

Statue base for Brutus

ELA id: 407

SEG 17, 75

Inv. number	Ag. I 3366
PHI	290980 https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/290980?&bookid=172&location=1365
Translations	
Images	http://agora.ascsa.net/id/agora/object/i%203366?q=i%203366&t=&v=li&st&sort=&s=1

Description

Date	<p>44-43 BCE</p> <p>Period: 1st century BCE --> second half</p> <p>Reasons: historical context, prosopography</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>The base should be dated to the period of Brutus' visit to Athens in the second half of 44 BCE or shortly after that period. He stopped off in the city on his way to Asia and waiting to take over his proconsulship in Crete in January 43 BCE.</p> <p>The lettering of the text seems also to point to the mid-1st cent. BCE.</p>
Text category	<p>honorific dedication (tabula honoraria)</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Dedication by the Demos to the Caesaricide Brutus. He is remembered here by his adoptive name, Q. Servilius Q. f. Caepio Brutus (DNP 11, s.v. 'Servilius' I 15 = DNP 6, s.v. 'Iunius' I 10), that he acquired in 59 when he was officially adopted by a Q. Servilius Caepio, a relative (perhaps a brother) of his mother Servilia; he is in fact named Q. Caepio Brutus also by Cicero (Cic. Phil. 10, 25-26), Appian (App. BC 2, 111, 464: erroneously Marcus Brutus Caepio), Dio Cassius (Dio Cass. 41, 63, 6: again Marcus Brutus Caepio) and in a dedication to Amphiaraios at</p>

Oropos (IG 7 383), while at Delos he was honoured by the Athenians and the locals only by the name Caepio (ID 1622).

We know that after Caesar's murder Brutus was welcomed in Athens with enthusiasm and received not only public eulogies and honorific decrees (Plu. Brut. 24, 1), but also a bronze statue together with Cassius in a prominent place of the "asty" (Dio Cass. 47, 20, 4 = Ath.Agora 3 95 and 208 no. 262; cf. ELA id: 410); cf. Payne 1984 317-318 no. I.211. At Delos he also received a statue for his acts of benevolence towards the Athenians (ID 1622; cf. Habicht 1995 (2 éd., 2006) 501 note 90).

On his adoption and name cf. Raubitschek 1959 17-21, while on the relationships between Brutus and Athens see also Habicht 1995 (2 éd., 2006) 391-393.

Monument description

Monument type: base

Material: Hymettian marble

Letters Height Mt: ca. 0.042

Notes:

This base has been identified by the first and only editor - Raubitschek - with one of those supporting the well-known bronze statues set up in honour of the two Caesaricides, Brutus and Cassius, and mentioned by Dio Cassius (Dio Cass. 47, 20, 4). The historian reports that the two images were placed by the statues of Harmodios and Aristogeiton, but Raubitschek 1959 21 points out that at that time in the Agora there were two different pairs of statues portaiting Hipparchos' slayers, an older one by Antenor and one restored by Kritios and Nesiotes (cf. Paus. 1, 8, 5) and assumes that in order to honour Brutus and Cassius the Athenians may have only reinscribed the bases of one of the two groups portaiting Harmodios and Aristogeiton. For the parallel statue for Cassius cf. ELA id: 410 (testimonium).

Physical features

Measurements: h: 0.35 * w: 0.51 * t: ca. 0.21

State of conservation: Top, bottom and right side preserved

Legibility: Good. Two lines of text (right portion), ll. 2-3

Reuse: Perhaps reused "in situ" at the time of Brutus, certainly reused and moved in modern times

Notes:

Photo in Raubitschek 1959 tav. III

Findspot

Acropolis --> North Slopes --> Eleusinion (west of) --> #S19

Details:

Found in modern context over the Panathenaic Way outside the Agora to the southeast

Date of discovery: 1936

Circumstances: archeological excavation

First edition:

Raubitschek 1959 18 = SEG 17, 75

Original location

Agora --> Northern sector --> Groups of the Tyrannicides (by the)

Details:

The location of the statues of Brutus and Cassius is closely related to that of the statuary groups of Harmodios and Aristogeiton, by which the images of the Caesaricides were set up making an exception to the traditional prohibition to erect monuments around the Tyrannicides. Although still controversial, it seems that the two groups of Tyrannicides stood by the Orchestra in the Northern sector of the Agora, where we should also place our base. In Roman times the statue of Harmodios and Aristogeiton stood probably between the temple of Ares and the Odeion, but since the statuary groups were actually two and the position of the Orchestra and the statues has not been ascertained yet, we cannot point to a more precise spot than the central or northern area of the Square. In any case, the reuse of our base outside the Agora to the southeast is not of help for the identification of the original location of those monuments.

Therefore, tag "uncertain" refers here not the proximity of the statue to the Groups of the Tyrannicides but to the location of such groups in the Agora, erected in the central or northern part of the Agora ("Northern sector"?).

✓ uncertain

Notes:

Cf. Habicht 1995 (2 éd., 2006) 349; Krumeich - Witschel 2009 208-209

and fn. 142.

On the statues of Harmodios and Aristogeiton and their location
cf. Ath.Agora 14 155-158 and pl. 8; Camp 2010 104-105;

Ma 2013 104, 118;

Topografia di Atene, 3** 1077-1079 (Di Cesare)

Published on 2023-05-25 06:39:41 by Stefano Tropea
<https://orcid.org/http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2577-0808>

Cite as: Tropea, Stefano, *Statue base for Brutus*, 2023. DOI: [10.13135/ELA-407](https://doi.org/10.13135/ELA-407)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.