

The aim of this project is to create an epigraphic curve for ancient Macedonia, to analyse its shape, and to show how the idea of graphing of the epigraphic habit describes historic events, constitutional transformation and processes. The epigraphic curve is a rarely used form of the study of inscriptions which allows us to present the results of the research in a graphic form (graphs, diagrams, charts). It's a term for a linear or other graphical representation of the chronological distribution of inscriptions. This project seeks to answer the following questions regarding the Macedonian epigraphic curve: How historical, political, military and economic events shaped the Macedonian epigraphic habit in antiquity? Which internal and/or external factors impacted the Macedonian epigraphic curve? How did the Macedonian epigraphic habit correspond to epigraphic habits in other poleis? In order to answer these questions, it is necessary to look at the entire epigraphical output in Macedonia, starting from the Archaic period when it began.

All preserved inscriptions from the territory of ancient Macedonia (over 6,000 texts) will be collected in a database that will contain references to the first editions of a text, its date, category and place of origin. Then, inscriptions will be classified to one of the main category (public and non-public texts) and subsequently to further sub-categories (decrees, epitaphs, honorific inscriptions and so forth). Furthermore, they will be classified in chronological order. This will result in the creation of epigraphic curves. The main epigraphic curve will present the chronological distribution of all Macedonian inscriptions, while additional curves will reveal inscriptions from the main Macedonian cities. All curves will be organized by centuries and, when possible, by quarter-centuries.

The shape of the epigraphic curves will be further compared with the results of parallel studies for other part of the Eastern Mediterranean to look for similar and distinguished features in the local epigraphic curves. How did the Macedonian epigraphic habit orient itself with regards to other Greek epigraphic habits? Macedonia was a very important part of the ancient world. It was strongly connected with the Greek culture, however, at least to the 3rd c. BCE, Macedonians were not considered as Greeks by the Greeks themselves. The progressive process of Hellenization meant a permanent incorporation of Macedonia and its inhabitants into the Hellenes. Roman times completed this process. The epigraphic habit of Macedonia therefore requires a comparison with the epigraphic habits of continental Greece, in order to demonstrate similar and distinguished features of these epigraphic habits.

Studying the chronological distribution of ancient inscriptions is a quite new branch of epigraphy. So far, there is no work of this character devoted to ancient Macedonia. My project aims to fill this gap, as is the very first attempt of systematic study of all preserved inscriptions from Macedonia. No previous study has collected and examined the mass material from Macedonia in such holistic manner before as this project. This project will also add to our understanding of Greek epigraphic habit, as it provides one of the best documented case-studies (over 6,000 inscriptions). This study will be a starting point to analyse the history of ancient Macedonia from a new perspective. It will reveal the impact of events known from other sources on the entire epigraphic production in the region (it will help us to determine for instance the scale of some economic or political phenomena).

The results of the project will be important for all types of historians, epigraphists, archaeologists, and the general public interested in the history of ancient Greece in general, and the history of ancient Macedonia in particular.