

Political marriages on Argead court to 336 B.C.

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The studies on the topic of Macedonian monarchy in the antiquity are very popular among modern classical historians. It is also generally accepted that political marriages have existed on Macedonian court, due to clear evidences in ancient sources (Hammond, Griffith 1979, Borza 1992, Carney 2000). Furthermore, they were analysed in the aspects of never ending debate about Macedonian government and royal polygamy and succession (Greenwalt 1989), as well as source credibility of Athaeneus coverage about marriages of Philip II (Tronson 1984). However, there was no deep analysis of Macedonian political marriages as single phenomenon, which could include their types, reasons of their arrangement and their political benefits. This is the aim of this is this research. The caesura is year 336 B.C. and death of Philip II. With Alexander III and Persian campaign Macedonian monarchy has faced absolutely new political situation, and matrimonial politics of this king is an answer to it. However it is so different from the previous period that requires another research. General thesis (research results): - Enumeration of methodological problems in researches on the topic of political marriages in Macedonian monarchy: lack of sources, especially for an early period, Greek hostility towards institution of polygamy (Hammond 1999, 48) and bias of modern scholars (Carney 2000, 8-12). - First political marriage of Gygea, sister of king Alexander I, and Bubares, Persian general. Contestation of Herodotus relation (Hdt 5.17-21). Finding that it was probably during the first Persian-Macedonian contact during Persian expansion on Balkans c.a. 510 B.C. (as Borza 1992, 103), not during Mardonius campaign (Carney 2000, 16). Political reasons and effects of this marriage – Macedonian alliance with Persia and Persian help in Alexander's conquest. - Contestation of existence of second political marriage between Alexander I and woman from Elimiotis in Upper Macedonia. This had been suggested by Beloch (3.2.74) and thus has been repeated by other scholars (Bosworth 1971, 100; Hammond, Griffith 1979, 18-19; Borza 1992. 124-125). However, careful analysis of the sources (Thuc. 1.57.3, Thuc 1.59.2, Xen. Hell. 5.2.38) makes us rather doubtful for this hypothesis. - Third political marriage of Stratonice, daughter of Perdikkas II, and Seuthes, Thracian general (Thuc. 2.101.6), as a result of Thracian invasion and effort to make peace with them (Borza 1992, 144-148). - Fourth political marriage of Archelaus' daughter and king of Elimiotis in Upper Macedonia (Arist. Polit. 5.1311b), as a response to Illirian and Linkestis invasion and effort to break alliance of Linkestis and Elimiotis. Giving Archelaus' daughter to this marriage despite previous promise her to king's lover Crateus is an evidence of strong political attitude of Macedonian kings towards marriages. - Political marriage of Amyntas III and Eurydice. An effort to determinate her nationality due to contradictory relations of the sources (she was either Illirian or Lincestian) - Political marriages within Macedonian dynasty as an addition to marriages with foreign women: unknown by name Archelaus' daughter and Philip, grandson of Menelaus, son of Alexander I (Hammond, Griffith 1979, 169) and Eurione, Amyntas' III daughter and Ptolemy Alorites – as a part of diplomatic efforts to secure throne (Hammond 1999 80-83) - Determination since when we

could speak about polygamy in Macedonia. Acceptation of Greenwalt's thesis (1989, 19-45), that it was before Philip II, and additional arguments supporting it. - The problem of Philip's II marriages. Critique of Athaeneus (Deipnosophists 13.5) following Tronson (1984, 116-126) and an effort to determinate chronology of king's wives. Worthington's (2008, 172-174) insight on the frequency of his marriages and reasons hiding behind every of them. Uncertain causes of marriage with Cleopatra. Critique of Carney's theory (2000, 68-75), that it was to produce heirs and probability, that it was because of emotional reasons. - Summary: types of marriages: with foreign people, as part of alliances and Macedonians conquers (rarely) or invasions on Macedonia (more often), with representatives of Upper Macedonia as an effort to control this part of kingdom or to break hostile alliances, with members of dynasty as a part of rivalry for power. Rather improbable marriages with members of Lower Macedonian aristocracy.

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