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Φοῦσκος: The ‘Puzzling’ Nickname of Antigonus III
and Some Peculiarities of the Antigonid Sobriquets

Antigonus III, the king of Macedon (229 to 221 BC), had two unofficial by-names related to his political activity: Δώσων and Ἐπίτροπος, which, despite some problems, are quite understandable. As to his third and less-known epithet of Φοῦσκος (Porphyr. *Chron.* FGrHist. 260 F. 4. 10; 15 = Euseb. *Chron.* I. 237–238; 241–242 Schoene), there is no yet a satisfactory explanation and it is often characterized as ‘puzzling’. The paper offers critique of previous attempts at its interpretation and points out that Φοῦσκος, according to the lexicographer Hesychius (s. v.), means ‘with a peaked head’ (ὄξυκέφαλος) and probably describes Antigonus III’s distinctive physical feature. A certain phonetic resemblance of this word to Greek φοξός, which has a close meaning (Hesych. s. v.), as well as the appearance of personal names Φοῦσκος and Φοῦσκα (analyzed in more wide onomastic and geographic contexts and, perhaps, not connected with Latin word and cognomen *Fuscus*) in four Macedonian inscriptions of 1-st – 3-rd cent. AD, seem to suggest that it is a Macedonian gloss, a phenomenon which is quite common in Hesychius’ work (more than 80 examples). Such interpretation of the nickname Φοῦσκος allows to make some conclusions concerning the unofficial sobriquets of the Antigonids as a whole.