

## Philip of Macedonia and the Restoration of the Hellenic League

Within a year of his victory at Chaeronea in 338 BCE Philip of Macedonia called together all the states of mainland Greece to Corinth where he established the Corinthian League (Faraguna 2003 and Poddighe 2009). It is commonly recognized that the new league was intended to evoke the memory of the Hellenic League against Xerxes (Bosworth 1988: 189-90, Jehne 1994: 152, Flower 2000: 98, and Lehmann 2015: 39). In this paper, I press the point further and argue that Philip presented his new league as nothing less than a restoration of the old Hellenic League. My case turns on the name used by Diodorus Siculus to denote the new league's deliberative body, "the common council of the Greeks" (τὸ κοινὸν τῶν Ἑλλήνων συνέδριον: 17.73.5). The term reflects contemporary usage, as we can see from Hyperides' *In Defense of Euxenippus* (4.20). What is notable for my present purposes is that this is also the name Diodorus employs to designate the council of the Hellenic League (see 11.1.1 and 11.55.4). Although it is often assumed that Diodorus was quite casual with the terminology he applied to the various alliances and leagues that appeared in his history (Heuß 1938: 178 and Bosworth 1980: 90), this assumption is not borne out in fact. In the surviving portions of his work, "the common council of the Greeks" applies only to the Hellenic and Corinthian Leagues.

Diodorus' terminology raises the distinct possibility that he at least believed Philip was in effect restoring the long-dormant Hellenic League. But Diodorus wrote his history almost three centuries after the fact. What then can his terminology tell us about Philip's intentions? While the council of the Corinthian League was certainly called "the common council of the Greeks" by contemporaries, our best evidence for the Hellenic League suggests that it was not (Yates 2015). There is, however, every reason to conclude that the name predated Diodorus, who for his account of the Persian War closely followed Ephorus of Cyme. Ephorus' date of publication

is a notoriously difficult problem, but he was likely writing (and circulating?) the early portions of his history in the decades before Philip's victory at Chaeronea (Parker 2011). If Diodorus took his name for the Hellenic League's council from Ephorus, then we can conclude that the term, however historically inaccurate, was nevertheless being used in reference to that league before Philip summoned the Greeks to Corinth. Philip's choice of nomenclature then becomes highly significant, as he invites the states of the Greek mainland not merely to remember the Hellenic League, but to restore it and then to complete its famous war against Persia.

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