The occasion of the First North American Epigraphical Congress is the right place to put the spotlight on an exceptional stele still in the process of being recognized for its potential influence on future interpretation of that most illustrious of Greek military achievements, Marathon.\(^1\) Many places both inside and outside of Greece celebrated the 2500th Anniversary of the Battle of Marathon within just a few months of the Congress.\(^2\) The New Marathon Stele, however, is not so widely known that it did not cause much comment and discussion at one such symposium devoted to the Battle of Marathon.

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\(^1\) I wish to first acknowledge George Spyropoulos, Department of Exhibitions and Museum Research of the Greek Ministry of Culture, and current director of excavations at the Villa of Herodes Atticus in Kynouria. With his generous permission and that of the Ministry of Culture, I was able to view the New Marathon Stele in December of 2010 in the Museum of Astos in the Peloponnese. The discussion with Theodore Spyropoulos, longtime director at the Villa site, was likewise invaluable. I also acknowledge Christina Blassopoulou, emerita of the Department of Sculpture at the Akropolis Museum in Athens, for revisiting with me, during the same time period, a highly relevant monument: the newly installed Kallimachos Memorial located in the Archaic galleries. The symposium at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University was a catalyst, and I especially thank its moderator, Jasper Gaunt, Curator of Greek and Roman Art; and Peter Bing, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Classics. My sincere appreciation goes to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and Maria Pilali for assistance in the permit process, and to the Art History Department of the Savannah College of Art and Design for supporting my participation in the First North American Epigraphical Congress.

This article does represent a work in progress; despite the fact that I have been in the presence of this inscription, which to me seemed so extraordinary when I learned of it that it warranted immediate personal autopsy, the detailed study I require for complete analysis of its stoichedon disposition together with palaeographic analysis, my own editing of the text, and consideration of the role of Herodes Atticus vis-à-vis the stoichedon style still awaits.

\(^2\) Krentz, 181, citing Plutarch for the battle occurring on Boedromion 6 and commemorated thereafter by the Athenians; the year was 490 BCE.
and held at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University. For many in the audience, this was the first they had heard, or seen, of the stele. The very title of the symposium, ΦΑΟΣ ΑΦΘΙΤΟΝ ΑΙΕΙ (“Immortal Light: The Battle of Marathon and Its Athenian Legend”) deliberately invoked 103 503 and the epigrammatic tradition associated with the cultural memory of the battle, a tradition on which the New Marathon Stele now makes a highly significant entrance. Two papers, those of J. Gaunt and P. Bing, dealt respectively with the archaeology of Athenian dedications at the soros and the literary nature of the commemorative epigram as developed specifically for the phenomenon that was Marathon. Both papers introduced the New Marathon Stele from Kynouria as important evidence for arguments now to be made in the most fundamental areas of Marathon studies: namely the archaeology of the site and the literary expression generated from the event. If these are two of the disciplines most impacted by the remarkable discovery, hard-core epigraphy is certainly a third. The focus of this article is on the visual properties that put the stele in a foremost position for any discussion of 1) the development of the stoichedon style and 2) the merging of meaning in text and graphic layout in Greek inscriptions. In the end, it will be argued that the New Marathon Stele is, by definition, a hybrid of both rectified and offset stoichedon styles.

The discovery of the New Marathon Stele was made during the 1979–2001 excavations of T. and G. Spyropoulos at the Villa of Herodes Atticus in Kynouria. The stele was first introduced by G. Spyropoulos to the public in 2006 during a symposium held at the Epigraphical Museum in Athens. The first publications of the text proper followed in 2009: the article in Horos 17–21 (2004–2009) by G. Steinhauer entitled, “Στήλη πεσόντων τῆς Ἐρεχθηίδος” and recognized by SEG as the editio princeps; and the monograph by G. Spyropoulos entitled, Οι στήλες των πεσόντων στη μάχη του Μαραθώνα, published by the Ινστιτούτο του Βιβλίου in Athens. In the same year, Steinhauer published O Μαραθών και το Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο and Marathon and the Archaeological Museum (separate Greek and English editions) in the Museums Cycle collection of the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation. In these two lavishly illustrated works, the stele (which, however, is not pictured in either) is referred to as “a unique genuine monument of the battle” and dated to the fifth century BCE. The timing of all of these publications was such that P. Krentz in his 2010 book,

3 The symposium was held 24–25 September 2010.
4 Spyropoulos, 9.
6 SEG 56.430.
7 Steinhauer, Μαραθών/Marathon, 122.