

Statue base for Ariobarzanes II of Cappadocia, restorer of the Odeion

ELA id: 348

IG 2[2] 3426

Inv. number (lost)

PHI 5702 <https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/5702?&bookid=5&location=7>

Translations

Images

Description

Date 63-52 BCE

Period: 1st century BCE --> first half --> after 86 BCE, Sulla's sack of Athens,
1st century BCE --> middle

Reasons: rulers/emperors, historical context

Notes:

The text dates to the reign of Ariobarzanes II of Cappadocia (DNP 1, s.v. 'Ariobarzanes' 4), honourand of the inscription. He is named with his full titles and filiation: "King Ariobarzanes Philopator, son of king Ariobarzanes Philorhomaioi and queen Athenais daughter of Philostorgos".

The same titles and affiliation are attested also in IG 2[2] 3427.

An inscription of 80-78 BCE (IG 2[2] 1039+, col. II, ll. 140-142 = ELA id: 214) demonstrates that in Athens he had received his education.

Text category honorific dedication (tabula honoraria)

Notes:

The text bears a dedication by the architects Caius Stallius, his son Marcus and Melanippos to their master and benefactor Ariobarzanes II of Cappadocia, who commissioned them the restoration of the Odeion, to be identified with the so-called "Odeion of Pericles".

The inscription finds a precise parallel in a statement by Vitruvius (Vitr. 5, 9, 1), who speaks of the restoration of the building promoted by king

Ariobarzanes after its destruction in the course of the Mithridatic war. The Odeion had been in fact burnt down by Aristion (App. Mithr. 38, 149) or Sulla (Paus. I, 20, 4) during the Roman siege to the city (86 BCE). It was most probably for the restoration of the Odeion that the Athenian Demos also set up a honorific statue and dedication to Ariobarzanes II (IG 2[2] 3427).

Monument description

Monument type: base

Notes:

The text was finely cut on what was probably a monumental honorific base.

Physical features

Legibility: Excellent. Six lines of text very well preserved

Reuse: Perhaps reused

Findspot

Acropolis --> South slopes --> Odeion of Pericles

✓ in situ

Details:

The base was seen by the first editors in the site of the so-called "Odeion of Pericles" when it was occupied by Turkish houses and facilities. Chandler, Inscr.Ant. syllabus, xxvii no. LIV reported that it was in a Turkish stable. It is not clear if the base had been reused in the modern walls or was still in its original place.
Cf. also Pittakys 1835 209

Date of discovery: 1743

Circumstances: fortuitous discovery

First edition:

Belley, Hist. Acad. Inscr. (then MMAI) 23, 1756, 189 = Corsini, Fasti IV lvi = CIG 1 357 = IG 3 541

Original location

Acropolis --> South slopes --> Odeion of Pericles

Details:

The base certainly lay by or perhaps inside the Odeion of Pericles, which had been restored by the honourand. The base and monument received thus a conspicuous place in the area of that building.

Internal references to Athenian places and monuments:

Odeion (l. 4)

Notes:

In a nearby spot stood also the honorific rounded base IG 2[2] 3427 (h 1.64 m), reported to have been found in the area of the Theatre of Dionysos (cf. Ma 2013 93 and fn. 181)

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