

AURELIUS VALERIUS TULLIANUS SYMMACHUS – PROCONSUL OF ACHAEA?

by

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ABSTRACT: The present paper discusses the question of the identity of Symmachus, the recipient of *Cod. Theod.* II 15, 1 and II 4, 1. (a. 319). According to Caillan DAVENPORT's survey concerning Roman governors of Achaia under Diocletian and Constantine, the man was the proconsul of Achaia named Aurelius Valerius Tullianus Symmachus, later consul in 330 AD, but he was not mentioned in two Greek inscriptions from Megara and Argos, engraved probably in the second half of the 4th century. The present author deduces that a certain Symmachus was probably the proconsul of Achaia, although the final answer regarding the question of his title in *Cod. Theod.* II 15, 1 requires a careful analysis of the manuscripts which preserved it and there is still some doubt as to whether we should include the consul Aurelius Valerius Tullianus Symmachus in the list of governors of this province.

An article published in “*Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*” in 2013 by Caillan DAVENPORT provides a comprehensive survey concerning Roman governors of Achaia under Diocletian and Constantine (DAVENPORT 2013). Davenport followed the opinion that Aurelius Valerius Tullianus Symmachus, later consul in 330 AD was earlier proconsul of Achaia, a fact attested by two constitutions preserved in the *Codex Theodosianus*, dated to 319 AD: *Cod. Theod.* II 4, 1; II 15, 1 (DAVENPORT 2013: 229 f.). He contested simultaneously the idea that the same man was mentioned in two Greek inscriptions from Megara and Argos dedicated to a Phosphorius¹, following the most recent and probably correct opinion that they were engraved in the second half of the 4th century². In this paper I wish to

¹ Φ]οσφορίου Μεγαρηῆς ἀριστονόοιο/ καμόντες/ εἰκόνα λαϊνέην στήσαν ἐπ' εὐδικίης,/ οὐνεκα πυργώσας πόλιας κρατεραλγέα/ θούρο[ν]/ τεῦξεν ἀτάρβητον δήϊον ἔνααῆτες (*IG IV*² 1129 B = Robert 1948b: 60); Εἰκόνα Φωσφορίου μεγακύδεος/ ἀνθυπάτοιο/ Ἀρχέλεως Δαναοῖς στήσε χαριζόμενος./ Ψ(ηφίσματι) Β(ουλῆς) (*IG IV* 1608 = ROBERT 1948a: 23).

² At least since REINACH (1900), Aurelius Valerius Tullianus Symmachus has been included among the proconsuls of Achaia by some scholars. See e.g. PREMÉRSTEIN 1923: esp. 74–76; POLARA 1974; BARNES 1982: 104 (followed by CORCORAN 2000: 190, 309, 310); CAMERON 1999: 489–492. This notion is based on the possible early date of the inscriptions combined with the information about the *cursus honorum* of his son, Lucius Aurelius Tullianus Symmachus *signo* Phosphorius and the fact that *signa* were frequently handed down in families (cf. *CIL* VI 1698: “Phosphorii.