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Silver Attic Tetradrachm from Macedonia (obverse).



Silver Attic Tetradrachm from Polyrrhenia in Crete (obverse) showing Philip V idealised as Apollo.

Philip V of Macedon from contemporary coins in the British Museum (enlarged).

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# PHILIP V OF MACEDON

by

F. W. WALBANK

Lecturer in Latin in the University of Liverpool

THE HARE PRIZE ESSAY 1939

CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1940

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To

MARY WOODWARD WALBANK

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## FOREWORD

Writing in 1913 Maurice Holleaux indicated the need for a series of monographs devoted to the more outstanding Hellenistic monarchs, and looked forward to the time when 'on se décidera enfin à écrire une histoire équitable de Philippe V'. The following pages are an attempt to fill this gap with a study of Philip, not solely as a figure in the history of Roman imperialism, but, as far as is feasible, from the aspect of Macedon itself. It is scarcely necessary to-day to emphasise the extent to which such a work is inevitably indebted to Holleaux's own studies. In particular, it is to Holleaux that we owe the elucidation of the actual role of the Senate in the story of Roman expansion. From his work emerges the picture of a body very imperfectly acquainted with the Greek world, slow to take decisions, easily thrown into panic at unreliable rumours, and the victim of prejudices which the more astute among Hellenistic politicians were quick to exploit. Yet behind it there stands the whole weight of the Roman legions and of the invincible war-machine, that had been built up in the sixteen years' struggle with Hannibal.

What had frequently been taken for a consistent and long-sighted senatorial policy was in fact, Holleaux showed, very little more than a superiority of Roman arms; and the real causes behind the eastern advance of the Roman army were to be sought, not merely on the banks of the Tiber, but also in the diplomatic and military inter-relations, and even in the internal social and economic conditions of Egypt, Syria, Macedonia and the Greek states. Here, in the Near East, in the clash between power and power, class and class, there occurred those periodic political crises—a classic example is the Syro-Macedonian pact of 203–2 against Egypt—which afforded the Senate the occasion and the incentive to intervene with the Roman legions. In this world the Senate's role was always decisive, but not always predominant. Hence a study of the years from Cannae to Pydna

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cannot but suffer from being cramped within the conventional limits of 'Roman History'; it is, indeed, only by a careful analysis of the parallel objectives and policies of the Hellenistic states, and in particular of the men who directed them, that one is able to reach satisfactory conclusions about this complicated period of Roman expansion.

For the years covered by the reign of Philip V a vast literature exists, from which it is not easy to separate what concerns Macedon from what is, so to speak, common ground. My primary debt to Holleaux will be apparent on almost every page; for the rest, I have tried to make my individual acknowledgements in the footnotes, and must be satisfied here with mentioning the last two volumes of De Sanctis's *Storia dei Romani*. I have, however, the pleasant duty of acknowledging personal obligations. To Mr G. T. Griffith, who, as one of the examiners for the Hare Prize, 1939, read these pages in their first form, I owe many valuable suggestions and criticisms which have led to the clarification and amplification of more than one passage. Both Dr W. W. Tarn and Dr J. V. A. Fine generously allowed me to read in manuscript and make full use of important forthcoming articles, dealing with Philip's parentage and the background of the Social War respectively. Mr C. F. Edson has given me the benefit of his recent work on the Macedonian inscriptions and has kept me informed of fresh material. And my friend Dr Piero Treves has helped me ungrudgingly in the thankless task of proof-reading. I owe many last-minute corrections, emendations of detail and changes of emphasis to his keen eye and his wide and sensitive knowledge of the Hellenistic world. To all five I take this opportunity of tendering my sincerest thanks. Lastly I am grateful to the University of Liverpool for financial assistance towards the cost of the plates and maps, and to the Syndics and staff of the Cambridge University Press for their constant help and courtesy during the time this book was in their hands.

One word more. I am under no illusion of having drawn a picture of Philip V that is in any way final. Every year new

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discoveries are constantly helping us to fill in this and the other feature, to sharpen the perspective and even to remove the accretions of a faulty tradition. Historical science, no less than history itself, represents a continual process of integration; and the validity of any formulation is directly related to the contemporary state of knowledge. Realising this, all I venture to hope, therefore, is that I have assembled and in some degree synthesised what is at present known about Philip V of Macedon.

F. W. W.

*Liverpool*

*February 1940*