ... ΚΟΥΡΙΑΗΣ (3) ΔΙΟΣΚΟΡΙΔΟΥ
 ΡΑΜΝΟΥΣΙΟΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΟ..

In Latin thus :

Regis

(1) I am obliged likewise to *Dr. Askew* for a copy of this inscription, taken by himself; by which it appears, that *Υ* in this word is a mistake for *Γ*, as the Doctor has written it.

(2) The *Ε* in this word is also a mistake for *Η*, as it is written in the first line here, and by *Dr. Askew* in both places.

(3) I take this to be the same name as the following; the middle syllable of which is usually written with *Ο*, but sometimes with *ΟΥ*. See *Grut. pag. LXXXVI. num. 2.*

*Regis Nicomedis nepotis regis Nicomedis Epiphanis
Dioscorides Dioscoridis Ramnusius praefectus
gymnasio statuam posuit.*

King *Nicomedes*, to whose honour this inscription was erected, is here called ἐγγονός, that is *grandson*, of *Nicomedes Epiphanes* king of *Bithynia*. Which seems to confirm the account of *Appian*, who gives the name *Nicomedes* to the three last *Bithynian* kings. The first of whom being, as he saith, the son of *Prusias* (and here stiled *Epiphanes*) was succeeded first by his son *Nicomedes Philopator*, and then by his grandson, whom he calls barely *Nicomedes*, without subjoining any *cognomen*, agreeably to this inscription. And he further adds, that it was this last, who left his kingdom to the Roman people by his will (1). Which bequest was made in the year of the city 679, and was soon followed by their third and last war with *Mithridates Eupator* (2). Some have supposed this account of *Appian* to be erroneous, through a mistake in the copies; because other writers generally mention but one *Bithynian* king, as successor to *Nicomedes Epiphanes*, who was also named *Nicomedes*, made the Roman state his heir, and has been taken for his son (3). But the inscription, by calling this latter the *grandson* of the former, as *Appian* does, corroborates his account; who likewise saith expressly, that his son *Philopator*

was

(1) *Rom. Hist.* pag. 175, ed. *Steph.*

(2) *Figb. Annal. Rom.*

(3) See *Vaillant, Achemened. imper. Tom. II. pag. 345, 354.*

was confirmed in his father's kingdom by a decree of the Roman senate (1).

I thought it proper to take notice of this inscription, not only as it seems to clear up the succession of the *Bithynian* kings; but likewise as it contains the name of a third president of the college in *Delos*, and shews the regard that was paid to it by the princes of different countries in *Asia*.

J. W.

XVII. *A Letter from Mr. Henry Baker F. R. S. to the President, containing Abstracts of several Observations of Auroræ Boreales lately seen.*

S I R,

Read June 28, 1750. **O**N Monday the 23d of January last, some unusual Appearances were observed in the Sky, at *London*, and the Towns about it,

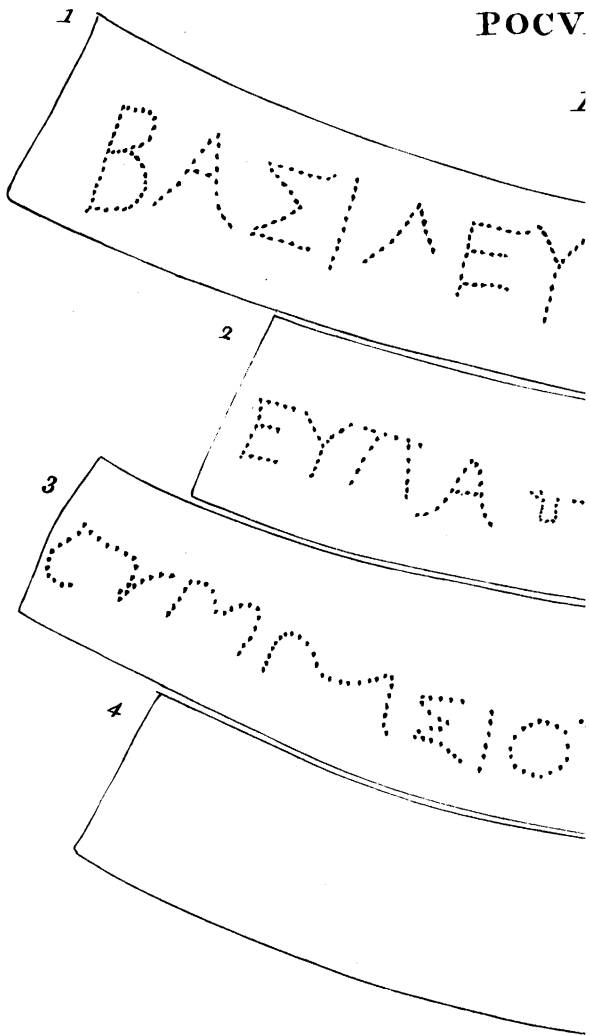
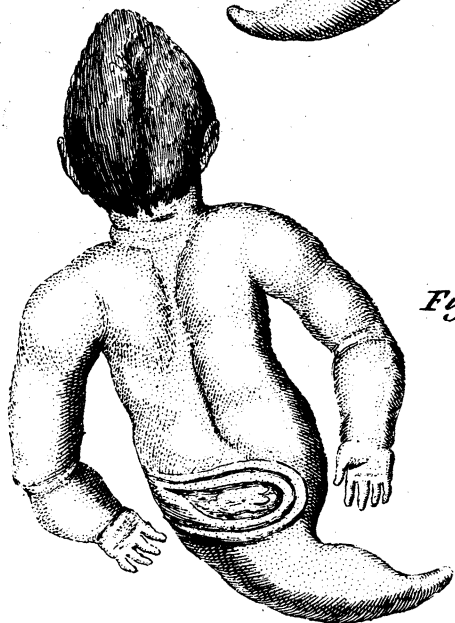
(1) *Vaillant* has given us the impression of an head upon a silver tetradrachm, with this title placed over it, *Nicomedes Epiphanes rex Nicomediae*; whom he takes to have been the grandfather of *Prusias*: *Achemened. imp. Tom. II. p. 304*. And *Dr. Mead* has such a coin in his collection with these words on the reverse, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΝΙΚΟΜΗΔΟΥΣ. Where *Epiphanis* the cognomen stands first, as it sometimes does in ancient writers: *Cic. Orat. c. 27*. An impression also of a similar coin, with the head on one side, and the same legend on the other, may be seen among the *Numismata Penbroch. Par. II. tab. 69*. But *Vaillant* says, that he had not met with any coin, which had on it the head of *Nicomedes Epiphanes* the son of *Prusias*, to whom the inscription refers, which is cut on the stone. *Ubi supra, pag. 355*.

Fig. 1.



p. 479.

Fig. 2.



POCVII INSCRIPTIO.

Fig. 3. p. 488.

ΕΥΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΤΕΣ
ΜΝΑ ΤΟΥ
ΠΤΡΙΝΟΥ
ΤΟΡΙΣΤΑΙΣ
ΟΥΕΥΤΑ
ΟΥΑ ΔΙΑΒΟΥΣΕ

POCVLI INSCRIPTIO.

Fig. 3. p. 488.

Fig. 1.



p. 479.



Fig. 2.

1
 ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΤΗΣ

2
 ΕΥΤΙΑ ΜΝΔ
 ΤΡΙΕΝΤΟΥ

3
 ΟΥΜΜΕΙΟΥΕΥΤΙΑ
 ΤΟΙΣ ΤΑΙΣ

4
 ΟΥΦΑ ΔΙΑΒΩΖΕ