

Medicine, History and Art (6)

Alexander the Great

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Alexander the Great & Philip of Icarania



Henryk Siemiradzki 1870.
National Arts Museum of the Republic of Belarus

Alexander was the Greek hero who conquered all his way from Greece to India, crushing the mighty Achaemenid Empire of Darius III and burning the famous city of Persepolis to the ground.

Alexander was born to King Philip of Macedon and his wife Olympias of Epirus, a state to the west of Macedon. From his birth Alexander was the heir apparent and was trained in horse riding, hunting and military art. Olympias was very keen to put him on the throne. When Alexander was 18, Philip took a new wife Cleopatra who was also from Macedon, and gave birth to a son Caranus. From the

blood line, it would seem that Caranus had a greater claim to the throne, as both of his Parents were from Macedon. Hence both Alexander and Olympias felt greatly threatened. Two years later, King Philip was assassinated in a party by his body guard, who was killed on the spot.

In history there are two mysteries surrounding Alexander that were unsolved. The first is whether he participated in the plot to kill his Father. It was certainly to his advantage that Philip was dead so that Alexander could ascend the throne smoothly. History could not provide a plausible answer to this question.

The second mystery was about

the location of the remains of Alexander. After his death in Babylon, his coffin was transferred to Alexandria in Egypt, but after years of war and unrest, it was lost in history. It is believed to be somewhere in Alexandria, but it would remain to be discovered by archaeologist.

The picture shows Alexander and his Physician Philip of Icarania. A secret letter was delivered to Alexander that Philip was involved in a plot with Darius III to poison Alexander. However Alexander had great trust in his doctor, and drank the potion given to him before showing the letter to Philip.