

## **The inscription of strategus Διουζιης Δημοσθένους**

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The author publishes a new inscription related to the early history of the province of Thrace. The monument was discovered by treasure-hunters at Kresna near Blagoevgrad and at present is a private possession. It is an almost square plate (fig. 1) made of marbled limestone and is 24.5 cm in height, 21 cm in width and 8-3 cm in thickness. Its face is occupied by a Greek inscription whereas the „back“ of the stele is shaped by beveling from the center to the ends (fig. 2). The text is a dedication to Hera Σονκητηνη, made by the strategus of Plain Denteletica: Διουζιης son of Demosthenes. The letters were inscribed in equal rows with letters height of approx. 2.3-2.5 cm.

The find can be dated between the middle and the third quarter of the 1st century AD based on the system of strategiae development established so far as well as by analogy with the inscription from Svarlig. Those two inscriptions form a group whose common feature is the dedication to Hera with the local epithet Σονκητηνη on the part of the official - strategus. These two monuments lay the foundation of the usual later practice on the part of high ranking officials to pay respect to the local divinity. Similar religious acts of political and economic meaning were adopted from the Greek tradition and represented an essential feature of the provincial Roman culture.