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Genitive forms in *-οιο* on Greek inscriptions from Pelagonia, Lyncestis and Derriopos

Although the archaic genitive singular ending */-οιο*, *-οιο* developed into */-ο:/*, written *Ο*, *Ω* or into */-ο:/*, *ΟΥ* in all Greek dialects in the archaic period already, the occasional use of this ending continued even on late inscriptions. On the 2nd and 3rd century AD inscriptions from Pelagonia, Lyncestis and Derriopos the regular genitive singular ending of the *ο/ε*-stems is */-ο:/*, *ΟΥ*.

Forms ending in */-οιο*, *-οιο* appear only on few inscriptions. All of the examples can be related to Greek literary tradition or to inscriptions from the other parts of the Greek speaking world. Although the number of the examples is not high, still a morphological variety could be observed (personal names, common nouns, adjectives). The research has shown that forms in *-οιο* in the regions of Lyncestis, Pelagonia, Derriopos as elsewhere in late antiquity were felt as a significant feature of the poetic Greek language. But the use of such forms was also a way to show knowledge and education and a self-sufficient linguistic device for personalization of the inscription and the monument.