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HEPHAISTON "THE ATHENIAN"

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IG ii² 405, a decree of Demades, records the granting of Athenian citizenship to a certain Amyntor son of Demetrios (Kirchner, *PA* 750) and his descendants in 334 B. C.:

Δημάδης | [Δημέου Πα]ι[α]νιεύς εἶπει[ν· ἐπαινέσαι] Ἀμύντορα, [ἐλπειδῆ εὖνοι]αν ἐνδείκν[υται περὶ Ἀθηναίους, εἶλ[ναι δ' Ἀμύντορα] Δ[ημ]ητρίοι[ν Ἀθηναίων α]ὐτὸν καὶ ἐκ[γόνους αὐτο]ῦ ...¹

This man has, as far as I know, not been identified with any known historical individual. All we know about him is that he was a foreigner and that he performed some service to the Athenians which merited Demades' proposal that he and his descendants receive citizenship. C. Schwenk (*Athens in the Age of Alexander* [Chicago 1985], 134), however, pre-empts one line of inquiry by arguing that "the appearance of Demades as proposer does not require that Amyntor be Macedonian or have Macedonian connections." Indeed not. But the names of both Amyntor and his father, Demetrios, do point strongly towards Macedonia, and it is tempting to see in Amyntor the father of Alexander's boyhood friend Hephaistion.

On the face of it, the connection is a tenuous one: Hephaistion's father was named Amyntor (Arr. 6. 28. 4; *Ind.* 18. 3), but nothing is known of his career or family-background. Presumably, he belonged to the Macedonian aristocracy; for his son was educated by Aristotle along with Alexander (Curt. 3. 13. 16; Diog. Laert. 5.27). And it is likely that Amyntor exerted some influence at the Court, which he may have used (perhaps even through Hephaistion) to persuade Alexander to treat the Athenians with leniency in 335, or to back down on his demand for the expulsion of the prominent Athenian orators. Hence Demades' proposal of citizenship. Perhaps if we knew the purpose of Demades' decree (*IG ii² 335*), passed on the same day in 334/3, Amyntor's service might become more clear. For the present we must be content with speculation.

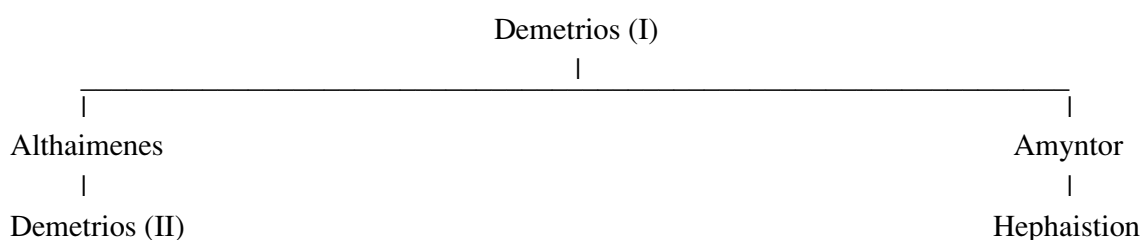
It is worth noting, however, that Hephaistion himself would thus, by extension, have been awarded Athenian citizenship. And this goes a long way to explain the curious connections between Alexander's best friend and the vehement opponent of Macedon in Athens, Demosthenes. Marsyas of Pella, a half-brother Antigonos the One-eyed and a σύντροφος of the King, records that Demosthenes tried to effect a reconciliation with Alexander by sending a young Samian (or Plataian, so Diyllos, *FGrHist* 73 F 2) to

¹ See M. J. Osborne, *Naturalization in Athens*, I (Brussels, 1981), 69-71, D 21; II (Brussels, 1982), 86-87. Osborne points out that Amyntor was the name of Hephaistion's father but does not identify Amyntor son of Demetrios as such.

Hephaistion.² Aristion's presence at Alexander's Court is dated by an Athenian embassy, which found him there in 331; Aeschines appears to corroborate Marsyas' testimony, but close similarity between Aeschines (3. 160, 162) and the Marsyas fragment suggests that Aeschines was in fact one of Marsyas' sources. It is Marsyas himself who mentions Hephaistion's role, and in this instance he was apparently providing an eye-witness account. If Amyntor son of Demetrios was Hephaistion's father, Demosthenes may have been appealing to Alexander through Hephaistion on the basis of the latter's Athenian citizenship. I can see no other basis for "friendship" between Demosthenes and Hephaistion.³

Postscript

If Hephaistion was indeed the grandson of a certain Demetrios, we may *perhaps* be able to identify another member of his family. Of the ilarchs of the Companion Cavalry, only one attained prominence in the second half of Alexander's expedition (that is, after the death of Philotas son of Parmenion): Demetrios son of Althaimenes, a man whose origins are otherwise unknown.⁴ He appears in the company of Hephaistion during the Indian campaign and vanishes without a trace after Hephaistion's death in 324. I suggest that he may have been Hephaistion's cousin and propose the following stemma.



This stemma is, admittedly, highly speculative, and should be treated as no more than a possibility. Certainly it would help us to understand why Demetrios son of Althaimenes belongs in the distinguished company of Perdikkas, Krateros, Koinos and the other better

² *FGrHist* 135 F 2 = Harpokration p. 43. 8, s. v. Ἀριστίων. For Marsyas and his history see W. Heckel, "Marsyas of Pella, Historian of Macedon", *Hermes* 108 (1980) 444-462. For Aristion see Berve ii. 63, no. 120; Kirchner, *RE* ii (1896) 900, no. 12. On Demosthenes and Hephaistion see also W. Will, *Athen und Alexander. Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der Stadt von 338 bis 322 v. Chr.*, Münchener Beiträge zur Papyrusforschung und antiken Rechtsgeschichte, Heft 77 (Munich, 1983), 74 f.

³ It is perhaps significant that Demosthenes also sent an agent (Kallias of Chalkis: Hypereides 5 [Burt] col. 20) to Olympias. At first sight, it seems obvious that Demosthenes would appeal to Alexander's best friend and his mother. But the family of Olympias had also been honoured by the Athenians: *GHI* ii. 173 = Osborne, *Naturalization* I 56-60, D 14; II 81-83 (her uncle and brother-in-law Arybbas had been granted citizenship, reviving the old grant of citizenship to her great-grandfather Tharyps; on whom see also Thuc. 2. 80. 5; Justin 17. 3. 11).

⁴ For details see Berve ii. 134, no. 256; Kirchner, *RE* iv 2769, no. 25. Arr. 3. 8. 8; 4. 27. 5; 5. 16. 3; 6. 8. 2-3.

known marshals. It is not, however, the only possible explanation, and, until some corroborating evidence comes to light, should be treated with caution.

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