
INTRODUCTION

This volume goes back to an international online conference entitled *Macedonia and its Environment* (01.11.-03.11. 2021), hosted by the Department of Ancient History of Marburg University.

The conference aimed at examining, investigating, and discussing the complex and manifold nature of the relations between Argead as well as Antigonid Macedonia and its immediate neighbors as well as the political factors or powers in its political and cultural environment. It explored the impact of Macedonia's diverse relations to the end of coming to a refreshed understanding of its own cultural and political development. By regarding Macedonia from another angle and exploring its complex relations and entanglement with its immediate neighbors during several centuries, the conference attempted to sharpen the view and bring to light otherwise overseen aspects.

While Macedonia had never been far from the focus of international scholarship, research mostly concentrated on the reigns of Philip II and Alexander III. However, during the recent years, there has been a particular interest also in their connection to the ruling tradition of their predecessors and in Macedonian history from the founding of the Argead rule to the time of the Successors and, after the division of Alexander's empire, to Antigonid times and the end of Antigonid kingship.

Stressing the continuity of Argead traditions, political structures, and cultural factors throughout the Macedonian history, the conference examined mutual influences, cultural exchange, political issues, alliances, personal networks, and marital bonds, military conflicts, colliding or common interests, and economic links and trade connections between Argead and Antigonid Macedonia and their immediate neighbors Epeiros/Molossia, Thessaly, the Chalkidike, Illyria, and Thrace.

Four chapters are concerned with Macedonia's relations with Epeiros/Molossia. Ioannis K. Xydopoulos investigates if the Tymphaians can be called a Molossian or a Macedonian ethnic group before they came under Macedonian control under Philip II, a complex problem due to the scarce and often contradictory nature of the sources.

Elizabeth D. Carney investigates the role of Macedonia in the decline of the monarchy in Epeiros/Molossia and argues that despite Macedonian interventions in Epeiros/Molossia, monarchy disappeared there primarily because of internal problems, particularly, with the succession.

Ben Raynor explores the strategies, effectiveness, and legacy of Kassandros' policy towards and in Epeiros after he had taken control over Macedonia, in particular in terms of regional cohesion.

Yuri N. Kuzmin's chapter is dedicated to the political relations between the Antigonids and late Aiakids from 272 to the late 230s BC with a particular focus on the epigraphic material.

The second section is concerned with Macedonia's relations to the Chalkidike and to Thessaly. Frances Pownall analyzes the closeness of the established relationship between the Aleuads and the Argeads paying particular attention to the reigns of

Archelaos and Philip II and the consequences of their ties to Thessaly regarding their policy.

Johannes Heinrichs re-assesses the debated location of the mines of Damastion, based on the exploration of particularly the numismatic evidence, and explores the mines' meaning for Philip II, particularly his policy towards the Chalkidians and the Illyro-Dardanian king Grabos.

Macedonia's relations with its Illyrian neighbors is treated by two contributions: Franca Landucci Gattinoni analyzes the tensed situation between Argead Macedonia and the Illyrians with a particular focus on the reigns of Perdikkas II and Philip II.

Monica D'Agostini scrutinizes the reasons why under Philip V, there was a change regarding the nature of the Illyrian-Antigonid relations and the Illyrians turned from friends to foes.

The fourth and last section is dedicated to the Macedonian-Thracian relations. Olga Palagia traces the influence of Thracian on Macedonian culture, showing in which way after Philip's successes in Thrace, Macedonian elite burials were influenced by the example of Thracian tombs.

Sabine Müller explores the complex relations between Thrace and Macedonia from the late Sixth Century BC to the conquests of Philip II with a focus on the complex power structures in the area of the Hellespont and the Argead ties to the satrapal dynasty governing Hellespontine Phrygia.

Sulochana Asirvatham re-assesses the reliability of the tradition of the involvement of Thracian soldiers in the rape of Timokleia of Thebes during the Macedonian sack of Thebes in 335 BC, paying special attention to the artifice regarding the role of Alexander the Lynkestian.

In sum, the contributions underline the dimension of some cultural and political continuity from Argead to Antigonid times regarding certain aspects of the relations with some neighbors. Thus, the conference reshaped the awareness of the limited trustworthiness of our literary sources with their often anachronistic or biased perspectives and of the necessity to explore the extant archaeological, numismatic or epigraphic evidence.

Editorial note: For names, the Greek spelling has been adopted, except for names most commonly known in the Latinized or English form such as Alexander, Aristotle, Ptolemy, Syracuse, Thrace, or Thucydides.

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Guest Editors