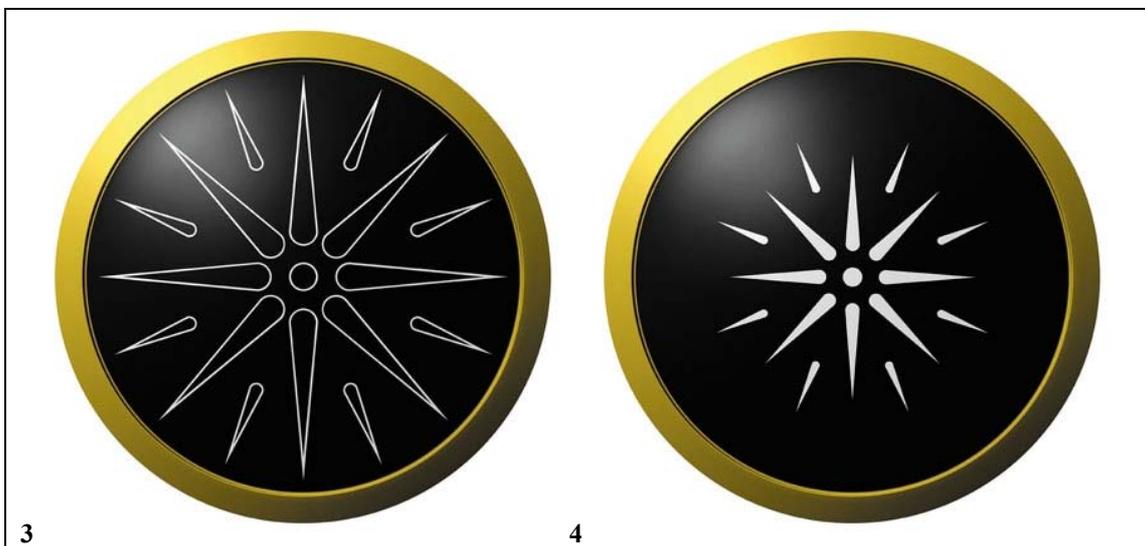


**ATTICA – THE MEDONTID CLAN (THE OLD ROYAL HOUSE)
& THE CLAN OF SOLON**



1 & 2

The eight-pointed star, symbol of the old royal house of Athens and emblem of the members of the Neleid clan (branch of the royal Melanthid clan, scattered in the cities of Ionia). The purple ring represents the symbol of royal power, and the members of the clan are allowed to wear purple, while present in the games or in various rites, while in Attica it is forbidden. Based on vases by Ionian painters, during the VI century BCE (1523, *National Archaeological Museum, Athens*).



3

The eight-pointed star, symbol of the old royal house of Athens and emblem of the members of the Medontid clan (branch of the royal Melanthid clan), that remain in Attica advocating the first democratic reforms, and consequently refusing the symbols of royal power (notably the colour purple). From an hoplitodromos shield, after 520 BCE (CP 151, *Musée du Louvre*).

4

The eight-pointed star, symbol of the old royal house of Athens and emblem of the members of the Medontid clan (branch of the royal Melanthid clan). Based on a krater, about the beginning of the V century BCE (*K 143, Martin von Wagner Antikensammlungen, Würzburg Universität*).



5

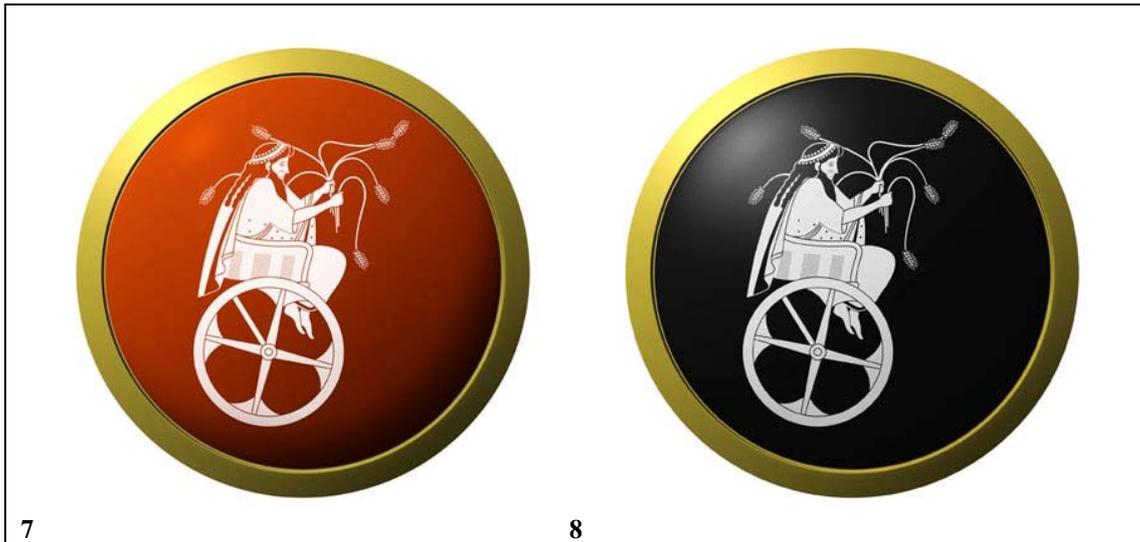
6

5

The eight-pointed star, symbol of the old royal house of Athens and emblem of the members of the Medontid clan (branch of the royal Melanthid clan). Based on a stamnos by the great painter Polygnotus, about the middle of the V century BCE, who paints it on the shield of the legendary Theseus, thus revealing the origins of the symbol (*V.522, Asmolean Museum, Oxford*).

6

The oil-amphora, the standard vessel for the exported olive oil, which according to the legislative reformations of Solon, is the only agricultural product that is allowed to be exported from Attica. The symbol is strongly connected with Athena, since the olive tree is the sacred tree of the divinity that protects Athens, and it is used as an emblem during the period of Solon's presence in power, by members of the Medontid clan (his clan), affiliated citizens and perhaps attic merchants acting as agents of the state. Based on vases and coins issued by the Medontid clan at the beginning of the VI century BCE (*Élite de Monuments Céramographiques, C. Lenormant & Jde Witte, Plate LX, Paris 1837-1861, page 202 & Athens, J.I.A..N. i 1898, Plate IB 10 & Seltman/Cambridge J.I.A..N. i 1898, Plate IB 6 & London B.M.C., Plate XXIV, 21*).



7 & 8

The legendary hero Triptolemus, another symbol of the Medontid clan, and emblem of members connected with the office of organising and monitoring the rituals of Eleusinian Demeter. Since the priestly clan of Eumolpids controls the Mysteries, and has the sole right to carry the symbols of Demeter, the Medontids alternate for the hero Triptolemus, who is also strongly connected with Demeter, since he was taught by the divinity the art of agriculture and from him, the rest of Greece learned to plant and reap crops. Based on a V century BCE vase (*Musée Antoine Vivenel, Compiègne*).

**The original clan of Melanthus comes from Pylos, and appears in Attica after the collapse of the Achaean world, while its members declare that they are the descendants of the legendary Nestor and his family. After toppling the 15th and last heir of the royal house of Theseus, they usurp power, proclaiming Melanthus as king of Athens, but after the death of his son Kodrus, the clan is divided between his two sons, Neleus, who strongly supports the royal institution and Medon, who fights to abolish it. The struggle ends in favour of Medon, who remains in Attica with the Medontid branch of the clan, while Neleus and his supporters lead the colonists in Ionia, leaving Athens for ever.*

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