

memo

Thursday, August 21, 2003

To: Aries

From: Toddle

Re: From the set of books *A Historical Personages, vol. IV, Toinq to Zyzzyx*

Xanathippideseus: (187-127 BCE) Fifth deputy underlibrarian at the library in Pergamum, he is known for his obsession with Xanthippe [*note: Socrates' wife, who is legendary as a shrew, although the stories have little basis in ascertainable fact*], and his eventual discovery of the hem of a toga (believed by Xanathippideseus to have come from the neckline) with Socrates' name stitched into it (believed by Xanathippideseus to have been sewn there by Xanthippe herself so that her husband would be able to either A) keep track of his clothing at the bath or B) remember his name).

Despite years of arduous research and several trips to the library in Alexandria, he was never able to ascertain the rag's authenticity. He did, however, through sheer force of will, convert a loyal following of disciples [*see: Hemmites, vol. II*] who passed his story down.

Late in Xanathippideseus' life, shortly after his return from another fruitless and frustrating trip to Alexandria, his disciples, in an attempt to cheer their leader, threw him a party. The revelries lasted well into the night, and—so the story goes—after consuming several flagons of wine, Xanathippideseus used the sewn hemline to wipe his mouth. The cloth was irreparably stained, and attempts to wash it reduced it to threads.

Some days later, Xanathippideseus took his own life by locking himself in a secluded room of the library, and sewing his mouth, nose, ears, and eyes shut.