

Statue base for the philosopher Karneades

ELA id: 341

IG 2[2] 3781, Ath.Agora 18 H331

Inv. number	(unknown)
PHI	6065 https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/6065?&bookid=5&location=7
Translations	
Images	http://ascsa.net/id/agora/image/2008.01.0072?q=karneades&t=&v=list&sort=&s=3 http://ascsa.net/id/agora/image/2007.10.0032?q=karneades&t=&v=list&sort=&s=5

Description

Date	<p>ca. 150 BCE</p> <p>Period: 2nd century BCE --> middle</p> <p>Reasons: cutter's hand, prosopography</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>The chronology of the text may be reconstructed thanks to the mention of the honourand, the renowned philosopher Karneades from Cyrene (ca. 214/3-129/8 BCE), who led the Athenian Academy from before 155 until 137/6 BCE. In the middle of the century he was at the highest moment of his public career in Athens, having been chosen as one the three members of the so-called "philosophers' embassy" towards Rome in 155 BCE.</p> <p>The activity of the cutter also points to the middle of the II cent. BCE, a period in which he was particularly engaged with works commissioned by or related to the Pergamene royal house (Ath.Agora 15 C212 = ELA id: 337; Ath.Agora 18 H328 = ELA id: 340; Ath.Agora 18 H330). See Tracy 1990 141-142</p>
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Text category honorific dedication (tabula honoraria)

Notes:

The text bears a private honorary dedication for the famous Academic

philosopher Carneades from Cyrene. As an Athenian citizen he was enrolled in the deme Azenia (l. 1).

The two dedicators, Attalos and Ariarathes from the deme Sypalettos (l. 2), were two of his pupils and have been for a long time identified with the princes and later kings Attalos II of Pergamon (159/8-138 BCE) and Ariarathes V of Cappadocia (163-130 BCE), as it was first supposed by Koehler, MDAI(A) 5, 1880, 284 (see also Thompson, Hesperia 19, 1950, 318-319). Nevertheless, more recent studies by Mattingly, Meritt and Habicht have demonstrated that they were most probably two Athenian citizens of humbler origins (see SEG 26, 250; SEG 33, 192; SEG 39, 224; SEG 40, 189; SEG 41, 152; SEG 57, 187).

An inscription edited in 1990 by Tracy and Habicht, Hesperia 60, 1991, 187-236 (SEG 41, 115) proves that the Pergamene kings Eumenes II and Attalos II were enrolled as Athenian citizens in the tribe Attalis (col. I, ll. 38, 48; col. III, l. 24), while the deme Sypalettos belonged to the Kekropis.

Contra, in 2005 Panichi, as quoted in SEG 55, 295, argued that the demotic in our text (Συπαλήττι[οι]) would regard instead only Ariarathes (... Ἀτταλος καὶ Ἀριαράθης Συπαλήττι[ος] ἀνέθηκαν) and that the two individuals may in fact be identified with the two kings.

Monument description

Monument type: base

Material: Hymettian marble

Original dimensions: h: 0.37 * w: 0.72 * t: 0.84

Letters Height Mt: 0.027-0.035

Same stonecutter as:

SEG 16, 158 = ELA id: 337; Ath.Agora 18 H328 = ELA id: 340 etc.
It was cut by the "Cutter of IG 2[2] 3479" (175/4 - ca. 135 BCE);
see Tracy 1990 138-139

Notes:

The base presents a boss on the left side and clearly visible holes on the top surface to anchor the seated bronze portrait statue of the honourand. The statue had the left foot in a slightly advanced position than the right one.

Physical features

Measurements: h: 0.37 * w: 0.72 * t: 0.84

State of conservation: Very well preserved on all sides. Broken away behind

Legibility: Excellent. Three lines of text centered horizontal

Notes:

For a photo see Ath.Agora 14 pl. 55c

Findspot

Agora --> Stoa of Attalos (area of/by the)

Details:

Found in an unspecified spot by the eastern Stoa. Rediscovered in 1949 during cleaning operations in the Stoa of Attalos

Date of discovery:

Original location

Agora --> Stoa of Attalos (in front of)

Details:

Although the identity of the two dedicators is controversial, the close association of the monument with the monumental Stoa of Attalos is undeniable, as it is confirmed also by the findspot of the base. It was a very significant place for a statue donated as a gesture of gratitude to one of the most eminent philosophers of those times. Another possibility is that such monument was placed even inside the Stoa.

The location would have strengthened the tie between the memory of the philosopher and his two pupils both in the case that the Attalos mentioned was in fact the king of Pergamon or a private Athenian citizen bearing the same name; in the first case the relationship between the dedicatee and the dedicators would have been evident and direct, while in the second only allusive but equally powerful.

✓ uncertain

Notes:

It is not clear if our statue is to be identified with the one seen by Cicero (Fin., V, 2), whose thought was strongly influenced by Carneades' philosophy (see Thompson, *Hesperia* 19, 1950, 319).

See Ath.Agora 18 125 on the association between this base, Ath.Agora 18 C212 = ELA id: 337 and Ath.Agora 18 H328 = ELA id: 340.

For its position in front of the Stoa of Attalos cf. Topografia di Atene, 3** 1081



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