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**When and How Did Antiochos II Receive His Epithet *Theos*?**

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According to Appian (*Syr*. 65.344), the citizens of Miletos granted Antiochos II his epithet *Theos* out of gratitude for his help in liberating their city from the tyrant Timarchos. However, this statement becomes suspicious when we systematically compare it with the contemporary evidence concerning the use of the epithet *Theos* for 3rd-century rulers. This paper therefore provides a fresh reassessment of the Seleukid documentation where Antiochos II is referred to with his epithet Theos, arguing that this denomination only became the standard title of the king at the end of the 3rd century as part of the process of construction of the Seleukid dynastic cult under Antiochos III. Another related conclusion is that the question about the reliability of Appian (and other authors of the Roman period) should be dealt with by bearing in mind that a third option is available beyond assuming that he was either entirely right or wrong. In this respect, it will be argued that Appian testifies to the long-term development of a tradition that originated in the late 3rd cent. BC but was still a lively piece of the cultural identity of Miletos during the Imperial period.