
Waldemar Heckel – Johannes Heinrichs – Sabine Müller – Frances Pownall (eds.), *Lexicon of Argead Macedonia*, Berlin, Frank&Timme, 2020, 538 pp [ISBN 978-3732904051].

Some authors stand out in the scene of the scholarship y about Antiquity due to the elaboration of masterpieces that help to go in a rich and complex depth in the many different topics and themes of study. However, just a few of them gain recognition, beyond the usual academic studies, by the creation of works that turn into indispensable tools for the rest of the scholars. In the field of the Ancient Macedonian Studies, these tools have, also, the added value that, in a more reduced sphere of research and with so many darkness still waiting to be solved, they become essential for the advance and improvement of our work and knowledge. In a time like the present, books that turn simultaneously into tools and masterpieces, so rare, are indeed a demonstration of generosity and a bet for the future.

This is in fact the case of the *Lexicon of Argead Macedonia*, edited under the coordination of Waldemar Heckel, Johannes Heinrich, Sabine Müller and Frances Pownall. In his academic career, Waldemar Heckel has accustomed us to constant proofs of this generosity. His *Marshals of Alexander's Empire* (1992; reedited and updated in 2005), in some way a precedent of his essential *Who is who in the Age of Alexander the great* (2006), with which Heckel substitutes the until-then referent of H. Berve (*Das Alexanderreich auf prosopographischer Grundlage*, 2 vols, München, 2016). Thus, Heckel's *Who is who* can be observed as the germ of this *Lexicon*. In this sense, Prosopography, an infrequent historiographical genre despite its clear utility, shows here all its splendour, side by side with its deep compromise with History. In this titanic task of coordinating a *Lexicon*, Heckel shares duties and responsibilities with well-known names of the Argead Macedonia's scholarship, like the excellent Sabine Müller (who, due to her recent efforts and publishing, is now gaining a deserved worth and a charismatic voice in our fieldwork), Frances Pownall (multitalented, with her usual critical view and wide interest in connecting many different topics apparently unconnected), and Johannes Heinrichs (a main voice in Prosopography, and the heir of a great tradition of Ancient Macedonia's German Historians, like the brilliant master G. Wirth). Everyone of these are first-rank names at an international level, and they all have clearly showed their skills and abilities to improve knowledge and to set new understandings and perceptions on many problems and topics concerning the Ancient World. This excellent team counted also with the help, work and support of the more recognized names in the study of Argead Macedonia anyone can list for our own days, every of them referential authors and with a prominent career, again another clue of the quality of the entrances collected in the *Lexicon*.

The book, with a nice and careful format by the press, is to me a kind of net of threads to follow in order to visit, review, connect and study the information about many Macedonian characters in their entrances of the *Lexicon*. I also use to open the book as an invitation to think, contrast and go deeper in many aspects and details of the Argead age. Surprisingly, to the prosopographical format, the editors added also many other kind of thematic entries about concrete aspects of the society and culture of the Argead Macedonia (like the *Reception of the Argeads, in western art*, or *Women*,

Persian, to quote two of my favourite), side by side with entries about cities with an important role (like, for example, *Amphipolis*) in the History of the Argead Macedonia.

Through this alphabetic order of persons, cities and thematic entries, this *Lexicon* is, actually, almost a kind of Encyclopaedia about Ancient Argead Macedonia. Each entry is fulfilled too with the quotation of the sources related with, inviting the reader to revisit the ancient evidences, and a brief abridged bibliographical list that again allows the reader to follow the previous interpretations and the different controversial academic discussions. In my opinion, I miss the editors loose the chance here to publish, as the perfect complement, a complete bibliography, in order to recover the efforts made by Heckel during some years in a website, now offline, but to be honest this appendix would surely duplicate, at least, the extension of the book, and maybe we have to find another way to keep ourselves bibliographically updated. On the other hand, no objections can be done, in my opinion, to a book that is since its very date of publishing an essential referent and an immediate classic. I can hardly imagine the time needed to finish such a challenging task, with its deep perspective and high quality. Certainly, as it is stressed in the back cover, this is the “the first lexicon focusing exclusively on Argead Makedonia”. I guess anyone reading the *Lexicon* and provided with a full knowledge about Argead Macedonia can find here and there a missing entry or a name that deserved to be included, but the profuse abundancy of data collected in each entry, and the exactitude and tone of the texts, carefully detailed and rich in critical explanations of the available information, confer to this first attempt of an *Argead Lexicon* a charismatic value, not just for the prestige of those involved in the redaction and Edition, but also for the utility that such a book can have in aiming new research, interpretations and studies. In a difficult and sad year as the one we lived in 2020, a book like this allows to firmly believe in the generosity as the base of our work, and in the need to share and discuss our ideas as one of the main and more enjoyable facts that life gifts to us.

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