

Using Greek Epigraphy

Where are the wives? Royal Women in Seleukid Cult documents



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Honours for Laodike

- Sardes (213 BC) Laodikeion and the *panegyris* called the Laodikeia.
- Teos (203 or 198/7) statues; festival; altar; fountain for use in sacrifices and by brides.
- Iasos (c. 196) altar; 'Queen Aphro[dite Lao]dike'.



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Ma 1999 on the separation of cults

- ‘one should merely observe that the royal *postagma* creates a high priesthood of Laodike in the context of the central, ‘imperial’ ruler cult, which has no influence on the ‘municipal’ ruler cult, administered by the city within its own boundaries’



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Office of High Priestess

- τῆς βασιλίσσης [ἀ]ρχιέρειαν τῶν ἐν τῇ σατραπείᾳ
- high-priestess for the queen (for the rights/shrines) in the satrapy



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τῶν

Welles	τῆς βασιλίσσης ἀρχιέρειαν τῶν τοπῶν ἐν τῇ σατραπείᾳ high-priestess of the queen in the satrapy
Robert (revived by van Nuffelen)	τῆς βασιλίσσης ἀρχιέρειαν τῶν ἱερῶν ἐν τῇ σατραπείᾳ high-priestess of the queen for the temples in the satrapy
Ma	τῆς βασιλίσσης ἀρχιέρειαν τῶν ἐν τῇ σατραπείᾳ high-priestess of the queen for the rites in the satrapy
Erickson	τῆς βασιλίσσης ἀρχιέρειαν τῶν ἐν τῇ σατραπείᾳ high-priestess of the queen for those in the satrapy

Honours for High Priestess

just as high-priests of us are appointed throughout the kingdom, so there should be established, in the same places, high-priestesses of her also, who will wear golden crowns bearing her image, and be inscribed in the contracts after the high-priests of our ancestors and of us.

Ma 2000, no. 37 ll. 22-26; see *OGIS* 224



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Palmyrene Priest Headdress (2nd -3rd C AD)



**Headdress of a priest from
a funerary relief, 2nd – 3rd
century A.D.**

Hard grayish local limestone
h. 16.9 cm., w. 19.5 cm., d.
20.8 cm (6 5/8 x 7 11/16 x 8
3/16 in.)

Gift of Edward Sampson,
Class of 1914, for the Alden
Sampson Collection
y1962-140

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Funerary Relief of Archigallus



- Lavinium mid 2nd C AD.

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Appointment of Nicanor

We have appointed him high-priest of the sanctuaries in the region beyond the Tauros, as he has asked himself, being convinced that because of his character, he will carry out both the business concerning the sacrifices and the rest in a manner worthy of the zeal which we have concerning these matters, making it our intention to increase them, as is appropriate. We thought it necessary that he should be also in charge of the sanctuaries, and that their revenues and the other matters should be administered by him, just as was done under our grandfather by Dion.

Ma 2000, no. 4 II 28-42. Malay 1987 (*SEG* 37.1010);
Gauthier *BE* 89, 276.



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Possible opening for official documents

King Antiochos, Seleukid era,
Macedonian month, high-priesthood of
Antiochus III and his ancestors
(Regional official), high-priestesshood of
Laodike (Regional official, here
Berenike)



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Potential opening based on Ma's hypothesis

King Antiochos, Seleukid era,
Macedonian month, (general) high-
priesthood of Nikanor, high-priesthood
of Antiochus III and his ancestors (not
Nicanor), high-priesthood of Laodike.



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Extant Priest Lists

Antioch-in-Persis

Seleukos [I] Nikator
Antiochos [I] Soter
Antiochos [II] Theos
Seleukos [II] Kallinikos
King Seleukos [III]
Antiochos [III] Theos
Antiochos the son

Seleucia-in-Pieria

Seleukos [I] Zeus
Nikator
Antiochos [I] Apollo
Soter
Antiochos [II] Theos
Seleukos [II]
Kallinikos
Seleukos [III] Soter
Antiochos [the son]
and Antiochos [III]
Megas
and a priest of King
Seleukos [IV]

Teos

Seleukos [I] Theos
Antiochos [III] Megas
Antiochos [I] Soter
Seleukos [III] Theos
Antiochos [II] Theos
Seleukos [IV] Theos
Antiochos [III] Megas
[again]
Antiochos [IV] Theos
Seleukos [I] Theos
Antiochos Theos
Epiphanes
and Demetrios [I] Theos
Soter.

Laodike IV and elephant



AE 15x15.3mm serrate

(<http://www.forumancientcoins.com/gallery/displayimage.php?pos=-14503>)



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Cleopatra Thea and Alexander Balas

