

The Macedonian State Council(s) and the Macedonian Aristocracy

The composition, function, institutional status, even the very existence of the council advising the Macedonian kings have long been the object of controversy, with the pendulum swinging between two extremes: for some scholars, the royal *synedrion* was merely an unofficial, *ad hoc* gathering of high-ranking courtiers, of a strictly consultative nature and without any sort of rules of admission; for others, on the contrary, the *synedrion* was an official state organ, an institutionalized advisory board for the kings, with a more or less regular composition, clear rules of admission and concrete probouleutic powers.

In the present paper I propose to examine the evidence for the composition, function and institutional nature of the *synedrion*, to focus on the nature of a different council, enlarged with the participation of the Macedonian aristocracy and civic leadership –an enlarged council the attestation of which in our sources had long been noticed without having attracted the attention it deserves–, and, finally, to examine the relationship of the Macedonian aristocracy with the central royal authority in the institutional structure of the Macedonian kingdom after Philip II.

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