

Brill's Companion to Bodyguards in the Ancient Mediterranean

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# Brill's Companion to Bodyguards in the Ancient Mediterranean

*Edited by*

Mark Hebblewhite  
Conor Whately



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Cover Illustration: Ancient Macedonian bodyguards/soldiers from the tomb paintings at Agios Athanasios, Greece. Image ID: MMPF5W from the Picture Art Collection/Alamy Stock Photo.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Hebblewhite, Mark, editor. | Whately, Conor, editor.

Title: Brill's companion to bodyguards in the ancient Mediterranean /  
edited by Mark Hebblewhite, Conor Whately.

Description: Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2023. | Series: Brill's companions to  
classical studies: warfare in the ancient Mediterranean world, 2452–1493 ; 5 |  
Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022043495 (print) | LCCN 2022043496 (ebook) |  
ISBN 9789004527676 (hardback) | ISBN 9789004527683 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Bodyguards—Mediterranean Region—History.

Classification: LCC HV8081 .B77 2023 (print) | LCC HV8081 (ebook) |  
DDC 363.28/90937—dc23/eng/20221123

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022043495>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022043496>

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill". See and download: [brill.com/brill-typeface](https://brill.com/brill-typeface).

ISSN 2452-1493

ISBN 978-90-04-52767-6 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-52768-3 (e-book)

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## Preface

This volume was the direct result of a chance email between two Roman military history enthusiasts living at opposite ends of the world. Email would follow email discussing a range of shared interests around the Roman army until the topic of bodyguards, and in particular their political role in the Roman world, arose. We found ourselves bemoaning the fact that there was not a single volume that dealt with the composition, role, and political importance of the many bodyguard units that existed in the Roman and Byzantine worlds. Here the genesis of this volume arose, and upon finding out that scholarship on bodyguards in other ancient cultures was even more sparse we quickly decided to expand our scope across the Mediterranean world. The result is the volume you are now holding.

*Brill's Companion to Bodyguards in the Ancient Mediterranean World* does not claim to be the definitive statement on the shape, size, operation, and significance of bodyguards in the ancient Mediterranean world. Nor do we take on the difficult task of providing a definitive answer to the question of providing a description of what a bodyguard actually was, or even what he was expected to do during the expansive period we cover. Instead, what we offer readers is a collection of thought-provoking contributions that should spark greater discussion of and focus on the differing political, social, and religious roles bodyguards played in the ancient Mediterranean world.

When it came time to put together a proposal, we tried to assemble a varied group of contributors, junior and senior, from various locations around the world. We aimed to cover a diverse range of issues concerning bodyguards, across time and space, in the ancient Mediterranean. One significant challenge, shared by all, has been the COVID pandemic. This has meant that the final product has taken a little longer to reach this stage than either of us would have liked. Through all this, our contributors have been fantastic: we are immensely grateful for their great chapters, and we think our audience will feel the same way. We would also like to thank the series editor, Lee L. Brice, for his tireless support of this book, even in its darkest moments. The reviewers provided invaluable feedback, and have helped make this a book which we are both very proud of. Giulia Moriconi, Millie Gall, and the team at Brill have also been a great support in ensuring the best possible volume.

Both editors have been fortunate to receive support from their families, friends and colleagues.

I (Conor Whately) would like to thank my colleagues and students at the University of Winnipeg, new and old, who have contributed to my thinking

about the ancient Mediterranean world in some way or other over the thirteen years I have been in Winnipeg. Thanks to my extended family, my mom, Heather, my dad, Chris, and my sister Alex, especially during the years of the pandemic and despite the distance (some 2000 km away in southern Ontario). My in-laws, who are even further away in Devon, also deserve thanks. Despite the endless lockdowns and time at home, Hannah, Ella, Penny, and Don have been wonderful company. Where some families have struggled during the pandemic, it has brought us even closer. Lastly, however, I want to thank Mark (Hebblewhite). Even though we have never met, I would count him as a good friend, and I am thrilled we got the opportunity to work on this together – and that he introduced me to Cheezels.

I (Mark Hebblewhite) would like to thank Melissa, Willan, and Tobias Hebblewhite, who have had to endure hearing me talk about bodyguards while peacefully trying to watch *Return of the Jedi*. I would also like to thank my colleagues, Dr Peter Edwell and Dr Peter Brennan, for their expert advice and all the contributors to this volume for their patience. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank Conor Whately, whose good humour and dogged determination have ensured that this volume has seen the light of day. I sincerely believe that this volume will fill a gap in the current scholarship and I look forward to seeing future scholarship in this area.



# Abbreviations

Abbreviations, both ancient and modern, generally follow those found in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (4th Edition). Abbreviations of journals and works employed in this book are those from *L'Année Philologique Online*. References to Greek and Demotic papyri and ostraca follow the conventions set out in J. F. Oates *et al.*, *Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets*, the most recent version of which is available <https://papyri.info/docs/checklist>. Additional commonly used abbreviations include:

- CAD        *The Assyrian Dictionary of The Oriental Institute of The University of Chicago*. Chicago, 1956–.
- RIBo       *Royal Inscriptions of Babylonia Online Project*. Online Resource.  
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/ribo/index.html> (Accessed 25.9.2019).
- RIMA 3    Grayson, A. K. (1996) *Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC II* (858–745 BC). Toronto.
- RIME 4    Frayne, D. (1990) *Old Babylonian Period* (2003–1595 BC). Toronto.
- RINAP 3   Grayson, A. K. and Novotny, J. (2012). *The Royal Inscriptions of Sennacherib, King of Assyria* (704–681 BC), Part 1 and Part 2. Winona Lake.
- RINAP 4   Leichty, E. (2011) *The Royal Inscriptions of Esarhaddon, King of Assyria* (680–669 BC). Winona Lake.
- RINAP 5   Novotny, J. and Jeffers, J. “The Royal Inscriptions of Ashurbanipal, Aššur-etel-ilāni, and Sîn-šarra-iškun.” Online Resource.  
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/rinap/rinap5/>.
- SAA 1     Parpola, S. (1987) *The Correspondence of Sargon II, Part I: Letters from Assyria and the West*. Helsinki.
- SAA 4     Starr, I. (1990) *Queries to the Sungod: Divination and Politics in Sargonid Assyria*. Helsinki.
- SAA 5     Lanfranchi, G. B. and Parpola, S. (1990) *The Correspondence of Sargon II, Part II: Letters from the Northern and Northeastern Provinces*. Helsinki.
- SAA 6     Kwasman, T. and Parpola, S. (1991) *Legal Transactions of the Royal Court of Nineveh, Part I: Tiglath-pileser III through Esarhaddon*. Helsinki.
- SAA 7     Fales, F. M. and Postgate, J. N. (1992) *Imperial Administrative Records, Part I: Palace and Temple Administration*. Helsinki.
- SAA 8     Hunger, H. (1992) *Astrological Reports to Assyrian Kings*. Helsinki.
- SAA 10    Parpola, S. (1993) *Letters from Assyrian and Babylonian Scholars*. Helsinki.
- SAA 11    Fales, F. M. and Postgate, J. N. (1995) *Imperial Administrative Records, Part II: Provincial and Military Administration*. Helsinki.

- SAA 13 Cole, S. W. and Machinist, P. (1998) *Letter from Assyrian and Babylonian Priests to Kings Esarhaddon and Assurbanipal*. Helsinki.
- SAA 14 Mattila, R. (2002) *Legal Transactions of the Royal Court of Nineveh, Part II: Assurbanipal Through Šîn-šarru-iškun*. Helsinki.
- SAA 15 Fuchs, A. and Parpola, S. (2001) *The Correspondence of Sargon II, Part II: Letters from Babylonia and the Eastern Provinces*. Helsinki.
- SAA 16 Luukko, M. and van Buylaere, G. (2002) *The Political Correspondence of Esarhaddon*. Helsinki.
- SAA 18 Reynolds, F. S. (2003) *The Babylonian Correspondence of Esarhaddon and Letters to Assurbanipal and Šîn-šarru-iškun from Northern and Central Babylonia*. Helsinki.
- SAA 19 Luukko, M. (2012) *The Correspondence of Tiglath-pileser III and Sargon II*. Helsinki.
- SAA 21 Parpola, S. (2018) *The Correspondence of Assurbanipal, Part I: Letters from Assyria, Babylonia, and Vassal States*. Helsinki.