

deserves sincere thanks for compiling an index that facilitates the tortuous work of the philologist. It is perhaps to be regretted that he could not use A. Le Boeuffle's recent edition (1975) of Germanicus, instead of, or together with A. Breysig's somewhat unbalanced (cf. F. Calero, CFC 8 [1975] 197) edition (1899) which, it is true, was the best of those available.

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Friedrich Bodenstedt: Phokäisches Elektron-Geld von 600-326 v. Chr.
Studien zur Bedeutung und zu den Wandlungen einer antiken Goldwährung. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 1976.
170 p., 22 plates. DM 120.-.

Bodenstedt's studies represent an enlarged version of his doctoral dissertation presented in 1974 at the university of Frankfurt a.M. The writer's original intention was simply to carry out a series of technological analyses of die production and coining technique with particular regard to the coin alloys, the purpose being to obtain an instrument for dating these rich coin sequences. The positive results of the technological research impelled the author to include a historical survey and explanation with reference to the economic conditions in the area concerned and to the coining policy of the mint cities (i.e. Phocaia and Mytilene; for a recent analysis of L'accordo monetale tra Focea e Mitilene, cf. Laura Burelli in *Numismatica e antichità classiche VII*, Quaderni Ticinesi 1978, 43-51).

Technological and metallurgical research is becoming increasingly important for the proper understanding of the working of the ancient money market and of the economic history of the classical world. Bodenstedt's book eloquently illustrates what the awareness of the possibilities of technical scholarship in combination with a mastery of method can achieve. It may be sufficient here to stress some of the highlights of the book from the historical point of view. Having ascertained that the electron alloy was artificial (not native) and, consequently, conceived as an instrument of the monetary policy, B. succeeds in differentiating three periods of coining, (1) 600-522 B.C., issues at aeginetan standards, (2) 521-478 B.C. issues at attic standards, and (3) 477-326 B.C. issues at attic standards with a reduction of the gold contents by 7.5 per cent (reflecting an integration of east-Greek electron with the monetary life of the Athenian League. From then on the Phocaian coinage was employed as a supplementary coinage, 'Hilfs- und Reservewährung').

A highly interesting map (p. 82) shows the area within which the Phocaian currency was predominant, from Ainaia and Amphipolis in the West to Ephesos in the south east.

The book concludes with excellent appendices providing details of the technological research, indices and plates, which mark a considerable step forward in the historical evaluation of the monetary economy of the classical Greek world.

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