

THE LEGEND OF SELEUCUS

In the chaos that followed the death of Alexander the Great his distinguished marshal Seleucus was reduced to a fugitive with only a horse to his name. But by the time of his own death he had reconstructed the bulk of Alexander's empire, built Antioch and become a king in his turn, one respected for justness in an age of cruelty. The dynasty he founded was to endure for three centuries. Such achievements richly deserved to be projected into legend, and so they were. This legend told of Seleucus' divine siring by Apollo; his escape from Babylon with an enchanted talisman; his foundations of cities along a dragon-river with the help of Zeus' eagles; his surrender of his new wife to his besotted son; and his revenge, as a ghost, upon his assassin. This is the first book in any language devoted to the reconstruction of this fascinating tradition.

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SELEUCUS

*Kingship, Narrative and Mythmaking in the
Ancient World*

DANIEL OGDEN

University of Exeter



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-16478-9 – The Legend of Seleucus
Daniel Ogden
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107164789
DOI: 10.1017/9781316691236

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First published 2017

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-107-16478-9 Hardback

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... the great Alexander and Seleucus Nicator, the founders of the Macedonian empire ...

Justin 38.7.1

It does not seem to me to be disputable that, of all those that succeeded to Alexander's empire after him, Seleucus was the greatest king, that he was the most royal in disposition, and that he ruled over the largest territory, after Alexander himself, at any rate.

Arrian *Anabasis* 7.22.5

I am convinced that Seleucus was in general the most just of all the kings, and in particular the most pious towards the divine.

Pausanias 1.16.3

わが最愛の妻
江里子に

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Acknowledgements

This book owes much of its inspiration to my esteemed Exeter colleague Richard Stoneman, doyen of the *Alexander Romance*, and to three younger scholars: Dr Kyle Erickson, who rekindled my interest in Seleucus whilst working on a PhD in the later 2000s; Dr Christian Djurslev, who shared his extensive knowledge of the Alexander tradition with me whilst working on a PhD in the early 2010s; and to Dr Ignacio Molina Marín, who came to consult with me in Exeter as a Visiting Scholar in 2014 but, I fear, taught me far more about ancient Macedon than I was able to teach him. I thank the University of Exeter's College of Humanities for awarding me six months' study leave towards the completion of the book, and Ed Anson for kindly letting me use his photograph of the Naples bust.

A Note on Conventions in Relation to the Alexander Romance

- AR* The *Alexander Romance*, MS A (α recension). Cited in accordance with the Kroll text, 1926, which also forms the basis, with slight modifications, of the Stoneman 2007 text; for an English translation, see Haight 1955.
- AR Arm.* The Armenian *Alexander Romance* (α recension). Cited in accordance with the Wolohojian English translation, 1969; for the text, see Simonyan 1989.
- AR β* The *Alexander Romance*, β recension. Cited in accordance with the Bergson text, 1965.
- AR γ* The *Alexander Romance*, γ recension. Cited in accordance with the texts of von Lauenstein 1962 (Book I), Engelmann 1963 (Book II) and Parthe 1969 (Book III).
- AR Syr.* The Syriac *Alexander Romance* (δ recension). Cited in accordance with the Budge translation, 1889, which also supplies the text.

Abbreviations

<i>ANET</i>	Pritchard 1969
ATU	Uther 2004
<i>BMC Seleucid Kings</i>	Gardner 1878
<i>BNJ</i>	Worthington 2012–
<i>CAH</i>	<i>Cambridge Ancient History</i> , Cambridge, 1923–
<i>CTA</i>	Herdner 1963
<i>CMG</i>	<i>Corpus medicorum Graecorum</i> , Berlin, 1907–
<i>CPG</i>	Leutsch and Schneidewin 1839–51
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i>
<i>CTH</i>	Laroche 1971
<i>FD</i> iii	Bourguet <i>et al.</i> 1909–85
<i>FGrH</i>	Jacoby <i>et al.</i> 1923–
<i>FHG</i>	Müller 1878–85
<i>GGM</i>	Müller 1855–82
<i>HRR</i>	Peter 1906–14
HL	Houghton and Lorber 2002–8
<i>I.Delos</i>	Durrbach <i>et al.</i> 1926–72
<i>I.Didyma</i>	Rehm 1958
<i>I.Erythrai</i>	Engelmann and Merkelbach 1973
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> , Berlin, 1903–. Multiple series, volumes, parts.
<i>IGLS</i>	Jalabert <i>et al.</i> 1929–
<i>IvP</i>	Fränkel <i>et al.</i> 1890–
K-A	Kassel and Austin 1983–
<i>KTU</i>	Dietrich, Loretz and Sanmartín 1995
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
<i>LIMC</i>	Kahil <i>et al.</i> 1981–99
LS	Lewis and Short 1879
LSJ	Liddell, Scott and Jones 1968

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*Abbreviations**LSAM*

Sokolowski 1955

ML

Meiggs and Lewis 1989

OGIS

Dittenberger 1903–5

OLD

Glare 1982

PMG

Page 1962

RC

Welles 1934

Sardis

Buckler and Robinson 1932

*SEG**Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*,
Leiden, 1923–*Suppl. Hell.*

Lloyd-Jones and Parsons 1983

Teos

McCabe 1985

*T+GF*Snell *et al.* 1971–2004*TUAT**Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments*,
Gütersloh, 1982–