
REVIEWS

Antonio Ignacio Molina Marín, *Alejandro Magno (1916-2015). Un siglo de estudios sobre Macedonia antigua*, Zaragoza, Pórtico, 2018, 772 pp. [ISBN 9788479561758].

No one who has not experienced the challenge of trying to drive a research about the Ancient Greek world, and more concretely, about the Macedonian context, in a country like Spain, where a tradition of Hellenic studies exists but these are not actually a main strategic axis, can understand the complex difficulty that means for a researcher to keep himself updated, first-ranked at an International level, with access to bibliographical resources and sources of information, and with the ability and skills to still publish ground-breaking papers about the different thematic areas of the actual tendencies in our fieldwork. To these factors, if we add the fact that, beyond Universities, the academic networks, funding and scholarships, the public and private resources, and even the time to research, at least in Spain, is not very friendly concerning Hellenic and Hellenistic/Macedonian times, we can then value the work by Antonio Ignacio Molina as an heroic, personal achievement, worthy of the heroes and epopees of an Ancient Myth.

During the very long tradition of studies about Alexander, and the more recent attention to the Macedonian Studies, some attempts have existed to develop projects that, with different formats, trying to collect the huge quantity of bibliography about Alexander and the Argeads that any researcher must know in order to face a deep historical analysis. The more recurrent bibliographies until a recent date had been those of Jakob Seibert (*Alexander der Grosse*, 1972) and, even more, Helmut Berve (*Das Alexanderreich auf prosopographischer Grundlage*, 2 vols, München, 1926). More recent attempts to gather an extensive bibliography focused in our fieldwork have been done during the last decades, implicitly or explicitly, by A. B. Bosworth's *Conquest and Empire* (1988), F. J. Gómez Espelosín (*La leyenda de Alejandro. Mito, historiografía, propaganda*, 2007), and even Heckel's *Who is who in the age of Alexander the Great* (2006). Some websites had also tried to offer a updated bibliographic list in detail, and here we must miss the the work made by Waldemar Heckel, very useful but now offline, or the Hellenistic Bibliography (but currently limited actually to Alexander the Great)¹ compiled by Martine Cuypers (Trinity College) that collects works from 2008-2012. However, the researcher on Alexander, Ancient Macedonia and the Hellenistic world still can feel as Robin Lane Fox when in the prologue of his *Alexander the Great* (1972) he assures that:

¹ <https://sites.google.com/site/hellenisticbibliography/history/alexander-the-great?authuser=0>

“1,472 books and articles are known to me on the subject in the past century and a half, many of which adopt a confident tone and can be dismissed for that alone” (LANE FOX 1975, 11).

Nowadays, the Ancient Macedonian Studies live a time of wide growth and development, as anyone can observe in front of some recent books, like the *Lexicon of Argead Macedonia* (Heckel, Heinrich, Müller and Foxhall, 2020), to quote the best example. In this context, the book *Alejandro Magno (1916-2015). Un siglo de estudios sobre Macedonia Antigua* by Antonio Ignacio Molina becomes an essential tool, at the same level as the main tools we count with to help us in our fieldwork. The reasons are clear: first, because it is an absolutely unusual and incredible effort to organize and solve the clear problem of the enormous amount of available works concerning Alexander, Ancient Macedonia and the Hellenistic World any researcher has to keep in mind. Lately, many researchers who, like my own case, are not anglophone, observe with a certain concern how much of what has been assessed, discussed and even demonstrated in many different previous studies (published in Italian, German, French, or even Spanish) is revisited back again in English papers that are mostly unaware of the trends of previous discussion about the topic in other languages (and please, do not misunderstand me on this: I bless the Gods for such a *lingua franca*!). Secondly, because just a brilliant and well-organized mind could indeed carry out such a catalogue, so thorough and detailed as Antonio Ignacio Molina offers in his book. In fact, beyond the bibliography itself, the main part of this book offers also an invitation to review, by thematic order, the main aspects of the Macedonian Studies. In the first sections of the book, then, we can find some explanations and a clear order about the basic contents and topics about our fieldwork. Likewise, each bibliographical reference has its own brief explanation, which allows us to suspect that the author has really reviewed every bibliographical entrance he includes in his collection, showing thus an amazing knowledge, an incredible tenacity and, among these, the obstinate determination of someone who has decided to face this bibliographical challenge as an essential need for our fieldwork.

The gift of such a basic tool, now available also for free by the author², is probably the best clue to assure that the main masters of our discipline are not only brave and wise scholars, but also generous human beings who sacrifice their time to create resources that makes our work easy and allows us to think better, deeper, harder, in order to push ourselves to improve knowledge and Scholarship.

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² https://www.academia.edu/36538597/Alejandro_Magno_1916_2015_Un_siglo_de_estudios_sobre_Macedonia_antigua