A2598-Eur-Warrior Saint Theodore of Amasea with Spear and Inscription-Marble-400-600 CE



Warrior Saint Theodore of Amasea with Spear and Inscription-Marble-400-600 CE

**Case no.: 4**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** Byzantium-Saint with Inscription-Marble-400-600 CE

**Display Description:**

This marble engraving is of the Warrior Saint Theodore of Amasea (Ἅγιος Θεόδωρος Ἀμασείας), who was born near Amasea at Euchaita (Εὐχάιτα) a Byzantine town and archbishopric in northern Asia Minor which is identified with the Turkish village of Beyözü that partly lies on its ruins. He was either recruited into the Roman Legion or had enlisted into the Cohors Tyronum where he served faithfully until he refused to join with his military cohort in the rites of worship of Cybele, the mother goddess whose temple was at Amasea. Although he was arrested, because of the protest of his military friends he was released with a warning. However, he was intent upon becoming a martyr so he committed a capital crime by setting fire to the temple of Cybele. He was easily apprehended and was condemned to death, When he was tortured to recant his opposition to worshipping the goddess, he refused and was finally executed by being thrown into a fiery furnace in 306 BCE (Mershman 1912).

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**

Farmer, David. 1997. *The Oxford Dictionary of Saints*. 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Grotowski, Piotr L. 2010. *Arms and armour of the warrior saints: tradition & innovation in Byzantine iconography (843-1261)* Leiden: Brill.

Delehaye, Hippolyte, S.J. 1909. *Les Legendes Grecques des Saints Militaires*. Paris 1909.

Mershman, Francis. 1912. "St. Theodore of Amasea." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 14. New York: Robert Appleton Company.