



Lexicon of Argead Macedonia

Waldemar Heckel/Johannes Heinrichs/
Sabine Müller/Frances Pownall (eds.)

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edited by Waldemar Heckel, Johannes Heinrichs,
Sabine Müller and Frances Pownall

with the collaboration of Michelle Simon

Cover illustration: Philip II, tetradrachm, type 1 (ca. 357/6-349/8), Amphipolis, Le Rider 40-68, 14.28g; Olympian Zeus; Philip on horseback, fully clad and wearing the *kausia*, sitting on a saddle cloth, raising his right hand in salutation (of his troops, outside the coin?), ΦΙΛΙΠ-ΠΟΥ (Photo: U. Klöppel, Aarbergen)

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Contents

Introduction	7
Frequently cited literature	11
Abbreviations	21
Argead rulers	25
List of contributors	27
LEXICON OF ARGEAD MAKEDONIA (LexAM)	29
Appendix	531
Plate 1: Makedonian rider	533
Plate 2: Archelaos, Dynastic series	534
Plate 3: Images of the entries by Olga Palagia	535

Chalkidike. In any case, in order to justify his failure in Athens, N. seems to have put the blame entirely on Perdikkas. In 422, the Athenian *strategos* Kleon also asked for Makedonian troops to support his fight for Amphipolis. Nothing is heard of any Makedonian participation in the battle that cost Kleon and his Spartan opponent Brasidas their lives. In 421, N. engineered the Peace of N. between Athens and → Sparta, a 50-year treaty granting Athens control over her rebellious allies and Amphipolis which she, however, failed to regain. The peace collapsed after 7 years; the war went on. From an Argead perspective, an autonomous Amphipolis was preferable while Athens' disaster in the Sicilian expedition, inevitably associated with N., loosened the Athenian grip on Macedonia. S. MÜLLER

Cf. Geske, N., Nikias und das Volk von Athen im Archidamischen Krieg, 2005, 153-61; Müller 2017, 196-201; Roisman 2010, 153; Tritle 2010.

Nobility

There exists no ancient synonymous term for 'nobility'; its modern usage is often associated with anachronistic ideas of medieval or early modern n. Used in scholarly literature on the Argeads, n. basically means the leading families in Macedonia, which descend from its gentile associations (clans). There is no written evidence on this group of landowners and mounted warriors before → Philip II. Noble families by then had to send their sons to the Makedonian → court as → *basilikoi paides*. They were educated together with the heir apparent (e.g., strategic, military, political lessons) in order to create a strong bond with the ruling house and to the end of preparing them for a career in the army or administration. In their adult years some of the n.—this was no fixed procedure—followed the ruler in war as → *hetairoi* (mounted elite companions) or occasionally served him as → *somatophylakes* (bodyguards). The Argead ruler supported and promoted the n. in order to achieve his political (and military) goals. The Makedonian n. was a group of high-ranking political agents serving the Argead rulers in the fields of administration, army, court, and diplomacy. They were often distinguished by royal gifts of land (→ *dorea*). It is generally believed that when an Argead ruler was acclaimed by the → Makedonian army assembly the members of the n. were those who directed the votes. However,

the extent of the actual decision-making power of this assembly is debated and probably depended on the power of the king. The n. regarded their king as a → *primus inter pares*, but its freedom of action ultimately depended on the ruler's power. The court, in the sense of a great *oikos*, served the Argead ruler as a political instrument to control the leading families and tie them to him. The courtly symposia provided the framework for communication among these elites and the display of their status. Less visible are the Makedonian → women, although they seem to have played a role similar to aristocratic women in the archaic period of Greece. Most of our information is on royal women, and the lived reality of Makedonian women outside this social group is much less visible. Elite Makedonian women are involved in marriage alliances with other high-ranking families in and outside Makedonia and with the royal family, an essential component of social capital, and to ensure the transmission of power from generation to generation. Due to the military successes of Philip II, the ancestral leading classes increasingly found themselves facing a group of “new men” chosen as friends (→ *philoï*) and confidants by the rulers at the Argead court in order to curb the influence of the “old elite”. For example, the conspiracy of Hermolaos is generally thought to have reflected conflicts between the “conservative” Makedonian elite and the supporters of Alexander's new regal style who built their careers after the elimination of → Philotas and → Parmenion in 330. Increasing urbanization in the late 4th c. tied the leading families at the same time to the urban centres and created a scope of action beyond the court and the person of the Makedonian king. B. TRUSCHNEGG

Cf. Carney, E.D., Macedonian Women, in: Roisman/Worthington 2010, 409-27, esp. 409-18; Müller 2016, 24-40; Strootman 2014, 1-42; Hammond 1989, 49-64; Sawada, N., Social Customs and Institutions: Aspects of Macedonian Elite Society, in: Roisman/Worthington 2010, 409-27.

Olympias

Olympias (ca. 373-16), the daughter of Neoptolemos, king of Molossia, married → Philip II of Makedonia. They had two children, → Alexander III (the Great) and → Kleopatra. O.'s dynasty, the Aiakids, claimed descent from Neoptolemos, son of → Achilles, and from the family of Priamos (Pind. *Nem.* 4.51-53, 7.38-39;