The discovery of the tombs at Aegae (modern day Vergina), the traditional burial ground of the Macedonian royal family by Manolis Andronikos in 1977, was arguably one of the 20th century’s greatest archaeological discoveries. Within the Great Tumulus, four separate tombs were located and excavated, all of which belonged to Macedonian royalty.

Of these tombs, particular focus and controversy has surrounded the identity of those found in the second tomb discovered by Andronikos’ team, Tomb II. Two schools of thought have emerged regarding their identities, those being either the father of Alexander the Great, Philip II of Macedon (382-336 B.C.) or Philip II’s son and half-brother of Alexander, Philip III Arrhidaeus (359-317 B.C.). This lecture examines the story of Tomb II, the lives of Philip II and Philip III, as well as discusses the arguments presented over the years supporting either Philip II’s or Philip III’s occupation of the tomb.