

Noret's Fragment of Arrian's *Events After Alexander* Book 10

In 1983, Jacques Noret published an article titled *Un Fragment Du Dixieme Livre De La Succession D'alexandre Par Arrien Retrouve Dans Un Palimpseste De Gothenbourg* in the French journal *L'Antiquité Classique* (T52, pp. 235-242). The fragment came to my attention too late to be included in my 1989 article, but I have translated Noret's reconstructed text and translated it into English below. New and authentic information from the ancient world is rarely found, but holds out hope that some day we may recover more of Livy, my personal favorite, perhaps from the Villa of the Papyri in Herculaneum.

(The fragment in context: Eumenes has raided a town, in spite of Antipater being nearby. This enables Eumenes to pay his troops and then some...)

They held Eumenes in great esteem for having seized without difficulty or fear of any danger an un hoped-for abundance of riches, while to the enemy, stunned by the speed and unexpected nature of the attack, he was admired more for the stratagem and his incredible shrewdness. At the same time, they were heaping scorn on Antipater, who, being at the head of many more troops and more confident of the outcome of the war, and having established his camp near his enemies, was not able to help his allies. On the contrary, under his very eyes and those of his army, they had been surprised, burned out, and plundered without having in Antipater anything more than a spectator to their sufferings.

That done, Eumenes, even though it was still winter, sent an embassy to Alcetas, Attalus, Polemon, Docimus, and the others, who, installed in command positions or at the head of satrapies by Perdicas, had been condemned to death by the Macedonians. He wanted all of them to assemble their troops at the same place and begin to campaign together they would not be susceptible to be vanquished one at a time if they rose up together, but they would be more honored if... .

Indeed, their troops would not be inferior to their enemies' numbers if they all combined. Moreover, they commanded more widespread territory, from which it would not be difficult to supply their army. Finally, in the course of the war they would always receive some reinforcements, given that Antigonus, Antipater, and their' entourage were already becoming jealous and that they were, not without reason, scorned because they had done nothing of immediate consequence. When they continuously suffered some defections to their enemies, this rendered them weak, and they would be an easy prey. So, before their enemies found out that they were uniting, or of their efforts to re-unite, they should immediately send some ambassadors with a view to reconciliation with the assignments which they had before, and so they, in being satisfied with the first partition, would deliver the land of Asia of much evil.

If one of the generals did not want to follow these instructions, he asked them to put forth their own solution, better that the one he proposed, so that they could choose one to save their lives at the moment and to have security in the future. This is what Alcetas did, who wanted above all to spread out the Macedonian troops that he had, and which were very numerous, as if his infantry forces combined with the cavalry....