

Imposing statue base for Eumenes II reused for Agrippa ("Agrippa's m...")

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Inv. number

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<https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/6408?&bookid=5&location=1365>

Translations

Images

Description

Date

ca. 17-13 BCE

Period: 1st century BCE --> late --> 27-1: Augustan age

Reasons: historical context, prosopography

Notes:

The inscription dates to some time after the third consulship of Agrippa (27 BCE) and is probably to be related with the dedication by Agrippa of the Odeion at the center of the Agora in the winter 16/5 BCE. Agrippa was engaged in the eastern provinces between 23 and 21 and from 17 until 13 BCE.

Text category

honorific dedication (tabula honoraria)

✓overwriting

Notes:

Dedication by the Demos to Marcus Agrippa, benefactor of the Athenians, after his third consulship of 27 BCE.

The text has been engraved on a surface roughened by the erasure of the earlier inscribed surface bearing a dedication to the king Eumenes II of Pergamon (on the erasure see Dinsmoor, AJA 24, 1920, 83).

Monument description

Monument type: pillar-shaped base

Material: Hymettian marble

Original dimensions: h: ca. 13.40 (4.50 foundation, 8.91 shaft) * w: 3.31 * t: 3.80

✓ ornamentation

Notes:

Tall rectangular pedestal supporting a bronze four-horse chariot monument of Eumenes II dating to 186, 182 or 178 BCE, when Eumenes and his brothers won the Panathenaic chariot race, and later rededicated for Agrippa. The monument is today universally recognised as "Agrippa's monument". The inscription decorates the middle portion of the western front of the base, being thus visible on the left by everyone climbing the stairs to the Propylaia and the Parthenon. The chariot monument also looked west. The architectural forms and structure of the pedestal are still those of the first monument for Eumenes. On the top surface of the plinth hoof cuttings for different groups of horses are preserved (Korres 2000 317 εικ. 27): they reveal three different stages of use for the monument, one of which certainly dates back to the Pergamene period and another to Agrippa's age. The third intermediate stage is perhaps to be identified with a chariot monument of Antony and Cleopatra.

The base and inscription suffered some damages at the time of the siege by the Venetians in 1687. This is probably why some letters of the text are no more legible.

See Dinsmoor, AJA 24, 1920, 83; Bringmann - von Steuben 1995 447; Baldassarri 1998 247-249; Korres 2000 314-319; Kotsidu 2000 Kno. 32[A]; Topografia di Atene, 1 78, 80 (Monaco).

Photo of the pedestal in Travlos 1971 493 fig. 622; Baldassarri 1998 tav. LVIII; Kotsidu 2000 Abb. 1; Krumeich - Witschel 2010 Taff. 8 (Abb. 14), 48 (fig. 2); reconstruction of the monument in Krumeich - Witschel 2010 Taf. 73 (Abb. 28).

Drawing of the top surface in Korres 2000 315 εικ. 26; Kotsidu 2000 Abb. 2.

Physical features

Measurements: h: 8.91 (inscribed front) * w: 3.31 * t: 3.80

State of conservation: The entire base is very well preserved

Legibility: Good. Five lines of text

Reuse: Reused "in situ"

Signs of reuse: Erasure and overwriting

Notes:

The lettering is larger than that of the earlier inscription for Eumenes.

Findspot

Acropolis --> Propylaia --> Propylaia (in front of): northern terrace

✓ in situ

Details:

Visible in front of the Propylaia from Antiquity

First edition:

Chandler, Inscr.Ant. 14 (pars II, p. 52) = CIG 1 309 = IG 3 575

Original location

Acropolis --> Propylaia --> Propylaia (in front of): northern terrace

Details:

The base lies on the northern terrace in front of the Propylaia, on a lower level than the Pinakothek (northwest wing of the Propylaia)

Notes:

For the position of this imposing base cf. Travlos 1971 487 fig. 614; Bringmann - von Steuben 1995 Plan 1, no. 3; Krumeich - Witschel 2010 Taff. 3 (Abb. 5), 4 (Abb. 6), 5 (Abb. 7), 81 (B1)

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