

## **The end of the Argead Dynasty: Causes and Commemoration**

At first glance, it seems obvious that the Argead/Temenid dynasty failed in the male line because of the lack of viable adult males after the death of Alexander IV, but somewhat less evident why it did not survive through the female line. In fact, the reasons for the elimination of both men and women in the royal family were complicated. For instance, Alexander the Great's sons, Alexander IV and Heracles, were murdered not as children, but when each reached or neared adulthood. They were killed because they were or were about to be viable as kings. This paper will look at the reasons for the deaths of all the last Argeads, but focus on the factors leading to the murder of all the women (including Argeads by marriage, as well as birth).

The paper will argue that, though chance played a role in the disappearance of the last members of the dynasty (certainly no general and conscious policy on the part of their murderers), examination of available information indicates the evolution of a fairly consistent set of priorities on the part of the Successors that led to this series of murders.

On the other hand, once eliminated, many of the dead Argeads were commemorated, sometimes by their own murderers, most of the new dynasties generated fictional claims of descent to the Argeads, and the Great Tumulus at Vergina seems to have been erected as a memorial to the last members of the dynasty. This paper will conclude by addressing the reasons for the seemingly contradictory treatment of living and dead Argeads in the era of the Successors.

Note: There will be no discussion of the identity of the occupants of Tomb II at Vergina. The paper will only discuss the literary evidence about the deaths of Philip Arrhidaeus and Adea Eurydice. It will, however, briefly, consider the "Tomb of the Prince," the recently discovered (2008 and 2009) Vergina burials, and the Great Tumulus because fairly general consensus exists about this evidence.

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