

Heidelberg (Archaeology and Economy in the Ancient World 36): 11-26.

Slane, K.W. and G.D.R. Sanders 2005. Corinth: Late Roman Horizons. *Hesperia* 74.2: 243-297.

Sir John Boardman, James Hargrave, Alexander Avram, Alexander Podossinov, *Connecting the Ancient West and East: Studies Presented to Prof. Gocha R. Tsetskhladze*. pp. xliv, 1525 Leuven: Peeters, 2022. ISBN 9789042944138. €380.00.

Given the frequency with which his name was butchered (even, apparently, on departmental certificates recognising his achievements), it is little surprise that Gocha Tsetskhladze, who passed away in September and to whom this Festschrift is dedicated, acquired a variety of nicknames over his peripatetic career. 'Mr Colonisation' was perhaps the most common, given his long-standing interest in and substantial contribution to the study of the processes of Greek colonisation, but such a name also obscures the catholic nature of his academic interests, which ranged widely from Chersonesean numismatics to the Achaemenid Empire.¹ The 'Modern-day Minns or Rostovtzeff', on the other hand, perhaps mischaracterises his individual process, given that, contra those scholars, Tsetskhladze rarely published single-authored monographs, while I leave it to the people of north-eastern Anatolia to confirm if Gocha was ever officially installed as 'King of Pontos'. Rather, as one reads through the eighty-five articles that compose this collection, the epithet 'one-man Republic of Letters' emerges as the only apt title for this most collaborative of scholars. With contributions from over twenty-five countries and fifty institutions, representing a breadth of topics from the Caucasian Bronze Age to the modern Australian university sector (a self-avowedly eccentric insertion by co-editor James Hargrave, pp. 1487-1505), what this monster two-volume collection lacks in focus it gains in scope and ambition, ultimately serving as a fitting reflection of the life and work of the man himself.

¹ The former the subject of the earliest publication listed in this work: 1989 'Coins of the Dioscurides from Tauric Chersonesus' *Vestnik Drevnei Istorii* 4, 91-95; the latter a fixture of his later work: for example, 2021 'Passing and Conquering: The Achaemenids in Colchis' In S. Skory and S. Zadnikov (eds.) *The Early Iron Age of Eastern Europe: Studies Presented to Irina Shramko Kharkov/Kotelva*, 297-311.

Tsetskhladze was born in the then Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic in the early 1960s, close to the Colchian site of Pichvnari, latter-day home of the pioneering Anglo-Georgian excavation (1998-2009) and a site he himself would later devote several articles and a book to in the 1990s.² As Oswyn Murray illustrates in an entertaining and emotional reflective piece (pp. 1477-1486), scholarly communication across the Iron Curtain was near impossible during the Cold War, and indeed, in this context, the potted biography (pp. 3-25) and achievements of the honoree seem almost miraculous. Barred from university in his native country, he undertook his first degree at the University of Kharkov in Ukraine, before moving to the Institute of Archaeology in Moscow for doctoral research. But as the Soviet Union stumbled and then collapsed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, opportunities in the West opened for Eastern European scholars, and Tsetskhladze joined the University of Oxford in Sept 1990 on a Soros Foundation Scholarship. There he met Sir John Boardman, whose interests in *The Greeks Overseas* (1999) aligned well with Gocha's own, and the former was soon to become primary supervisor of a second doctorate, completed in 1998. By then he was working at Royal Holloway, University of London (1994-2004), before moving to the University of Melbourne, where he stayed until 2015. He latterly moved to (old) south Wales. As an archaeologist, he oversaw projects in Georgia, at Phanagoria on the Cimmerian Bosphorus and at Pessinus in Turkey, and as an academic, supervised the PhD theses of several students, some of whom author papers collected here. But beyond his individual achievements, his lasting legacy is best shown by the collaborative ventures he established, several of which are now at the heart of the research culture of Pontic antiquity. *Ancient West and East*, begun in 2002, serves as one of the foremost journals in the study of the periphery regions of the ancient world, while the *Colloquia Pontica* (latterly *Antiqua*) series has been the platform from which some of the most important works on the Black Sea of the last thirty years have been published (not least his own edited volume *North Pontic Archaeology. Recent Discoveries and Studies* (2001)). Moreover, The International Pontic Congress/Congress on Black Sea Antiquities he established (alongside Alexandru Avram, another editor of this Festschrift and whose own untimely death preceded Gocha's by a year), has served as the preeminent venue for the presentation and discussion of the latest discoveries in the field of Pontic Classical Archaeology since its inception in 1997, having been held (exempting a

² 1999 *Pichvnari and its Environs, 6th c. BC - 4th c. AD Annales Littéraires de l'Université de Franche-Comté* 659. Paris/Besançon.

Covid postponement) every four years ever since, most recently in Thessaloniki (Sept 2022).

The papers collected here represent each of these ventures and many more. In addition to the two aforementioned editors, Tsetsckhladze's two doctoral supervisors Sir John Boardman and Alexander Podossinov helped curate this *Festschrift*, the latter also contributing a paper. Georgia gets papers dedicated to the Bronze Age, Colchian, Medieval and even modern periods of its history (the latter an engaging study of Anglo-Georgian relations by Paul Everill, pp. 1469-1475); Ukraine, Romania and the wider Pontic region are the subject of several papers (including useful English-language articles on the sites of Bilsk, in the wooded steppe near Kyiv (Zadnikov and Shramko, pp. 877-891), Archaic Phanagoria on the Taman Peninsula (Kuznetsov, pp. 521-551) and the festive calendar of Tauric Chersonesos (Ruchynska, pp. 683-693)); while a good number of the attendees of the International Congresses are on display here (for example, from the most recent, Manoledakis, pp. 575-591; de Boer, pp. 339-367; Oller Guzmán, pp. 1261-69, amongst others). The result is, admittedly, slightly uneven. At its best, the range of methodologies, research traditions and material can achieve serendipitous thematic unity and encourage new thinking across cultural and chronological boundaries. 'Bendis Again' by Maya Vassileva (pp. 757-763), as its title suggests, centres on the well-worn subject of the worship of this apparently 'Thracian' goddess at Athens. Concluding from the textual sources and (in Thrace itself, absence of) archaeological evidence that this was a cult forged in exile by the migrant Thracian community, her argument somewhat aligns with the hybridising process in visual art that Boppearachchi identifies in the iconography of Helios/Sūrya in Gandhara (pp. 941-954), an interesting commonality of migrant experience that echoes some of the concerns of Tsetsckhladze's own research. There are also cases of direct scholarly disagreement on the interpretation of specific artefacts. The Achaemenid inscription found in Phanagoria in 2016, bearing witness seemingly to the erection of a stele by Darius (or Xerxes) in the city, is the subject of a number of references across the book, and is indeed illustrated on its front cover.³ The wholly contrary interpretations given, first by Avram (pp. 75-107), who sees it as an indication of a late 6th century Persian campaign to the North Pontic region via the Caucasus Mountain range that was later elided in the Herodotean account, and

by Kuznetsov (pp. 521-551) who places the Persian presence instead to around 480 BC (whereupon they established the first Bosporan ruling dynasty, the Archaeactidae), of this enigmatic source enable the reader to weight the merits of each argument for themselves, aided by the lack of a strong editorial agenda (even, admirably, from Avram) guiding one's interpretation.

At its worst, however, the freeform nature of the contributions can instead resemble editorial oversight rather than conscious balance. The decision to begin the collection with a threadbare and prosaic account of burial grounds at Tios (Atasoy, pp. 51-65) that even its author acknowledges is prelude to a future (and hopefully more in-depth) publication is an odd one, and its ratio of eleven pages of unexplained illustrations to three and a half of text sets an unfortunate precedent for a quantity over quality approach to illustration that recurs throughout the book. The study of Helios-Sūrya iconography discussed above, for example, is accompanied by twelve figures; unfortunately, the image of the particular artefact at the centre of the author's argument is dwarfed by other, less relevant images, to such an extent that is difficult to determine the validity of the proposed re-gendering of one of its figures that forms the crux of the entire piece. An interpretation of the distinctive crescent moon and star sign that appears on Pontic coinage, further, is similarly undermined by the minute scale of its illustration, such that a reader would be forgiven for misidentifying the precise symbol that the author is discussing (Ballesteros Pastor, pp. 123-135). Editorial laxity also seems on display in the persistent and distracting typos. These begin in the introduction with 'Winston-Salem, North Carolina' (pp. XV) and are still on display in the final articles of the second volume ('number', pp. 1381; 'become' for 'became' pp. 1470 etc.).

Of far greater concern, however, for the legacy of Gocha Tsetsckhladze, as indeed for all scholars of the Pontic world, are the actions of the Russian State that began with the annexation of Crimea (and de facto of Donetsk and Luhansk) in 2014 and escalated to a full-scale invasion on 24th February 2022. It is, of course, too early to assess the long-term impact of this conflict on the transcontinental scholarly community that Gocha did so much to establish in the thirty or so years between the Soviet collapse and the current conflict, but the example of his life and the international composition of the book itself offer some optimism for those concerned with maintaining these links in the light of these events. After all, in the closing pages of his contribution, Oswyn Murray cites none

³ In addition to being the subject of an article by Tsetsckhladze himself: 2020 An Achaemenid Inscription from Phanagoria: Rewriting the History of Empire *Aristeas* 21, 89-138.

other than his own great-grandfather, the great lexicographer Sir James Murray, as a model for our own times. In response to the outbreak of the First World War, much of British academia signed up to 'The Writers' Manifesto', a document composed by Oxford Professor of Greek Gilbert Murray that, in denouncing German wartime atrocities, also advocated for the renunciation of all contact with German colleagues. Sir James, however, refused to be a signatory, a position his descendant applauds and has sought to emulate in his own career.⁴ One wonders, however, if this remains the right response for the current times. This Festschrift was launched at the previously mentioned Seventh International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities in Thessaloniki, a gathering held in the immediate aftermath of Gocha's sudden death, but which had already been boycotted by large numbers of colleagues in the field in protest at the invitation of scholars from the Russian Federation and the potential presentation of material from sites illegally excavated in annexed Ukrainian territory. This seems suggestive of a different mood prevailing in our day. But even if, as seems likely at the time of writing, such a new rupture in the scholarly community does persist into the medium and indeed long term, we must nonetheless be grateful to Gocha for ensuring, through the networks he forged and the projects he initiated, that this modern split of West and East has radically redrawn boundaries to those he knew in his youth, with the former now inclusive of both his native country and that of his colleague Prof. Avram, inter multa alia.

RICHARD KENDALL
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
r.g.l.kendall@sms.ed.ac.uk

Stella Demesticha and Lucy Blue with Calliope Baika, Carlo Beltrame, David Blackman, Deborah Cvikel, Helen Farr and Dorit Sivan. *Under the Mediterranean I: Studies in Maritime Archaeology*. (Honor Frost Foundation Research Publication 1). pp. 396. Leiden: Sidestone Pres., 2021. ISBN 978-90-8890-945-0 paperback. £85.00.

⁴ Although, it is important to note that Sir James's motives seem to have been more utilitarian than humanitarian: 'we must not imperil the Dictionary' he wrote to a colleague in 1914 (quoted, pp. 1484).

and

Elpida Hadjidaki-Marder with contributions by Philip P. Betancourt, Thomas M. Brogan, Joanne E. Cutler, Heidi C. M. Dierckx, Eleni Nodarou and Todd Whitelaw. *The Minoan Shipwreck at Pseira, Crete*. pp. 94. INSTAP Prehistory Monographs. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press, 2021. ISBN 9781931534291 hardcover. £54.00

The continuing growth of interest, expertise and investment in archaeology in, under and immediately adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea (and its connected Black Sea arena, covered by one paper in *Under the Mediterranean*) is hugely to be celebrated. Maritime archaeology is revealed by volumes like these as a powerful subdiscipline, updating itself alongside archaeology as a whole and capable of stimulating the wider discipline in terms of methods, techniques and standards. That some of the most important socioeconomic developments of the ancient and historical world (even those centred inland) relate closely to Mediterranean maritime activities including exchange and regular seaborne contact is illustrated by discussions in both these volumes (cf. Duncan Howitt-Marshall's paper in *Under the Mediterranean* on early exploitation of Cyprus through maritime connections between the Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic periods, p. 239-67; Hadjidaki-Marder's fitting of the Pseira shipwreck into current understandings of emergent palatial centres, towns and goods supply systems on Crete, p.73-7 in *The Minoan Shipwreck*). Thus, getting granular detail on how maritime cultural practices constructed and affected social and economic life is necessary to understanding those developments. Both the rich and diverse history of adjacent regions, and the compact, navigable nature of the Mediterranean Sea, allowing intense multidirectional activity, produce abundant cases for research, and there are opportunities for those working in the region to lead in maritime research and recording methods, given the relatively accessible, dense remains, clement weather and often relatively wealthy bordering nations. Both books demonstrate this. At the same time, the rich primary evidence from maritime sources often needs interpretative filtering before it is able to contribute significantly to general archaeological and historical scholarship. The short, single-case study of *The Minoan Shipwreck* does argue the wider archaeological significance of the project to understanding specific sociocultural