

GREEKS AND BARBARIANS

BRESSON (A.), IVANTCHIK (A.), FERRARY (J.-L.) (edd.) *Une koinè pontique: cités grecques, sociétés indigènes et empires mondiaux sur le littoral nord de la mer Noire (VI^e s. a.C.–III^e s. p.C.)*. (Collection Mémoires 18.) Pp. ii + 377, ills, maps. Bordeaux: Ausonius Éditions, 2007. Cased, €75. ISBN: 978-2-910023-84-3.

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This well-produced and well-illustrated large-format volume publishes the papers of a conference held in Bordeaux in November 2002. There are 27 contributions including A. Ivantchik's introduction, of varying length, just over half in French, a few in German and the rest in English, from Western and Eastern specialists. These are grouped into six sections: 'Origines de la *Koinè* Nord-Pontique'; 'Économie et Organisation de l'Espace Rural'; 'Structures Politiques: Cités et Royaumes Barbares'; 'Architecture et Culture Matérielle'; 'Cultes et Croyances' (the longest, with seven chapters) and 'La *Koinè* Nord-Pontique dans les Projets Impériaux'. Useful maps of the Black Sea preface the text; indexes (of sources, places and persons) conclude the volume.

Part 1 contains G.A. Koshelenko on the first contacts between Greeks and barbarians on the fringes of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, ethnography in the *Periplus* of Ps.-Skylax from Tanais to Phasis (P. Counillon) and P. Dupont using ceramics to investigate whether the Black Sea was a 'lac milésien ou lac nord-ionien'; while Part 2 has 'Ancient Chersonesos and its Periphery from the Classical to the Hellenistic Period' (the late M.I. Zolotarev), as well as C. Müller on the *chôra* of Hermonassa and A. Bresson, in one of longest contributions, returning to the subject of the Aegean cities and Black Sea grain. In Part 3 V.F. Stolba uses numismatics (of Chersonesus and Kerkititis) to examine Graeco-barbarian interrelations in the western Tauris, and Ivantchik a new decree from Olbia to consider and provide new insights into relations between Olbia and the Scythians. Two chapters discuss architectural developments in Greek and local settlements (S.D. Kryzhickij, A. Bujskikh), L. Hannestad looks at handmade and wheel-made pottery, V. Lungu at hydria, craters and amphorae to investigate links between the northern Pontus and Egypt, and F. Fless and M. Treister at the polychrome style of jewellery.

Three contributors, S. Bujskikh, J. Hupe and I.V. Tunkina, focus on the cult and sanctuary of Achilles, and D. Braund on 'Parthenos and the Nymphs at Crimean Chersonesos: Colonial Appropriation and Native Integration'. A. Avram and others discuss new finds from the sacral zone at Histria. G. Bowersock makes a short contribution on the debates about a manumission text from Kerch (*CIRB* 71); A. Vinogradov (son of the late Y. Vinogradov, one of the dedicatees of this volume) a

longer one on Christian inscriptions from the northern Black Sea, essentially a catalogue of twenty items.

The last section has F. de Callatay on revision of the chronology of the bronze coins of Mithridates Eupator and the consequences for dating of the coinage and sites of the Cimmerian Bosphorus (fortified by tabulations and catalogues), S. Saprykin on the barbarian and Roman impact on the Bosporan kingdom, J.-L. Ferrary on the expansion of Roman power in the Black Sea, leading on to I. Makarov and V.M. Zubar on Tauric Chersonesus under Roman administration and aspects of its Romanisation.

The contributions have a varied flavour. Some present archaeological evidence, others concentrate on written sources, epigraphy and numismatics. Most offer some combination of these. Bresson's paper engages with my own writings on the grain trade. When he wrote it, he was unaware of my latest contribution on this topic,¹ just as I was unaware of his piece in this volume. His arguments draw mainly on literary sources; mine come from an archaeological perspective but seek to make use of all kinds of evidence.

In the current collection one can find new evidence presented, existing evidence re-evaluated, and new opinions and interpretations offered. In combination, these offer a good picture of the northern Pontus to Western scholars, particularly in conjunction with G.R. Tsatskheladze (ed.), *North Pontic Archaeology: Recent Discoveries and Studies* (Leiden and Boston, 2001). Both works demonstrate, however, that there is still much to learn and investigate in this region of the Pontus.

The indexes have to deal with the trilingualism of the text. Nevertheless, some rationalisation and cross-referencing might have been deployed to avoid separate entries for Trabzon, Trapézonte and Trapezous, and Trébizonde, to give just one instance.



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