it could become a textbook proper, especially for the ‘colonisation neophytes’. The
scope of contributions as well as methods employed by authors vary a great deal, and
several essays require a certain level of preparation from the reader. Nevertheless, this
three-volume set is sure to become an important source for references and extensive
bibliography for scholars and advanced students of Greek colonisation.

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GREEKS AND BARBARIANS


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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 Bosporus, 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 Kerkinitis) 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 Callataÿ 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 Bosporus (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. Tsetskhladze (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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SOURCES FOR THE ACHAEMENIDS

Kuhrt (A.) The Persian Empire. A Corpus of Sources from the
978-0-415-43628-1.
doi:10.1017/S0009840X09990849

Anyone who has studied in the Achaemenid field knows that one of the first hurdles
to be faced is the sources, which are diverse in language and type. Few can control all
the languages needed to read the range of sources available. K. has undertaken that
daunting task and is to be highly commended for her groundbreaking collection and
translation of original sources relevant to the study of the Achaemenid Empire. This
corpus will benefit all scholars and students working directly and indirectly on the
period, and is a vital addition to Achaemenid scholarship.

1G.R. Tsetskhladze, “‘Grain for Athens’”. The View from the Black Sea’, in R. Alston and
O.M. van Nijf (edd.), Feeding the Ancient Greek City (Leuven, Paris and Dudley, MA, 2008),
pp. 47–62

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Tsetskhladze, Gocha R.

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