

con la giustificazione datane nel commento. Non credo, infine, si possa accettare nell'iscrizione *CIL* IV 8903 (p. 49) che il *Ga* che precede il gentilizio *Sabinus* vada inteso come abbreviazione di un ulteriore gentilizio *Gavius* o di un fantomatico identico prenome, mentre mi sembra pacifico che la *M* a cinque tratti, tipograficamente resa con *M'* sia l'abbreviazione del prenome *Manius* e non già di *Manlius* (p. 114).

Ritengo non opportuno, infine, entrare nel merito di singole interpretazioni che l'autore dà a commento di parole, espressioni, o anche di inquadramento stesso di iscrizioni, come anche su fatti linguistici (esiste veramente, ad esempio, la *syllabic notation* di cui anche Wallace, p. 59 e 61, si mostra assertore?). Devo invece almeno segnalare che non sempre l'ubicazione data alle iscrizioni si mostra puntuale, che la resa dei testi non è immune da errori e che la bibliografia, per quanto essenziale, appare comunque datata, mostrando di ignorare numerosi importanti lavori comparsi negli ultimi anni e anche quelli, come ad esempio avviene per *CIL* IV 10676 (p. 102), che mutano con nuova lettura parti importantissime e sostanziali stesse dell'iscrizione.

Completano il volume una lista di abbreviazioni, un indice di nomi, suddiviso però in varie sezioni di dubbia utilità, e un vocabolario, che dà, questo sì, allo studente un supporto veramente notevole nello studio delle iscrizioni.

In definitiva, nel tracciare un bilancio di quest'opera, bisogna innanzitutto ringraziare Wallace dell'amore e della cura che mostra nel coinvolgere i suoi studenti, ma più in generale le nuove generazioni, nello studio dell'epigrafia parietale, con serietà di impostazione metodologica e ampie conoscenze. Per questa stessa ragione bisogna invece fortemente lamentare che (forse a lui stesso per primo) non sia apparso chiaro che lo studio di tale epigrafia non può prescindere in nessun modo dalla parete e dal modo in cui su di essa i segni alfabetici sono riportati.

Alcune sbavature, di fronte all'azione meritoria intrapresa da Wallace, si lasciano volentieri perdonare e dimenticare, mentre alcuni macroscopici errori, altrimenti decisamente allarmanti, vanno a mio avviso piuttosto imputati agli studenti che hanno con lui collaborato nella redazione del volume (p. VI), e credo quindi sia meglio allora parlare di una sua disattenzione nell'opera di controllo e revisione, anche se essa cade comunque nella sua responsabilità ("I alone am responsible for any errors in the text...", p. VI). Sarebbe inoltre veramente auspicabile che Wallace trascorresse un periodo di studio direttamente a Pompei al fine di dare ad un'auspicata seconda edizione di questo utilissimo volume un'impostazione meno "lontana" di quanto ora si avverte.

Antonio Varone

ROBIN OSBORNE: *Greek History*. Classical Foundations. Routledge, London – New York, 2004. ISBN 0-415-31718-5 (pb). X, 175 pp. EUR 10.99.

At first, the minuscule number of text pages (135) and the title of this book do not seem to be in coherence. However, as is said in the Introduction, this book is not supposed to be a full chronological survey of all the events in Greek history, but to offer foundations for understanding such histories, as the name of the series implies. The book delivers what is promises. It causes the reader to ponder upon our modern day viewpoints when

examining, reading, and studying the material and textual data surviving from the past. It makes us wonder how our concept of history has been formed and how much we let our own experience of the world confuse our interpretations of the historical data. *Greek History* is, according to the backcover, an "ideal introduction to the study of ancient Greece" and as such aimed at students at the beginning of their studies in order to teach them already in the early phase to be critical not only towards the information received through other scholars but also towards one's own possible misinterpretations. The book is also useful for more advanced students and scholars, as this kind of discussion too seldom takes place.

After the Introduction, the book is divided into eight chapters, last of which is called "Was Alexander the end of Greek history?" Thus, it seems that in Osborne's (hereafter O.) view, the foundations of Greek history were laid during the archaic and classical periods, the hellenistic and Roman periods not deserving more than a mention.

O. starts in the first chapter ("Familiar but exotic: why Greece needs history?") with homosexuality and pederasty. By examining one vase-painting presenting naked athletes, he shows why Greece needs history. From one image alone so many ideas can be generated, starting from the Olympic games and their social and political importance to the homoerotic implications of such images and even to the oddity (in our eyes) of Greeks performing athletics naked. Thus, it is clear that wide knowledge is needed to interpret correctly all the information one can gain from a single vase.

In the second chapter ("Inventing the Greek polis"), O. moves to more chronological treatment in discussing the invention and development of the Greek city state. He deals with immigration and what is the relationship between myth and truth in the process of colonization. It seems that it was not as organized as is often assumed. In this connection, O. shows how our written sources can sometimes be contradictory but, however, they are extremely important, especially when added to the information gained through archaeology.

Population figures, death and birth rates are the subject of the third chapter ("How many Greeks were there and how did any of them survive?"), with examples from Pitthe koussai in the sixth century B.C. and Athens in the fifth century B.C. The figures are, of course, approximate, but it is also shown where the figures lead: what amounts of agricultural products or other income is needed to keep such and such a population alive etc. Demography is shown to be a difficult field of study yet quite important to all other fields.

The fourth chapter ("Law, tyranny and the invention of politics") concentrates on the gradual development of society towards the city states of the classical period. The written laws appear. It seems that there was always concern about accumulation of power. It was obviously thought to be very important that the terms of magistrates were restricted. Nevertheless, tyranny existed even though it is a phenomenon on which the sources can be quite unreliable.

Warfare is the subject in chapter five ("Making enemies"). The way in which the Greeks fought wars is discussed; O. describes it as "gentlemanly," and the wars were often fought between neighbors. The Persian Wars with their causes and consequences are extensively examined. I was especially delighted to read O.'s contemplations about the famous view of J.S. Mill (still repeated at the time when I was an undergraduate)

about the importance of the battle of Marathon to English history (or to the history of the western Europe, for that matter) arguing that, if the Greeks had lost at Marathon, everything would be different today as Greece would have fallen under Persian rule. O. puts this kind of speculation in its correct place, bringing forth many other scenarios of what might have happened. We actually do not know so much of Persian habits since our sources from this period are mostly Greek.

After the Persian Wars, Athens rises to the focal point of Greece, and in chapter six ("The city of freedom and oppression"), O. deals with Athenian democracy and how the society functioned. The polarity between free citizens and slaves was the main factor keeping the wheels rolling. With (foreign) slaves doing the actual work, it was possible for all citizens to feel that they really were equal and they had common interests. The ideal situation was that every man was thinking and voting for himself; political parties were not approved. Women, of course, could not take part in the decision-making, but they were considered to be important members of society since, without them, Athens would have soon run out of free citizens and women were also responsible for many religious tasks.

Athens was not, however, a typical Greek city, even though it is the best known. In chapter seven ("The unity and diversity of the Greek city"), O. deals with the political systems of other cities, mainly Sparta. All the cities had laws and political systems slightly different from one another, but there seem to be certain factors which applied to all, e.g., women, minors, resident-foreigners or slaves were not allowed to take part in the decision-making anywhere. Laws or customs regarding how non-citizens were allowed to do business or how cities honoured the treaties between themselves were all quite coherent.

The eighth and last chapter ("Was Alexander the end of Greek history?") covers the time from after the Peloponnesian Wars to Alexander and slightly beyond. Northern Greek cities with their leaders gained a more prominent role, especially Philip of Macedonia with his wealth and new – often not so gentlemanly – ways of war. It was now clear that the days of glory of Athens and Thebes were over. When Alexander inherited his father's kingdom at the age of twenty, he continued in the same fashion and his ambition took him even further. After Alexander, there was no return to a city state society. The dynasties controlling areas of Alexander's kingdom continued to fight over the others' inheritance. This does not mean that the life in Greek cities changed dramatically; on the contrary, there was not much difference in daily life. Cities maintained much of their own power over their own business. Therefore, while the history of Greece from the point of view of the rulers and kings changed dramatically with Alexander, the history of the people did not, as many local inscriptions show.

As O. does not repeat all the major historical events, the "Further Reading" section will be very helpful to those who wish to enlarge their knowledge of historical facts (and O.'s discussions will probably sometimes be difficult for junior students who do not yet have all the historical details in mind). The further reading includes more general works on Greek history and also information on where to read more about every subject covered in the text often including the original sources. O. refers mainly to secondary literary written in English. A bibliography and Index follow.

In conclusion, O.'s book is a delightfully different book of Greek history and is

suitable for students and everyone who is beginning to take an interest in ancient history but it is also recommended for teachers and historians alike, as a thought-provoking and up-to-date discussion of historical ideas. This book is a good example of proving Callimachus' thesis, *mega biblion, mega kakon*, right.

Marja Vierros

PETER WILSON: *The Athenian Institution of the Khoregia. The Chorus, The City and the Stage*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2000. ISBN 0-521-55070-X. XV, 435 pp. GBP 70.

This book is divided into three main parts: I. "The Institution"; II. "The *khoregia* in action: Social performance and symbolic practice"; and III. "Beyond Classical Athens". The notes are at the end of the book along with six appendices, a bibliography, and three indices.

Part I (which includes chapters 1. "Private wealth for public performance" and 2. "Organisation and operation") concentrates on the mechanics of the institution of the *khoregia* in Athens and handles issues like, e.g., the number of *khoregoi* needed at the public festivals of Athens and the tasks of these *khoregoi*. Part II (chapters 3. "Aristocratic style"; 4. "*Khoregia* and democracy"; and 5. "Monumentalising victory") discusses the sociology of the *khoregia*, i.e., subjects like the prestige and the ambitions of the *khoregoi* and the essence of the khoregic victory monuments they erected. Part III (chapter 6. "Challenge, change, diffusion") concentrates on the changes of the *khoregia* and its continuity beyond the classical Athens (both temporally and spatially).

There are 31 illustrations in this book. Most of the illustrations depict khoregic monuments but among them there are also some vase paintings which depict the *khoreutai* or the *khoregos* himself. The quality of the illustrations is excellent and they are all mentioned in the text which makes it easy for the reader to bring together an illustration with the author's comments and explanations of it. The appendices are short but full of information, the bibliography is long and imposing, and the indices are exact and easy to use (I found no typographical errors or misprinted references). In short, there is a lot to be praised in this book.

Vesa Vahtikari

PIERRE SÁNCHEZ: *L'Amphictionie des Pyles et de Delphes. Recherches sur son rôle historique, des origines au II^e siècle de notre ère*. Historia-Einzelschriften 148. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2001. ISBN 3-515-07785-5. 574 pp. EUR 100.

C'est une œuvre importante, qui rassemble toute la documentation se rapportant aux structures et à l'histoire de l'Amphictionie des Pyles et de Delphes. Cette institution tint une place unique dans l'histoire grecque, de l'époque archaïque jusqu'à la conquête romaine. Son importance résulte en premier lieu du fait qu'elle se vit confier l'administration du sanctuaire oraculaire le plus fameux du monde antique, sa