

# THE MACEDONIAN SHIELDS AS SEEN VIA ANCIENT GREEK AND GREEK/ROMAN COINS

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**Abstract.** The shields used by ancient Greeks usually had a nice and varied decoration that was even described by some poets. Here, we shall see the marvellous decoration of the Macedonian shields, as presented on the observe sides of ancient Greek and Greek/Roman coins. Any further information for the coins and the estimated time of their issue is also given.

**Key words:** History, Ancient Greek & Roman coins, Myths, Shields.

## 1. PROLOGUE

In a series of papers (Rovithis-Livaniou & Rovithis 2011–2015), ancient Greek and Roman coins have been presented. Most of them are really very elegant and it is natural that they are considered as small *pieces of art*. Among them there are some on which the Macedonian shields are presented, and through them we can see and admire the shields' fine and rich decoration.

The shields as a defensive weapon were used by the ancients for protection and were firstly used by the brothers' *Ακρίσιος*, *Akrisios*, and *Προίτος*, *Proitos*, (Pausanias *Tour of Greece* 2.25.7). They were rather small and made by skin of bulls in the beginning, but later were metallic with various motives for their decoration. For example, goddess Athena's shield was decorated with Medusa's cutting head (Apol-lodorus 2.4.3). Medusa's head, *i.e. gorgoneion* as is widely known, was offered to the goddess by hero *Περσεύς*, *Perseus*<sup>[1]</sup>, because she had helped him. Besides, the goddess appeared to have in her breast an *αλγίς*<sup>[2]</sup>, *aegis*, with *gorgoneion* (Loukianos 19.1).

On the other hand, *Ομηρος* *Homer*, has described Achilles' shield in an astonishingly manner (*Iliad* Σ 478-608) and very briefly that of Agamemnon (*Iliad* Λ 32-39). Besides, Hercules' shield has been described in the poem attributed to *Ησίοδος*, *Hesiod*. It is, thus, obvious the significant given by the ancient Greeks to the shields and their decoration, as well as the shield connection to his owner.

In ancient Greek and during the Mycenaean epoch two different kinds of shields existed as regards their shape: *oval* and *rectangular*. Later, during classical times,

a third kind was added: the *circular*. Among the shields the ancient Greeks used, some of the Macedonians' -as they are represented on the ancient coins- are circular and have a marvellous decoration. So, the aim of the present paper is to show ancient Greek and Greek/Roman coins of Macedonia on which the richly decorated Macedonian shields with stars and crescents are shown on their obverse sides.

Our presentation will start with the coins issued by some anonymous kings of Macedonia, and we'll finish with those of Φίλιππος E, *Philip E*<sup>[3]</sup>, and his son king Περσεύς, *Perseus*<sup>[4]</sup>. And, since the tradition of using the Macedonian shield on the coins was later continued by the Roman governors of the area, we shall also present the coins issued during this period, most of which are from Αμφίπολις, *Amphipolis*<sup>[5]</sup>.

## 2. COINS OF ANCIENT ANONYMOUS MACEDONIAN KINGS

The oldest coins with the Macedonian shield on their obverse sides are those in which the king's name who issued them is not known. In these the Macedonian shields are decorated with small and large meniscus (crescents) with dots inside and/or outside, all in one circle, and with various symbols at a central simple or double circle. Thus, on the obverse sides of the coins of Fig. 1, where such coins are presented, we see: a simple dot in a small central circle, a star or rosette in a bigger double circle, and the gorgoneion in a bigger circle, respectively. Similarly, the reverse sides of these coins are different, too, as one can notice: the left is very simple, the middle shows a scorpion and a Greek legend ΑΜΦΙΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ that denotes its origin, and the right is decorated with the Macedonian helmet.



Fig. 1 – Coins of anonymous kings of Macedonia; Obverse: Macedonian shield decorated with crescents and dots inside and outside, dot, star or rosette, or gorgoneion at the centre of a simple or double circle; Reverse, Left: Obol of 4th century BC, 7-pointed star with dot at the centre? Wheel?; Middle: Scorio, legend ΑΜΦΙΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ in Greek and in two lines; Right: Macedonian helmet, various symbols.

### 3. COINS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Φίλιππος B, *Philip B*, and his son Αλέξανδρος, *Alexander the Great*, issued coins with various themes, as we have seen during the presentation of ancient Greek coins (Rovithis-Livaniou & Rovithis 2011, 2012). Besides, *Alexander the Great* issued coins with the Macedonian shield that are similar, but with some differences, from the right coin of Fig.1.



Fig. 2 – Obverse: Macedonian shield decorated with dots, and crescent moons in the outer; Left: Gorgoneion at centre; Middle: Complex monogram ΑΛΝΔ; Right: crescent Moons and stars; Reverse: Macedonian helmet, various monograms, ΒΑ ΣΙ (for king) & symbols.

The differences concern both sides of the coins. For example, and concerning the obverses: a) not only *gorgoneion*, but other symbols are also used to decorate the centres of the Macedonian shields in the middle and right coins, b) *Medusa's* head is in the centre of a double cycle in the left coin, c) four 8-pointed stars decorates the right coin. As concerns the reverses: a) the letters ΒΑ/ ΣΙ (for ΒΑΣΙΛΙΑΣ = king) are added together with some letters from Alexander's name forming a complex for his monogram.

After *Alexander's the Great* death his successors issued coins with similar themes, as those he had. It is, thus, natural among them to be some with the Macedonian shield on their obverse sides. Indeed, such coins were discovered at the ancient cities of Asia Minor, like *Philadelphia* and *Apollonis* (Fig. 3). Zeus' thunderbolts and Hercules' club are shown on the reverse sides of these coins, respectively, while their Greek legends indicated their origin.



Fig. 3 – Coins of 3-2 & 2-1 century BC, respectively; Obverse, left: Macedonian shield decorated with crescents & dots; Reverse, left: Zeus' thunderbolts, legend ΦΙΛΑΔΕ/ [Λ]ΦΕΩΝ, monogram, all in a oak-wreath. Obverse, right: Macedonian shield decorated with stars inside crescents & a central star. Reverse, right: Hercules' club, legend [ΑΠΙΟΛΛ]ΩΝΙΔΕΩΝ in a circle of dots.

#### 4. COINS OF DEMETRIUS POLIORKETES, PYRROS, AND ANTIGONOS GONATAS

Δημήτριος Πολιορκητής, *Demetrius Poliorketes*<sup>[6]</sup>, managed to become king of Macedonia in 295 BC, but as he had the ambition to regain Alexander's the Great regime, he had to carry out some conquests outside his kingdom and in the meantime Macedonia was occupied by others, as the king of Epirus Πύρρος, *Pyrros*<sup>[7]</sup>, by the king of Thrace Λυσίμαχος, *Lysimachos*, and finally by *Ptolemy Keraunos*, in 280 BC. All of the previously mentioned kings issued coins with various themes, (<http://www.wildwinds.com/coins/greece/i.html>). Besides, *Demetrius Poliorketes* and *Pyrros*, issued some coins, (Fig. 4), showing the Macedonian shields on obverse and the Macedonian helmets on their reverses as these of *Alexander the Great*.



Fig. 4 – Left and Middle: Coins of Demetrius Poliorketes, Pella mint, Right: Coin of Pyrros Obverse: Macedonian shield decorated with crescents inside double circle, with the monograms of the king inside central circle, ΔΗΤΡ in the left and middle, and ΠΥΡ in the right; Reverse: Macedonian helmet, legend ΒΑΣΙΛ with the helmet in a oak-wreath in the right coin.

The fights were continuous in the kingdom of Macedonia and finally the son of *Demetrius Poliorketes*, Antigonos B or Αντίγονος Γονατάς, *Antigonos Gonatas*<sup>[8]</sup>, as he is widely known, became king in 276 BC, and ruled till 240 BC, although not continuously. He issued coins with the Macedonian shield on their obverse sides (Fig. 5). In these coins, the shields are very well decorated with stars inside crescents or ovals and with the head of god Παν, *Pan*<sup>[9]</sup>, in the middle of two circles. On the reverses of these coins goddess Αθηνά Αλκίδημος, *Athena Alkis*<sup>[10]</sup>, is presented. She wears her Corinthian-style helmet, Zeus' *aegis*, while holds her shield and spear. Besides, a small Macedonian helmet is shown in the left side below; some symbols there exist in the right, and the Greek legends give the king's name and provide his axiom.

Coins with the same reverse and the legend with his name and axiom issued by king Pyrros, too. These, are not presented here, as on their obverse the head of a goddess is shown and not the Macedonian shield.



Fig. 5 – Tetra-drachma of king Antigonos Gonatas; Obverse: Head of god Pan in the middle of Macedonian shield decorated with stars; Reverse: Goddess Athena Alkis with Corinthian helmet holding her shield and spear, small Macedonian helmet in the left field, monogram in the right, Greek legend in left and right sides.

### 5. COINS OF PHILIP E AND HIS SON PERSEUS

Among the coins with various themes issued by king *Philip E* and his son king *Perseus*, there are also some, with the Macedonian shield on their obverse. From these coins we've chosen 3 that are shown in Fig. 6. From these, some remind coins of *Alexander the Great* as is the middle; and others, those of *Antigonos Gonatas* as the left one.

Moreover, comparing the left coin of Fig. 6 with those of *Gonatas* concerning their obverses since their reverses are different, we notice that instead of god *Pan* in the middle of the Macedonian shield the head of *hero Perseus* is presented. The hero wears his Phrygian helmet<sup>[11]</sup> with wings, while his harpy<sup>[12]</sup> is visible, too. In the reverses, Hercules' club is shown in the middle of an oak-wreath, and a legend in Greek gives the king's name (down) and his axiom (up). Besides, in some of these coins there is a tripod or another symbol in left outside.



Fig. 6 – Coins of king Phillip E and his son Perseus, from Amphipolis, Macedonia; Obverse: Macedonian shield with different decorations; left: with, stars and the head of hero Perseus in the middle of two homocentric circles, middle: with dots among double crescents and Hercules' club in the middle, legend *MA* up & *KE* down for the name of the country, right: similar to the middle, but with a swastika in the centre of two small circles; Reverse, Left: Hercules's club, legend *BA* up (from *BASILIAEΩΣ*=king) & *ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ* down (for Philip's name); Middle: Macedonian helmet, some monograms and star at the right side, Right: Prow of ship, star above; legend in Greek *MAKEΔONΩN* into 2 lines indicates its origin.



## 6. MACEDONIAN COINS DURING THE ROMANS OCCUPATION

### 6.1. DURING ROMAN DEMOCRACY

Coins decorated with the Macedonian shields issued during the early Roman occupation of Macedonia, too, *i.e.* after 168 BC and till 148/146 BC. The coins were minted at Amphipolis, the Macedonian shields are finely decorated with the head of goddess *Artemis Tauropolos* (Artemis on chariot pulled by bull), on their obverse and Hercules's club on their reverses. From the existing samples, we've chosen and present two (Fig. 7, Left & Middle).

As one can notice, from the left & middle coins of Fig. 7, goddess's head is inside two homocentric circles, with her bow and arrows; while, double crescents with stars inside and with dots between them complete the decoration. As regards their reverses, they are similar to the left coin of Fig. 6, *i.e.* with Hercules club within an oak-wreath, but with different legend: Now, instead of king's name and axiom the Greek legends refer: *MAKE ΔΟΝΩΝ ΠΡΩΤΗΣ*, *MACEDONIA PRIMA* in Latin, *i.e.* the Roman Province encompassing most of the kingdom of Macedonia, coinciding with most of the Greek region of Macedonia, according to the Roman division of Macedonia in parts.



Fig. 7 – Silver coins from Amphipolis, Macedonia, under Roman occupation (168-146) BC; Obverse, left & middle: Tetra-drachma shown Macedonian shield decorated with crescents and stars inside and dots outside, Artemis' head at the centre within circle; Obverse, right: Didrachma, Macedonian shield decorated with crescents and stars inside and dots outside, Zeus' thunderbolts and legend *MAKE* up & *ΔΟΝΩΝ* down inside two homocentric circles; Reverse: Hercules club upright or oblique, legend *MAKE ΔΟΝΩΝ ΠΡΩΤΗΣ* or only *MAKE ΔΟΝΩΝ* and *LEG* in the right coin, monograms, all in oak-wreath, Zeus' thunderbolts outside. Besides, Hercules' club is incline in the middle coin and a branch of olive tree there exist at the upper right side of the right one.

As concerns the right coin of Fig. 7, it shows another decoration of the shields: instead of Artemis' head, Zeus' thunderbolts there are now in the middle of the two central homocentric circles. Zeus was very much worshipped by the Macedonians', and either the god himself, or his symbols were used for the decoration of the Mace-

donian coins, (*e.g.* Rovithis-Livaniou and Rovithis, 2011, 2012).

## 6.2. DURING ROMAN EMPIRE

Some Romans Emperors issued coins with theme the Macedonian shield, too. In these coins the head of Emperor was, as usually, presented on obverse with the shield to be now shown on their reverse sides. The legends of these coins, written in Greek language, give much information. Thus, we read on obverse sides: *ΚΛΑΥΔΙΟΣΚΑΙΣΑΡ*, *ΝΕΡΩΝΚΑΙΣΑΡ*, and *ΚΑΙCΑΡ* [ANTON]INOC, *i.e.* their names and axiom, respectively; and *ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝΣΕ[ΒΑΣΤ]ΟΣ*, *ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ*, and *ΚΟΙΝΟΝ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝ*, on their reverses. From these coins, we've chosen one and present it in Fig.8 (left & middle). Similar coins issued by other Emperors, too; like Vitellius, Vespasianus, Domitian, Hadrian, Marc Aurelius, which are not presented here, because the shields decoration is not well shown at all, being even worse than that of Fig.8. On the other hand, some coins discovered in Heracleia Sintica issued by Trajan, present Macedonian shield on obverse, and not Emperor's head, as is the right coin of Fig. 8.



Fig. 8 – Left: Coin of Claudius. Obverse: Emperor's bust and legend with his name and title in Greek.

Reverse: Macedonian shield decorated with crescents in the middle of one or two circles, Greek legend *ΚΟΙΝΟΝ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝ* in circle of dots. Middle: Coin of Nero's epoch, around 55 AD.

Obverse: Emperor's bust and legend with his name and title in Greek. Reverse: Macedonian shield decorated with dots and crescents, Greek legend *ΚΟΙΝΟΝ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝ* in circle of dots.

Right: Coin of Trajan from Heracleia Sintica, 1-st century AD. Obverse: Macedonian shield decorated with 3 big double circles with dot at their centres, and within a larger dotted circle, legend.

Reverse: Hercules club, legend *ΕΠΙC ΜΟΝΙ*.

## 7. DISCUSSION

The various cities/countries of the North Greece and especially these of East Macedonia started to issue coins around the end of the 6th century BC. Later, when

king of Macedonia *Alexander A*, 498–454 BC, extended his regime towards east, and managed to put under his control the mines of *Bisaltia*, he received silver valued equal to one *talant* per day (Herodotus, *History*, *Terpsichore*, 17). Thus, the Macedonian coinage became much more easier, and here we deal with ancient Greek and Greek/ Roman coins that on their obverses the marvellous decorated Macedonian shields are shown.

From the coins presented here, we somehow follow the Macedonian shields' decoration. This, as was noticed, varies depending on the period examine, and seems to be well copied comparing either to the real Macedonian shields or to their fragments, as survived till our days, or even as they are presented on sculptures or statues.

From the various symbols used for the early times decoration of these coins, and in consequence the shields, the use of Medusa's head is natural and easily explained as referred in our Prologue. This is so not only because *gorgoneion* was widely used as amulet to protect people, but to emphasize the connection of the royal Macedonian dynasty with the Peloponnesian city of Argos and its royal family, the Argeads. Because according to tradition Karanos from Argos in Peloponnesus was the progenitor of the Macedonian dynasty who started governed Macedonia around 750 or 700 BC (Diodoros Sikeliotis, *Parts Bibl. Hist.* 7.15 & 7.17). Besides, according to the Greek mythology, the mother of hero Perseus who killed gorgon Medusa, *Δανάη*, *Danae*, was from Argos, too. It is, thus, obvious the use of Medusa's head on the coins of ancient Macedonia, and especially in the middle of the Macedonian shields, as *gorgoneion* was used as a talisman (to protect these who wear it) and as deterrent (to avert the enemies).

On the other hand, Medusa's head in the middle of the Macedonian shield together with the use of the Macedonian helmet on the reverse sides of the coins, *i.e.* the use of **two war symbols** might be denoted: a) The idiosyncrasy, temperament, of the Macedonians as well prepared to fighters; b) The various internal disputes among them; c) The army needed to suppress these internal disputes, and d) That these coins were mainly used for the soldiers.

Medusa's head was used for the Macedonian shields not only by the early kings, but also by *Alexander the Great*. He and his father *Philip B* played a very important role in Macedonia's coinage, and were the first to issue **gold** coins, some of which have been already presented (Rovithis-Livaniou & Rovithis 2011, Figs. 2a, 2b, 4all, 10a, 11c & 11d; and 2012, Figs. 3b, 6a, 21c & 28all). Many things are known about Philip B, especially after the discovery of his tomb by the archaeologist Andronicus at Vergina in 1977 (Andronicus, Vergina, 1994). Much more are known about Alexander the Great: his expedition to Asia and his conquests from Asia Minor, Persia, till India towards East and from Syria to Egypt towards South.

Some of the silver or even gold Greek coins were of universal use, due to the great value of their metals. Such coins were for example the silver di-drachma of



Athens, the silver tetra-drachma of *Alexander the Great* that continue to be issued 2 centuries after his death, or the *golden pilippeioi* of *Philip B.* Many things are known about *Philip B.*, especially after the discovery of his tomb by the archaeologist *Andronicus* at Vergina in 1977 (*Andronicus, Vergina*, 1994). Much more are known about *Alexander the Great*: his expedition to Asia and his conquests from Asia Minor, Persia, till India towards East and from Syria to Egypt towards South. Besides, it is mentioned that *Alexander the Great* had formed a particular bodyguard whose shields were *silver plated*. They were known as *αργυρόσπιδες* meaning men with silver shields, as the name comes from the Greek words *αργυρος*=silver and *ασπίς* = *shield*.

Furthermore, from *Philip's B* and *Alexander's the Great* era new mints added to Macedonia besides the two local at Pella and Amphipolis. Even so, most of the coins decorated with the Macedonian shield minted either at Pella with city-goddess *Athena Alcis* or Amphipolis where *Artemis Tauropolos* was especially worshipped. This explains the presentation of the two goddesses on the Macedonian coins issued not only by the various Macedonian kings, but also during Roman occupation. On the other hand, some of the silver or gold Greek coins were of *universal use*, due to the great value of their metals. Such coins were for example the silver *di-drachma* of *Athens*, the silver *tetra-drachma* of *Alexander the Great* that continue to be issued 2 centuries after his death!; or the *golden pilippeioi* of *Philip B.*

After *Alexander's the Great* death, Macedonia tried to keep its independence, but unfortunately his *successors* after dividing his huge and extended kingdom into 4 parts, started fighting each other. This, yield firstly to the occupation of Macedonia and other areas by the Romans, and later to the development and extension of the Roman Empire.

During *Antigonos Gonatas* regime, we show god *Pan* to decorate the Macedonian shield, while on the reverses of these coins goddess *Athena* is shown, wearing her helmet and holding her shield and Zeus' aegis. The use of god *Pan*, i.e. the god of amusement who was accompanied by various nymphs may have been chosen because *Antigonos Gonatas* was king for 3y in the beginning and then for 31y, which is huge in comparison with other kings' regimes. Thus, it is natural during such a long intervals of peace, especially during the second period of his regime, arts and culture to be flourished. It is, thus, natural to assume that the presence of goddess *Athena* on the reverses of these coins might have double meaning: culture, and ready to war.

On the other hand, goddess *Athena* is connected to Medusa, not because she helped hero *Perseus* to kill her, as already referred, but also because *Ευήμερος*, *Euemeros*, who leaved in the Macedonian king *Cassandros'* court, said that Medusa was killed by the **goddess herself** and not by the hero with hers help (*Hyginos, Astron A II.12*).

Besides, it is mentioned that coins with *Athena Alkis* were issued by kings

*Pyrros* and *Philip E*, too. These, were not presented here, because on their obverse the head of goddess *Persephone*, or this of *Zeus*, or even that of *Philip E* was shown, respectively, and not the Macedonian shield.

During the regime of king *Phillip E* and his son king *Perseus*, we notice the use of the head of hero *Perseus* and his harpy, as well as *Hercules*' club. The use of hero *Perseus* is possibly due firstly to the hero's connection with *Medusa*, and secondly because of his name that was the same with that of the king *Perseus*. Besides, this and the use of *Hercules*' club to decorate the reverse sides of some coins emphasize the connection of the royal Macedonian dynasty with the Peloponesian city of *Argos* and its royal family, the *Argeads*. It is reminded that both heroes *Perseus* and *Hercules* were *Argeads*' descendants, while *Argeads* was the ruling dynasty of Macedonia since 700 BC.

After Roman occupation, and when Macedonia was semi-autonomous, as we have mentioned elsewhere, it was permitted the new Roman Provinces to use the old themes on their coins. This is clearly shown from the coins of Fig. 7 corresponding to the Roman democracy (see also Rovithis-Livaniou and Rovithis, 2014, 2015). Besides, it is worthwhile to mention that there are some purely Roman coins showing the head of *Roma* on their obverse and a shield on their reverse ([www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear5/s0139.html](http://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear5/s0139.html)).

Finally, during Roman Empire, Emperor's head was presented on the obverse sides of the coins, and the Macedonian shields on their reverses (Fig. 8 left & middle). From these, one can notice that the decoration of the shields is not neither fine nor brilliant as previously, and in some cases the shield is not even recognisable.

## 8. APPENDIX

[1] *Perseus, hero*: A hero of ancient Greece, who according to the Greek mythology was son of *Zeus* and *Danae*, daughter of the king of *Argos* *Akrisios*. He was asked by the king of *Serifos* *Polydectes* to kill the only mortal gorgon *Medusa*. He managed to do it, (*Hesiod, Theogony* ln. 280; *Apollodoros* B.4.2), helped by goddess *Athena*; so, he offered her *Medusa*'s cut head and the goddess put her in the middle of her shield. *Perseus* is the founder of *Mycenae*, (*Pausanias Corinthiaca* 15.3–4), and other cities at Asia, (*Souda*, pp 747–8). For details see Livaniou-Rovithis & Rovithis 2015.

[2] *aegis, Αιγίς*: Coming from the Greek word *αίξ=αίγα*=she-goat, means something made from the she-goat skin. Goddess *Athena* had on her breast an aegis with gorgoneion, which is shown in all her presentations. On the other hand, *Zeus*' aegis was made by the skin of the she-goat *Amalthea*, who fitted him, while he was baby. *Amalthea*'s skin had *Medusa*'s head on her back, with the snakes from

her hair/head to be hanged around. According to the Greek mythology Zeus used Amalthea's skin in the fight against Titans, and in general he used his aegis *ἐς φόβον ἀνδρῶν*, *i.e. to fear men* or more general *to fear people*.

[3] *Philip E*, (238–179) BC: King of Macedonia (221–179) BC at the age of 17 managed to strengthen the position of Macedonia among Greeks. In the beginning, he successfully confronted the Aetolians, and protected his kingdom from the Romans. In 197 BC, the general of the Roman army *Titus Cointos Flaminios* won him and demanded to reduce his army down to 5.000 men. On the other hand, during his reign, a big change in the history coinage of Macedonia was made, as the right of coin's issue was not anymore exclusive privilege of the king.

[4] *Perseus, king*, (212–162) BC: The last king (179–168) BC of the Macedonia before Roman occupation. Son of king's Phillip E belonged to the dynasty of Antigonides, who ruled Macedonia during Hellenistic times, *i.e.* after Alexander's the Great death. King Perseus tried to apply a friendly to people policy and in order to save his kingdom issued silver tetra-drachma with less weight. Unfortunately, against him were united the Romans, the Achaeans, the Athenians and the king Eumenes of Pergamon. He was, thus, defeated by the Roman army at Pydna in 168 BC, and his kingdom passed to the Romans.

[5] *Amphipolis*: The most famous colony of the Athenians in Macedonia established during Pericles' times, around 437 BC. The area in which Amphipolis was built was previously belonged to the Thraces' and was known as the Nine Roads, because there 9 roads were met. The city controlled the gold minerals of Paggaion Mount, and supplied the Athenians with the wood needed for their navy. The Spartans, who knew the interesting position of the city, managed to get it for a while (424–421) BC during the Peloponnesian War. Finally, king Phillip B, occupied the city in 357 BC, while it passed to the Romans after the enslaving of Macedonia. It is worthwhile to mention that Amphipolis was the starting point of Alexander's the Great army against Asia. Finally, the city was known all over the world due to the new archaeological findings at the hill *Casta* in 2014.

[6] *Demetrius Poliorketes*, (337–283) BC: The name *Poliorketes*, meaning *Besieger*, was given him during the investment of the Cypriot city of Salamis in 297 BC. Demetrius was son of the king Antigonos Gonatas, and following his orders he free Athens offering back its old form of government. He became king of Macedonia in 294 and governed it till he was defeated by the king of Thrace Lysimachos and king of Heperus Pyrrhos in 285 BC. Then, he gave up himself to the king of the Seleukian kingdom Seleukos Nikator, and died at the age of 54 years being capture at Apameias' castle in Syria in 283 BC. The Thessalian city *Demetrias* has got his name, because he built it, (details in Plutarch, *Parallel Lives, Demetrius*).

[7] *Pyrrhos*: (319/8–272) BC, son of the king of Epirus, *Αἰακίδης, Eakides*, & queen's *Φθία Fthea*, and the most famous and well known of the Greek race of

Molasses kings of Epirus. He was baby when his father lost his throne, but as he was saved by his father's friends, it regain it later. Except king of Epirus, he was also for some years king of Syracuse (278–276) BC, and king of Macedonia. As regards his latter axiom it is not known for how long it lasted, (*e.g.* Plutarch).

[8] *Antigonos Gonatas*, (319–239) BC: King of Macedonia (277–274) BC and (272–239) BC from the Antigonean dynasty established by king's Alexander the Great general Antigonos. He was also known as *monophthalmos* from the Greek words *μονός* = simple, (one), and *οφθαλμός* = eye, or *Cyclops*, because he had only one eye. His other name comes from the name of his birth place that was the city *Gonous* in Thessaly. He tried to re-establish his regime, but he did not succeed, because of the *Αιτωλική*, *Aetolian*, and the *Αχαιική*, *Achaean* Leagues. He was succeeded by his son Demetrius (240–230) BC and the latter by his son Antigonos, known as Dasonas, (230–221) BC.

[9] *Παν*, *Pan*: Greek god of the wild, the shepherds & the flocks, and companion of the nymphs. He is usually presented half man with corns in his head and half he-goat, with goat's legs. For this, he is also called the *he-goat god*. He is referred son of various gods as Zeus, Hermes, Dionysus, Apollo, or Mercury, (*e.g.* Apollodorus, Herodotus *Historia*, Hyginus *Fab.* 224, Nonnus *Dionysysiaka*, Pindar *Pythian Ode* III). His name comes according to some from the Greek word *παν* = *όλον* = all, or from the word *παειν* = past time.

[10] *Athena Alkis*: One of the goddess Athena's adjectives, when she had Zeus' thunderbolts. She was the city-goddess of Pella, in Macedonia, and the only one from the Olympians who could make use of Zeus' thunderbolts and his aegis.

[11] *Phrygian helmet*: A helmet or hat wears by the Phrygians. It was red in colour and its shape was like a cone. Its top was incline towards front, while its side parts were going till the neck. Among Greeks, this helmet was wear by naves. Odyssey and hero Perseus appear to wear such a hat.

[12] *Harpy*: The weapon with which hero Perseus managed to kill Medusa. It is supposed that god *Ηφαίστος*, *Vulcan*, had given to him. It is described as a curved sword, like sickle.

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