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Manolis Manoledakis (ed.). *The Black Sea in the Light of New Archaeological Data and Theoretical Approaches. Proceedings of the 2nd International Workshop on the Black Sea in Antiquity held in Thessaloniki, 18–20 September 2015*. pp. viii+290, highly illustrated in full colour throughout. 2016. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978–178491–510–0 paperback £50 ISBN 978–178491–511–7. ePdf £15.83 (excl. VAT)

That Black Sea studies have become a dynamic field over the last few years is demonstrated by this new volume, edited by Manolis Manoledakis. The book results from a workshop, organised in Thessaloniki in 2015. The title clearly states the book's ambition: collect more data and shed a critical light on them. While the book successfully achieves the first ambition of collecting new data, the second aim – introducing new theoretical frameworks – has only been achieved to a moderate extent throughout the volume. Most of the contributions remain firmly within the established interpretative boundaries and contribute little to ongoing discussions of, for example, globalisation processes in the Ancient World, to name just one omission. Only a few papers

adopt more challenging perspectives on (ethnic) identity or economic production.

In terms of the new data that the book intends to publish, the various contributions show clearly that a lot is going on in the Black Sea region, and that, increasingly, attempts are being made to systematise and synthesise evidence, rather than just presenting single or a few randomly picked objects. The broad adoption of advanced methods for site detection, data management, study of the environment and paleo-landscapes lead to very refined studies that highlight the potential of the Black Sea for the study of the Ancient World. All too long, the Ancient World has (and often still is!) been equalled to the Mediterranean, more specifically, its European part. Volumes like the present one, clearly place the Black Sea on the agenda.

As the introduction to the book states, its ambition is not to provide a comprehensive overview of the entire Black Sea region, and certain parts are absent, most notably, the Eastern Black Sea. This was not a conscious choice, but a coincidence, perhaps caused by the fact that some participants to the conference did not submit a paper. The book collects nineteen contributions that have been grouped geographically: the northern, western and southern Black Sea, completed with a short section on relations between the Pontus and the outside world. All sections are composed of a healthy mix of archaeology, written sources and epigraphy.

Dmitry Chistov presents the latest results of research into Archaic domestic architecture on the island of Berezan. The contribution provides an excellent documentation for the study of Black Sea domestic architecture and domestic architecture in the Ancient World in general. The plans and images provide the reader with a lot of detail. However, slightly confusing in the contribution is the adoption of terminology like 'colonists' house'. One often finds these kinds of (ethnic) attributes attached to material culture – a practice among many archaeologists – but one should separate interpretations like this, i.e. labels, from a discussion of the physical aspects of material culture. After all, we don't know for sure who lived in or built this house, whether it was a colonist, a native, a colonist with a native wife, a native woman with a Greek husband, the son of a mixed marriage etc.

Alfred Twardecki presents the last research executed by a team from the National Museum in Warsaw in the Bosphoran city of Tyritake. Since the escalation of violence in the Crimea, fieldwork has been suspended indefinitely, and the only

contribution the team can presently make is based on the evaluation of previous results. The contribution reports that the excavations touched upon Roman and Byzantine levels and that several domestic contexts were studied. In addition, parts of an Archaic fortification could be documented. It is encouraging is that the author also reports that various World War II events, such as trenches, explosion craters and other war constructions were extensively documented, thus providing a more complete understanding of site formation processes and potentially developing a contemporary archaeological perspective on the region.

Alexey Belousov contributes to the volume with a brief paper to announce work in progress on a corpus of *defixionum tabellae* for Olbia and the Bosphorus. Once finished, the corpus will contribute, as the author states, to our knowledge of materials, palaeography, language, prosopography, the context as well as cultural identity. Importantly, the volume intends to include previously unpublished material as well. A time frame for the publication is, however, not announced by the author.

Gocha Tsetsckhladze synthesises and discusses a number of recent contributions to the study of the geography of the Bosphorus. Most notably, sustained German-Russian efforts have been able to demonstrate that the Taman peninsula was an archipelago in Antiquity and thus, that the local topography must have been very different. Discussion also surrounds the location of the Phasis river. It is difficult to match literary constructions with local topography, and a consensus cannot be reached. Tsetsckhladze subsequently synthesises and discusses the current state of research on the settlements of Golubitskaya 2, Vestnik 1 and Strelka 2, all on the Taman peninsula/archipelago. Evidence points to fortified habitation in the 6th century BCE and after. Currently, the hypothesis is that these fortifications were erected to protect Greeks from hostile natives, but Tsetsckhladze challenges this idea and states that the relations with the natives were mostly friendly. If protection was needed against an enemy, he states, it was more likely that the guilty party was the Achaemenids.

Ioannis Xydopoulos devotes his attention to the Taurians. Xydopoulos suggests that the literary depiction of Taurians as opposites to the Greeks might have started with Herodotus, even though explicit concepts of 'barbarians' were rarely used. Euripides next adopted this perspective, probably because he used Herodotus as a source. Xydopoulos observes that the sharp antithesis between Greeks and Taurians seems to relax in Hellenistic literature,

when Greek heroes are depicted as ancestors to the Taurians.

David Braund studies the relation between Deukalion and Scythia in the work of Lucian. The use of the ethnic Scythian for Deuklaion is peculiar and Braund explores a number of possible cultural meanings that could explain the choice. A possible explanation could be that the Scythians were a land-based group of people, in contrast to Deukalion. Another connection could possibly be Deukalion's father Prometheus, who is characterised as Scythian in Herodotus. In the absence of obvious links, Braund explains that the subtle playful nuances of Lucian remain difficult to disentangle.

The section of the Western Black Sea is opened by a most excellent paper on nomadism in Iron Age Thrace by Adela Sobotkova. She studies the possibility of nomadism as an economic strategy in Thrace, based on multidisciplinary research (archaeology, paleoenvironment, diet, written sources), combined with theory and ethnographic data, in two study areas of the Kazanlak and Yambol provinces. The study area was used for nomadic pastoralism under the Ottomans, meaning it was potentially suitable as well in the Iron Age. Archaeological survey indicates that in the Iron Age, the settlement pattern shifted rapidly. This could potentially indicate pastoralism, but not necessarily. The study of paleo-diet based on skeletal evidence proved to be inconclusive. Paleoenvironmental data, however, show quite radical environmental change in the period under study, which can be linked to more extensive agriculture. The author stresses rightly that nomadism as practice requires a complex system of markets and exchange where pastoralists could exchange their products for agricultural produce. This condition was not met in the Iron Age, Sobotkova concludes, and thus, we are probably rather facing mobile farming or mixed agro-pastoralism in the Iron Age.

Jan Bouzek provides a summary of existing knowledge of the exceptional site of Pistiros. Despite the fact that part of the town has been washed away, extensive remains testify to private and public spaces. One of these might have been an agora. What also remains is a regularly laid-out part of the town, including defences, a colonnade, a building in which weights and seals were found – probably functioning as an official building – and a monumental luxury house, perhaps the residence of the city's magistrate. Pistiros was the location of a lively trade with the Aegean, but liable to taxation by the Odrysian kings.

Miroslav Vasilev reports on a study of the toponym 'Boryza'. The name is only mentioned twice in ancient texts, in Hecataeus and Stephanus. The site's location was unknown, but after careful analysis of the narrative construction of Hecataeus, the author proposes that it was located on the Pontic coast, near Cape Igneada. What we know through literary sources is that it was considered to be a Persian town, which leads the author to conclude that it might have been founded by the Persians during Darius' Scythian campaign. However, rather than being founded, the author's convincing second hypothesis is that it was a small existing Thracian settlement that was taken over by the Persians and then expanded.

Margarit Damyanov presents a selection of pottery from votive deposits on the Skamni promontory – the ancient city of Apollonia Pontica. No architecture is preserved, nor have any inscriptions been found. The nature of the assemblages suggests, however, that cult practices took place. The numerous female figurines and vessels recovered, the latter possibly for offerings and/or the consumption of food, might suggest a cult for Demeter (and Kore). Damyanov thoughtfully discusses the problematic nature of the category of miniature vessels and provides a detailed overview of find categories. The latest discoveries in Apollonia Pontica, including the present discussion, underline the importance of the site in Antiquity. It can only be hoped that, in the near future, the scholarly community will be able to profit from a full publication of all the evidence, including details on quantities. It is increasingly becoming clear that quantification is an important tool for study, in addition to qualitative analysis and the documentation of typological variation.

Mila Chacheva discusses a small selection of objects from the rich necropolis of Apollonia Pontica, to enquire if strings, bracelets, earrings and finger rings were used as more than mere bodily adornment, i.e. as protective amulets. As the author states in her contribution, Apollonia is the most extensively excavated necropolis of the Black Sea region. Regrettably, as remarked *supra*, it is not the most extensively published site, even though numerous smaller thoughtful contributions, like the present one, provide information on the wealth of objects and practices that have been documented during several decades of excavation. Apollonia has the potential to become one of the best documented sites of the Ancient World, if only it were fully published.

The next chapter in the book, co-authored by Alexandre Baralis, Krastina Panayotova, Teodora

Bogdanova, Dimitar Nedev and Konstantin Gospodov summarises the impressive results that have come out of Apollonia during recent years. Great progress has been made into understanding the urban development and rural occupation through time. Important is the discovery of the exploitation of copper in the nearby mountains, which might have played a role in consolidating contacts with the Greek world. The results of this project cannot be underestimated and they prove how fruitful international and interdisciplinary collaboration can come to important results.

Georgia Aristodemou studies in her contribution to the volume attestations of the cult of Nemesis in the Black Sea region. The cult is strongly linked to spectacle and often associated with theatre buildings. The paper collects epigraphic and sculptural evidence and demonstrates the importance of the cult in the Black Sea region.

From the Southern Black Sea region comes a contribution of Sümer Atasoy, who reports on recent research in Tios. Recent excavations have been informative especially on the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

In his very brief overview on Sinope, Owen Doonan reports important results. The team discovered architectural remains and handmade pottery with finger imprints – comparable to early remains from Berezan, Istros, Olbia and other sites. This indicates, according to the author, that there was a pre-Greek network spanning both sides of the Black Sea. Pre-Greek connectivity in the Black Sea region is a very important aspect that has, hitherto, not been studied enough, and the contribution is most welcome in this respect. The earliest Greek pottery at Sinope dates to the later 7th century BCE. In this time, the economy might have been heavily oriented towards fishing. There is presently very little evidence of a formalised chora. In Hellenistic times, trade appears to have been an important part of the economic activities.

Şahin Yıldırım and Nimet Bal report on the study of the Hacilarobası tumulus. The first part of the paper discusses the tumulus itself, which was plundered. Its architecture and content were heavily damaged and partially lost as a result of these illegal excavations. The tumulus has a circular krepis of 20m, a dromos, a front chamber and a main burial chamber. Some scarce finds of glass and ceramics date the tomb to the 1–2 centuries AD. In the immediate surrounding of the tomb, several other tumuli have been observed, but these have not been excavated. The tomb belongs to the so-called

Macedonian type. In the second part of the paper, the authors elaborate on funerary monuments in Paphlagonia, where tumuli are very common burial monuments.

Burcu Erciyas and Mustafa Tatbul provide a preliminary report on Roman Komana. The sanctuary and cult of Ma had a regional importance, for cult and trade. The flourishing sanctuary was taken over by the Romans under Pompey. New research is now starting to reveal the effects of Romanisation in the area, as testified by inscriptions, architectural fragments, coins, pottery, sculpture. The authors report that the elite seemed eager to integrate in the Roman Empire. It would be interesting to know, however, whether there was also local resistance or creative re-appropriation of Roman culture by the local people in this region.

The very short last section comprises two papers on the relations of the Pontus with the outside world. The first contribution, co-authored by Anna Argyri, Ioannis Birtsas and Manolis Manoledakis presents coins that were found in Thessaloniki during emergency excavations for the construction of the Metro. In total, 668 coins were found during the excavations. In this paper 57 coins from Propontis and the Black Sea region are presented. The coins date mostly from Roman times, ca. from the mid-3rd to 5th centuries AD. Most frequently attested are coins struck under Constantine. The coins come from excavations that were executed under difficult circumstances. Funding was interrupted several times, there was little time to study or document the finds, and the storage facilities were below standard. As a result the quality of the visual documentation has been negatively impacted. Indeed, it is appalling that many urban emergency excavations in Greece, and elsewhere, receive so few facilities, despite the great benefit they can have for tourism, as one can see in the metro in Athens today.

The last contribution to the volume, written by Polyxeni Adam-Veleni, discusses the relations Philip II and Alexander maintained with the Black Sea region. Good relations obviously existed as testified e.g. by the magnificent Scythian arrow case that was retrieved from the royal tomb in Aegai. Alexander did not appear to have been very interested in the Black Sea region, although he might have installed a democratic regime in Heracleia Pontica and possibly elsewhere. However, the influence of Hellenistic culture was extensive, and had an impact economically, politically and culturally. Throughout the Black Sea, it has been possible to document the extensive adoption of Macedonian-style rural residences with a fortified tower for

agricultural exploitation. A previous contribution to the present volume discussed the presence of Macedonian-style tombs in Paphlagonia. In general, the Hellenistic period in the Black Sea seems to have been a flourishing one, testified to by the multiple new settlements and evidence of trade.

Overall, this book provides the reader with fascinating new results of archaeological, historical and epigraphic research. Despite our relative scarcity of written sources and its depiction as an alien region in some Classical texts, the Black Sea was a thriving region that provides archaeologists with a wealth of data to compare or contrast Mediterranean contexts with. Whereas some contributions to the book might appeal more to a specialist readership of Black Sea archaeologists and historians, a number of papers will certainly interest scholars studying broader economic, political and cultural developments of the Ancient World. The book is, moreover, richly illustrated throughout with high quality images in colour.

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Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier. *Das Orakelheiligtum des Apollon von Abai/Kalapodi. Eines der bedeutendsten griechischen Heiligtümer nach den Ergebnissen der neuen Ausgrabungen.* (Trierer Winckelmannsprogramm 25). pp. VII+60, 1 map. 2013. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag. ISBN 978-3-447-10708-2. paperback 29€.

Whereas one would usually not proceed with acquiring the booklet of a named public lecture, the present volume could be an exception, for it brings to the reader an excellent overview of the history and current state of the grossly overlooked Apollo sanctuary of Abae in Phocis. Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, director of the excavations at Abae since 2004, was invited to deliver the yearly Winckelmann lecture in Trier in 2013. His lecture includes a comprehensive overview of recent work done at the sanctuary, and presents some of the groundbreaking conclusions that can be drawn from it. None of the recent excavations have been fully published and even less is available in English, this despite the fact that Abae

was one of the most important oracle sanctuaries of the ancient world.

Niemeier introduces the sanctuary with the conventional overview of references in written sources. Subsequently, he discusses the old excavations that led to the identification of the sanctuary, and the new excavations that expanded the chronological horizon of the sanctuary from LH IIIC (if not earlier) to Roman times. Niemeier concludes with a section on the controversial suggestion that the evidence in the sanctuary suggests a continuity in use throughout the Early Iron Age, thus challenging long-standing assumptions of a 'Dark Age' rupture in Greek cult.

The sanctuary of Apollo at Abae was well known to the Ancients. Herodotus refers several times to the oracle in relation to Delphi and Olympia. Sophocles refers to it as 'one of the most important ones'. According to Pausanias, the Thebans consulted it before the battle against the Spartans at Leuktra in 371 BCE. Even Stephanos of Byzantium mentions it, thinking it was even older than Delphi.

The sanctuary is placed on a hilltop on one of the most important routes connecting the Euboean Gulf and Atalanti, ancient Opous and Orchomenos. Today, the village of Kalapodi is located there. Despite its apparent importance in Antiquity, the existence and location of the sanctuary faded from memory until modern times. Even though the sanctuary was visited first in 1676 by G. Wheler and later by many travellers e.g. W.M. Leake, W. Gell, E. Dodwell and S. Pomardi in the 19th century, no excavations were conducted, apart from some test trenches in 1905. During a field trip of the DAI in 1970, R. Felsch noticed the potential of the area and started excavating.

At first, the sanctuary was identified as that of Artemis Elaphebolos of Hyampolis, a city located nearly in the valley. It was not until Niemeier took over the excavations in 2004, that he started to doubt the identification. It looked rather improbable to him that both poles of Abae and Hyampolis would have been located at a distance of only 1,5 km. Since 2007, more and more indications led to the idea that Abae was located in the valley of Kalapodi.

Niemeier summarises the following evidence:

Inscriptions mentioning Apollo have only been found in the Valley of Kalapodi. Inscriptions mentioning Artemis have been found in the Valley of Exarchos, the presumable location of Hyampolis.