



“Ideological Layers in the Apameia Foundation Mosaics”

Seleukid Lecture Series III

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“Ideological Layers in the Apameia Foundation Mosaics”



1. Quick Survey of the Apameia Mosaics
2. Sketch of Early-Seleukid History
3. Foundation of the Tetrapolis (Seleukís)
4. Critical Analysis I: Layers of Ideology
5. Critical Analysis II: New Attributions
6. Conclusions

Apameia Foundation Mosaic: Middle Registry



Seleukos I (Nikator) – Antipatros – Archippos
– Apama – Kassandros – Antiochos I (Soter)

Ambiguous Horns on Seleukos I's Helmet



SC I 173-175 & 195-196 (Susa), 226-228 (Drangiana)

Apameia Foundation Mosaic: Upper Registry



Apameia Foundation Mosaic: Upper Registry

Kassandros – Archippos – Antipatros



Apameia Foundation Mosaic: Lower Registry



Foundation Mosaic of Antioch (?)



Four Foundation Mosaics from Apameia

Upper Registry



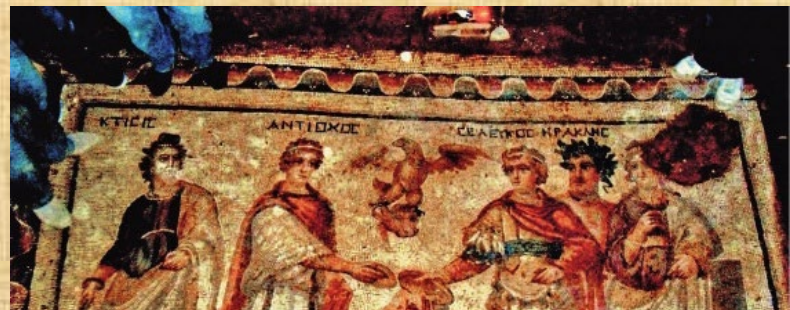
Middle Registry



Lower Registry



Antioch
Foundation
Mosaic



Four Foundation Mosaics from Apameia

Triple Mosaic / Apameia

- **Olszewski, M.T. & H. Saad 2018:** ‘Pella et Apamée en Syrie et ses héros fondateurs à la lumière d’une source historique inconnue une mosaïque d’Apamée’, in M.P. Castiglioni et al. (eds.), *Héros fondateurs et identités communautaires dans l’Antiquité, entre mythe, rite et politique*, Perugia, 365–416.
- **Olszewski, M.T. 2022:** ‘Memory and Ideology of the First Successor of Alexander the Great as Inscribed on Roman Mosaics from Apameia of Syria’, in E. Anagnostou-Laoutides & S. Pfeiffer (eds.), *Culture and Ideology under the Seleucids. Unframing a Dynasty*, Berlin, 97–127.



Four Foundation Mosaics from Apameia

Antioch Foundation Mosaic

- Olszewski, M.T. and H. Saad 2017: ‘Interpol à la recherche d’une mosaïque volée à Apamée de Syrie’, *Archéologia* 551, 4–5.
- Ogden, D. 2022 ‘Seleucus and the Typology of Heracles’, in Anagnostou-Laoutides and Pfeiffer 2022, 77–95.



2. Sketch of Early-Seleukid History

334 Invasion of Asia Minor

333 Battle of Issus

325 Control of Indus

Mass Wedding of Susa

Alexander / Barsine

Kassandros / Amastris

Seleukos / Apama

323 Death in Babylon 21



LYDIA	satrapy or
OUXIOI	tribe
Babylón	royal resid
★	major batt
★	siege
■	Macedon
■	allied Grec
■	conquests
—	route of A
---	route of P
---	route of K
---	route of N
---	route of H

Antipatros Led Conference at Triparadeisos in 320 BC

Antipatros

Kassandros Chiliarch
Antigonos

Ptolemy

Babylon

Seleukos



Exile of Seleukos (316-312/11 BC)



Battles for Sea Rule in West, 314-01, Ascent of Seleukos in East, 312-305

Kassandros

Antigonos

Demetrios

Ptolemy

312 → 311 Seleukos

Peace with Chandragupta (Indus, 305)



Antigonos' Defeat at Ipsos 301 BC

Lysimachos
Kassandros
Demetrios
Seleukos & Antiochos
Ptolemy



Co-Rule with Antiochos I Soter (Son of Apama & Husband of Stratonike)



Seleukos I

Antiochos I

296?/294/281-261

(Hackl in *Klio* 102.2, 2020)



3. Foundation of Tetrapolis (Seleukís)

Antioch on the Orontes

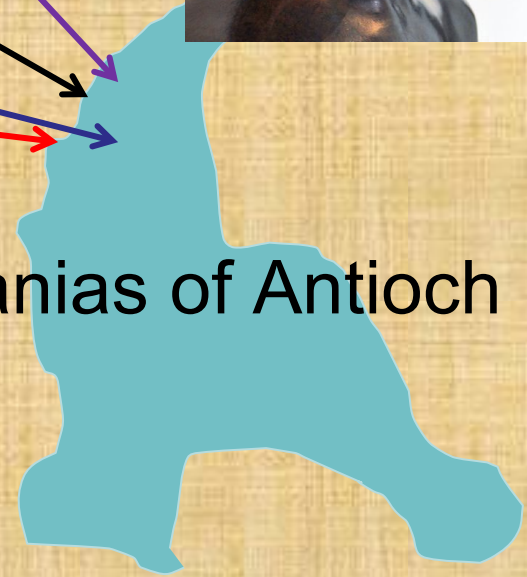
Seleukeia (in Pieria)

Apameia

Laodikeia

Strabo 16.2.4-11

John Malalas 8.198-203 = Pausanias of Antioch
FGH 854 F 10.10-11



Pella / Apameia



Strabo 16.2.10

In the district of **Apameia** is a city well fortified in almost every part. For it consists of a well-fortified hill, situated in a hollow plain, and almost surrounded by the Orontes, which, passing by a large lake in the neighbourhood, flows through wide-spread marshes and meadows of vast extent, affording pasture for cattle and horses. The city is thus securely situated, and received the name **Cherrhonesus** (or the peninsula) from the nature of its position. It is well supplied from a very large fertile tract of country, through which the Orontes flows with numerous windings. Seleukos Nikator, and succeeding kings, kept there five hundred elephants, and the greater part of their army.

Pella / Apameia



Strabo 16.2.10 ct'd:

It was formerly called **Pella** by the first Macedonians, because most of the soldiers of the Macedonian army had settled there; for Pella, the native place of Philip and Alexander, was held to be the metropolis of the Macedonians. Here also the soldiers were mustered, and the breed of horses kept up. There were in the royal stud more than thirty thousand brood mares and three hundred stallions. Here were employed colt-breakers, instructors in the method of fighting in heavy armour, and all who were paid to teach the arts of war.

(Transl. Hamilton & Falconer, Loeb ed. 1903)

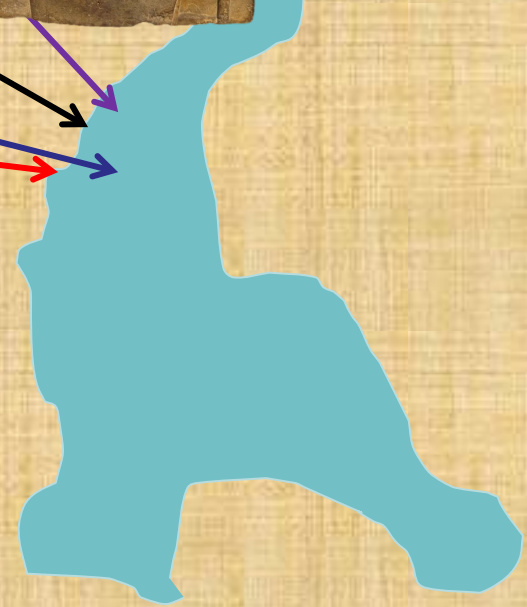
Pharnake / Pella / Apameia

Antioch on the Orontes

Seleukeia (in Pieria)

Pharnake / Pella / Apameia

Laodikeia



Pharnake / Pella / Apameia

John Malalas:

Seleukos Nikator again founded another great city in Syria, naming it for his daughter Apama, after coming across a village that was previously called **Pharnake**. Seleukos fortified it, declared it a city, called it **Apameia**, and made a sacrifice. He changed its name to **Pella** because the Tyche of the city of Apameia had this name. For Seleukos was from the city of Pella in Macedonia. He sacrificed a bull and a goat. The eagle came again and took up the heads of the bull and the goat. It [or he] marked out the circuit of the walls with the blood. He also founded sundry other cities in other administrative districts and in the Persian zone, of which the total number was seventy-five, as the wise chronographer Pausanias recorded.

(John Malalas, *Chronicle* 8.203 Dindorf = Pausanias of Antioch FGrH 854 F 10.11; adapted from Ogden 2017, 104)

4. Critical Analysis I: Layers of Ideology

- Foundation stories originate in ideological contexts
- Later reception may maintain or change message
- True for visual and textual tradition

6. Conclusions: Historical

Achaemenids: *Pharnake*

Alexander

Perdikkas

Antipatros

/ Kassandros

Antigonos:

Pella

Seleukos I:

Apameia

Armenian

Early Roman

Hadrian: *Rebuilding*

Late Antiquity:

Mosaics



6. Conclusions: Ideological



[Antigonos]

(Euphorion)

Achaemenids Antipatros Archippos
/ Kassandros

Pharnake

Pella

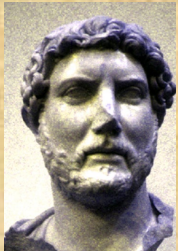
Pella



Seleukos I:

Apameia

Dynastic perspective

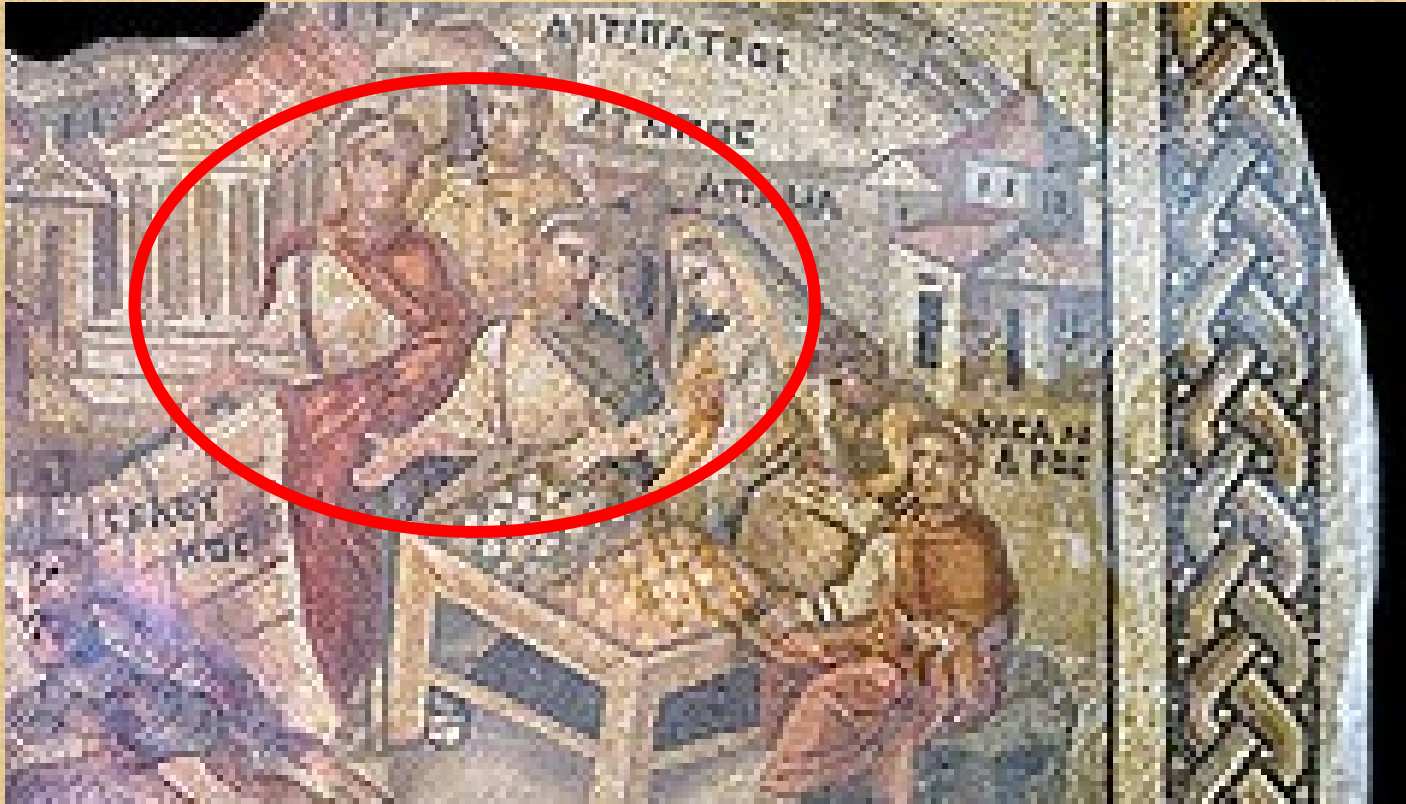


Hadrian:

Rebuilding

*Imperial / Panionian /
civic perspective*

The 'Reigning Triad'



A. McAuley 2022: The Seleucid Royal Family as a Reigning Triad, in Anagnostou-Laoutides and Pfeiffer 2022, 23–40.