



GED 05.01.040

Thales son of Herakleides

Θαλῆς Ἡρακλείδου

ID:	GED 05.01.040	Chronology:	About 200 BC 100 BC	Greek designation/s:	theoros
Name:	Thales	Place of Origin:	Eastern Mediterranean islands Aegean islands Samos	Role/s:	
Patronymic:	son of Herakleides				
Ethnic/demotic:	Samian (Σάμιος)				
Authors:	Leon Battista Borsano				
Last modified:					
DOI:					

General info

Inscriptions

I.Samothrace Theoroi 6

Honours

proxeny

Lexicon

paragignomai

Missions List

Samos to Samothrace, 2nd c. BC

Mission date

200 BC 100 BC

Greek Designation

theoros

Sender

Samos

Recipient

Samothrace

Envoy/Colleagues

GED 05.01.109 Aderitos, GED 05.01.887 Demetrios, GED 05.01.040 Thales



Greek Envoys and Diplomacy in the Hellenistic and Roman World

Honours

proxeny

Lexicon

paragignomai

Commentary

Thales son of Herakleides, together with Aderitos son of Thersandros and Demetrios son of Artemon, is a man mentioned in a list of *theoroi* (*I.Samothrace Theoroi* 6, 23) who paid an official visit to the shrine of the Great Gods in Samothrace, during the same unknown year. The eponymous *basileus* of this year in Samothrace is [—]x son of Athana[—], not attested elsewhere. The origin of this group of three *theoroi* was correctly restored as Samos by L. Robert (Robert 1935, pp. 487-488). The other delegations of *theoroi* came from Cos and Teos. All these men were rewarded with proxeny. To date *I.Samothrace Theoroi* 6 one has to rely mainly on palaeography: the shape especially of *deltas*, *ni*, *omicron*, and *pi* suggests that the text was inscribed in the mid-to-late Hellenistic period. While the patronymic Herakleides is extremely widespread, Thales is not a very common name, even in a Ionian city like Samos. A list of winners in different competitions mentions a gymnasiarch whose name is Thales son of Euelthon, natural son of Herak[leides] (*IG XII 6*, 179 l. 1). This list dates back to the beginning of the 2nd c. BC. Even if the name of the natural father is not entirely preserved, another element to consider is that one of the winner (l. 6) bears the same name of one of the colleagues of Thales, Demetrios son Artemon. It is therefore possible that the two, although of different ages, were part of the same embassy sent to Samothrace at a time after the competitions. If this reconstruction is true, a Thales son of Euelthon of a later time (*IG XII 6*, 289; possibly also in *IG XII 6*, 225 l. 5) could be the grandson of this man.