

Opramoas

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Opramoas was a Lycian magnate and civic benefactor (second century CE) known through extensive inscriptions on the walls of his mausoleum at Rhodiapolis (*TAM II* 905; Kokkinia 2000). He made donations to Lycian cities both before and after a disastrous earthquake struck the area, probably in 141 CE. After the earthquake, his largesse concentrated on helping rebuild damaged structures in the cities. The list of his beneficiaries includes at least thirty communities. In thanks for his munificence he received various honors from individual cities and the Lycian League, including multiple citizenships.

Opramoas' mausoleum was built as a small prostyle temple (8×7 m in size) and was adorned on its front and two lateral sides with seventy inscribed documents, including imperial letters, honorary decrees by the Lycian federation, and letters of Roman governors to individual cities and the league. Thirty-two decrees and thirty-eight letters were arranged in twenty columns of one hundred lines on average. The building once occupied a central position in Rhodiapolis, on a small square in front of the theater. It is now almost entirely destroyed. Other than a few surviving inscribed blocks and fragments, knowledge of the inscriptions is based on drawings and squeezes made by Austrian archaeologists in the nineteenth century. All documents were in Greek. The lettering appears to have been uniform. Though largely presenting the documents in chronological order, the dossier was set up with a clear focus on the imperial letters. The documents were therefore inscribed on the mausoleum either all at once or within a limited period of time.

Both letters and decrees praise Opramoas' holding of offices, and enumerate his donations to cities and to the league, and the many honors bestowed on him in return. Letters of the emperor ANTONINUS PIUS expressing recognition

of Opramoas' munificence, in particular his assistance to the cities after the earthquake, were given a prominent position on the entrance wall. The mausoleum's epigraphic program appears to have been designed to celebrate his reaffirmed position and the Roman emperor's endorsement of his activities, in the aftermath of tension between the Roman authorities and the league on account of what appears to have been excessive honors for Opramoas.

As a young man, Opramoas held offices in his paternal city as well as minor offices in the federation and the important federal office for tax collection, that of *archiphylax*, with the assistance of his father, Apollonios, or possibly conjointly with him. He became high priest of the imperial cult ca. 134. The first imperial letter to the league endorsing his munificence, and mentioning the earthquake for the first time, dates from 143. The latest documents on the mausoleum date probably from the middle of the 150s. An inscription from XANTHOS probably lists benefactions of Opramoas to that city dating later than the last documents of the mausoleum (Balland 1981: 173–224; Kokkinia 2000: 233–5 against Coulton 1987). Other inscriptions mentioning Opramoas are at TLOS (*TAM II* 578–9); Kyaneai (*IGRom.* III 704, col. III, line 13); Myra (*IGRom.* III 726); PHASELIS (*TAM II* 1203 with Blackman 1981); Dereköy (Wörrle and Wurster 1997); and Rhodiapolis (*TAM II* 907–8, 915–16).

SEE ALSO: Citizenship; Earthquakes; Epigraphy, Greek; Lycia.

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