

hymn or prayer connected with a hebdomadic cult of Apollo. V. B. Gorman confronts the problem of the destruction of Miletus at the end of the Ionian Revolt and its reappearance from the battle of Mycale onwards, accepting a total sack and suggesting that Miletus' *isopoliteia* agreements with its colonies, attested in the fourth century, owe their origin to the return of men from the colonies to repopulate Miletus. I. Malkin reacts against the fashionable scepticism about the 'foundation' of Greek colonies by 'mother cities', using Megara Hyblaea as a test case to argue that a nuanced version of the traditional view is tenable.

In the final section, on Military Matters, P. Kaplan studies Greek mercenaries of the archaic period. We then have a series of chapters connected with the Peloponnesian War. M. Munn examines the ambiguities of 'Attica' in connection with Plataea, Oenoe, and Eleusis, and the chronological and topographical point at which the war should be deemed to have begun. K. Maurer offers a new solution to the problem of Thucydides, 7.63.3, where in the transmitted text Nicias seems to address all the sailors in the Athenian fleet as men who are considered Athenian but in fact are not. S. M. Rusch defends the historicity of the night-time attack on Athens by Agis in Diod. Sic. 13.72.3–73.2. C. Harrison argues against the view that Tissaphernes and Cyrus issued imitation Attic tetradrachms to pay their Greek mercenaries, and in particular against the identification of Tissaphernes on an owl coin with *ΒΑΣ* instead of *ΑΘΕ*. D. H. Conwell upholds the view, derived from Thucydides and Xenophon, that the Athenian walls destroyed at the end of the Peloponnesian War were the long walls and the Piraeus walls. Finally, W. M. Murray (republishing an article from a recent conference volume on naval history, not easily accessible to classicists) uses Octavian's campsite memorial after the battle of Actium to argue against the current consensus that there was a hard-fought battle, involving the destruction of many of Antony's ships by fire; and D. L. Kennedy studies the sites of Khirbet el-Qirana and Khirbet el-Khalde, north-east of the Gulf of Aqaba, suggesting that both were originally Nabataean but later used by the Romans.

We are given a wide range of subjects, then, as often happens when editors do not constrain their authors, and inevitably a range in quality also. But many of the chapters, even some ostensibly devoted to particular details, are valuable studies and raise issues of general importance, and readers will miss much if they go only to the chapter on a particular point which they expect to interest them. The *oikistes* can be proud of his *apoikoi*, and I hope he has enjoyed his celebration.

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BACK TO BASICS ON ALEXANDER

I. WORTHINGTON: *Alexander the Great. A Reader*. Pp. xvi + 332, map. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. Paper, £20.10. ISBN: 0-415-29187-9 (0-415-29186-0 hbk).

With Hollywood ready to provide even more 'spin' to the story of Alexander the Great, we have in *Alexander the Great: A Reader* an opportunity to get back to basics. The substance of this book is a translation of 112 fragments of primary source material (writings or inscriptions from Alexander's lifetime or soon after), followed by some of the most important excerpts from modern scholarship. Previously, unless one read German and had access to Felix Jacoby's massive *Die Fragmente der*

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griechischen Historiker, one was essentially at the mercy of secondary source material alone, writers who had access to the primary source material but who wrote over three hundred years after Alexander's death. There was, of course, C. A. Robinson's English translation (1953) of Jacoby's fragments, but, to the best of my knowledge, that work has been out of print for some time. One important feature of this book then is that it provides access for English language readers to some of the fragmentary primary sources for Alexander. These ancient sources and the accompanying modern scholarship are organized into eleven concise thematic chapters. The themes Worthington has chosen to include are as follows: 'source materials'; 'Alexander's background'; 'Alexander and the Greeks'; 'Alexander and Asia'; 'Alexander, India and the final years'; 'Alexander and the "Unity of Mankind"'; 'Alexander and deification'; 'Alexander and conspiracies'; and a final chapter of assessment entitled 'Alexander: The Great?.'

Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to the chosen theme, followed by a relevant selection of fragments from the ancient sources and then a short bibliography. The substance of each chapter is an excerpt or number of excerpts from modern scholarship. The *Reader* contains the work of some of the most important scholars in Alexander studies over the last half century. The list of scholars included is very impressive. There are contributions from A. B. Bosworth, N. G. L. Hammond, P. A. Brunt, E. A. Fredicksmeier, T. T. B. Ryder, F. W. Walbank, I. Worthington, M. M. Austin, A. K. Narain, J. F. C. Fuller, W. W. Tarn, E. Badian, G. L. Cawkwell, and F. L. Holt. The modern literature included ranges from 1948 through to 2000. Chapters are organized so that the contributions sometimes complement one another to give extended coverage of a particular topic, but also on other occasions, the chapter contains excerpts which provide two or more conflicting points of view concerning a particular theme. Undergraduate students will be encouraged to understand that scholarship is fundamentally a matter of opinion, and hopefully the juxtaposition of contradictory views will help sharpen critical faculties. This, then, is another great strength of this book, which will make it a useful tool for both students and teachers alike.

Description of two chapters will give some idea how the *Reader* operates. Chapter two concerns Alexander's background. After a brief introduction, a number of primary source fragments are presented followed by a short reading list of modern literature. Then N. G. L. Hammond in an excerpt from *The Macedonian State* argues that the Macedonians were essentially Greek even if they did speak a different form of the language. In another excerpt from Hammond's *Alexander the Great: King, Commander and Statesman* the powers and rôle of the Macedonian king are discussed. Finally, an extract from A. B. Bosworth's *Conquest and Empire* focuses on the reign of Philip II. All sections combine to give a comprehensive overview of Alexander's immediate background. By contrast, Chapter 11, on whether or not we should consider Alexander 'Great', after following the same format of introduction, source material, and reading list, juxtaposes some excerpts of conflicting opinion. Hammond is chosen to present the image of Alexander which most people have and Hollywood is, I suspect, about to reinforce, i.e. an almost entirely praiseworthy character. This is followed by W. who, following a trend begun by Badian and forcefully expanded on by Bosworth, pushes the pendulum in the opposite direction entirely focusing on a much more negative appraisal of Alexander's reign which casts some doubt on his deserving of the title 'Great'. Finally, an excerpt by F. L. Holt argues persuasively that scholarship can succumb all too easily to such extremist positions and that W.'s zeal to

condemn Alexander has forced him, at times, into a prejudiced reading of the source material. The other chapters operate along similar lines.

W. has produced an interesting and very useful reader. A different editor might have chosen a slightly different list of topics, but I see little wrong with the present selection. One might argue that we ought now to drop Tarn's much refuted 'unity of mankind' theory and yet it does still provide a starting point. W. makes reference to another Reader on Alexander, edited by W. Heckel and J. Yardley, and scheduled for publication in 2004, which will provide extracts from the secondary source material. Combined, these Readers might be enough to prevent much of the population from believing in the fast approaching Alexanders of Leonardo DiCaprio and Colin Farrell, but I doubt it. For reprint purposes, I noticed minor typographical errors on pp. 20, 57, 67, 94, 100, 154, 193, 198, 248, and 252.

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THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

A. ERSKINE (ed.): *A Companion to the Hellenistic World* (Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World). Pp. xxviii + 588, maps, ills. Malden, MA and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing 2003. Cased, US\$99.95. ISBN: 0-631-22537-4.

A Companion to the Hellenistic World is the first volume to appear in the Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World Series. As such, it augurs well for the quality and usefulness of the series as a whole. The twenty-nine essays contained in it are well written and do, as the cover blurb proclaims, reflect 'the very latest research'. The volume is also a testimonial to the remarkable renaissance in Hellenistic studies that has taken place during the last few decades.

For most of the twentieth century, Hellenistic history was the orphan of Greek historiography, particularly in the English-speaking world. The editor of a similar volume when I entered the field in the late 1960s would have been faced with a very short list of potential contributors, prime among them being the distinguished scholar to whom it is dedicated, Frank Walbank. By contrast, Professor Erskine has been able to assemble a distinguished list of twenty-nine contributors from Europe, the UK, and the USA, without exhausting the list of potential authors. The resulting volume is organized around seven major themes of contemporary Hellenistic scholarship.

The first section, entitled 'Narratives', contains five essays surveying Hellenistic history from the death of Alexander in 323 B.C. to the death of Augustus in A.D. 14. The emphasis in this section is on the decisive rôle played by the Successors in the creation of the Hellenistic state system and the centrality of Rome to Hellenistic history. David Braund describes the emergence of the Macedonian kingdoms in the years from 323 B.C. to 281 B.C. Sheila Ager continues the story, analyzing the see-saw struggle for pre-eminence in Asia between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids between the death of Seleucus I and the Battle of Raphia in 217 B.C.; while Brian McGing traces the unsuccessful struggle of the Hellenistic states to maintain their independence in the face of growing Roman intervention in the decades between