

Colloquia Ceranea VI – Plenary Lecture Abstract

Dr. Andrew Dalby (independent scholar)

*A last dinner with Alexander*

The drinking party at Medius's, marking the onset of Alexander the Great's terminal illness, will be re-examined from contemporary and later texts. Close reading of fragments by Nicobule and Aristobulus, set beside the reticence of the court daybooks (Ephemerides) and the studied vagueness of secondary sources, will clarify the sequence of events. That will be the basis for a necessarily speculative narrative of the days that immediately preceded, about which Arrian and Plutarch preferred to say as little as possible. A sequence of feasts and festivals will emerge, culminating in the "last dinner" (as Nicobule calls it), shedding new light on Alexander's last days in Babylon in May 323 B.C.