

Dominique Kassab Tezgör, ed., *Sinope: The Results of Fifteen Years of Research. Proceedings of the International Symposium 7-9 May 2009.* Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2012 (= *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 16 [2010]). Pp. viii + 559. ISBN 9789004206533. \$170.00.

Archaeology has poorly served the cities of the north coast of Turkey, and none more so than Sinope (modern Sinop), the earliest of the Black Sea colonies of Miletus. Although substantial ancient remains were still visible at Sinop at the beginning of the twentieth century, the only significant excavations at the city were those connected with a brief campaign conducted there by E. Akurgal and L. Budde between 1951 and 1953, whose results are still largely unpublished. It is not surprising, therefore, that the only general study of the city in English remains David M. Robinson's brief 1906 monograph, *Ancient Sinope*.

The situation changed in the 1990s with the launching of Franco-Turkish, English, and American expeditions at Sinop, whose work continues to the present. The nineteen papers in *Sinope: The Results of Fifteen Years of Research* constitute the proceedings of a symposium held in Sinop in 2009 for the purpose of providing an overview of the results achieved by these expeditions during the previous fifteen years. The volume is divided into three unequal sections devoted to the history of Sinope, the archaeology of Sinope and its hinterland, and commercial ties between Sinope and other regions of the Black Sea.

The first section opens with an imaginative paper by David Braund in which he examines the myths concerning Diogenes and the prehistory of Sinope, suggesting in the former case that the story of Diogenes' living in a *pithos* might reflect Sinope's role in Black Sea commerce and in the latter that Ps. Scymnus' reference to Sinope being named after an Amazon belongs to a long historiographical tradition associating the foundation of Sinope and other Black Sea cities with Amazons. In the second paper Claire Barat provides a brief sketch of Sinopean history followed by a lucid survey of twentieth century archaeological work at Sinop including a particularly valuable summary of the results of the excavations carried out by E. Akurgal and L. Budde. Askold Ivantchik argues in the third paper that, while the tradition of a Cimmerian settlement at Sinope is fictitious, it probably originated in a brief Cimmerian incursion that destroyed a first Milesian colony at Sinope. After reviewing the ancient sources and modern scholarship concerning Leucosyrians, Anca Dan suggests in the fourth paper that the supposed presence of Syrians near Sinope is best explained by a Greek underestimation of the size of the *oecumene* that brought northern Anatolia in close proximity to Cilicia and Syria. The final two papers in this section by A. C. S. Peacock and S. Redford discuss the relations of Sinope with the Seljuq Turks in the thirteenth century AD.

The seven papers in the second section open with an overview of the archaeology of the bronze age and iron age at Sinope by Şevket Dönmez, who argues that the first evidence of settlement activity at Sinope after the Middle Bronze Age dates to the

Middle Iron Age (900–650/600 BC), when both Greeks and Eurasian nomads—presumably Cimmerians—were in the area. In the second paper O. Doonan summarizes the results of the field surveys and excavations conducted by the Sinop Regional Archaeological Project (SRAP), which indicate that settlement in Sinope’s hinterland peaked twice, first in the Hellenistic Period and again in Late Antiquity. The third and fourth papers deal with experimental archaeology. In the first Cheryl Ward shows that the hypothesis that shipwrecks would be well preserved in the anoxic zone below 200 meters in the Black Sea was confirmed by examination of a ship that sank ca. 25 km north of Sinope; while Dominique Kassab Tezgör and Ahmet Özsalar describe the reconstruction of a late Roman style kiln in the Archaeological Museum of Sinop. Marie-François Billot provides a detailed catalog of Sinopean architectural terra cottas in the fifth paper, demonstrating that the design of Sinopean architectural terra cottas was influenced by the demands of the Bosporan market, but that their production and export ceased after 300 BC. The section closes with two papers dealing with Sinopean amphora types, the first by Sergei Yu. Vnukov describing the principal forms of Roman period Sinopean amphoras and the second by Andrei Opaiț demonstrating that two rare classes of late Roman period amphoras from Heraclea Pontica and its colony Chersonesus were imitations of a common type of Sinopean amphora known as a “carrot” amphora.

The final six papers of the volume survey Sinope’s commercial relations with other portions of the Black Sea. The first three papers deal with Thrace and the west coast of the Black Sea. Totko Stoyanov argues that artistic influences from eastern Anatolia and nearby regions evidence in northern Thracian metal work of the 4th century BC may have reached Thrace through Sinope. Anelia Bozhova shows that Sinopean amphoras (and their contents) were rarely imported into Thrace and suggests that those that were came primarily via the cities of the Dobruja and the Danube. Daniela Stoyanova demonstrates that the importation of roof tiles from Sinope and Heraclea Pontica into Thrace and the cities of the west coast of the Black Sea was limited to the fourth century BC, after which they were replaced by locally manufactured tiles. In the fourth paper Valentyna V. Krapivina shows that Sinopean ceramics were imported into Olbia throughout the city’s history, peaking, however, in the late 4th and early 3rd centuries BC. Boris Magomedov and Sergey Didenko suggest in the fifth paper that a possible explanation for the presence of Sinopean amphora in sites of the eastern European Chernyakhov Culture might be that Sinopean wine formed part of the subsidies promised to Gothic *federates* by Constantine I in 332 AD. In the final paper of the volume Nino Inaishvili and Merah Khalvashi illustrate the wide variety of imports from Sinope found in Colchis, beginning in the late fourth century BC and continuing into late antiquity.

Sinope: The Results of Fifteen Years of Research is a valuable survey of current archaeological research at Sinop. Of course, there are gaps. A chapter on the inscriptions of Sinope, for example, would have been welcome. On the other hand, the clear evidence that the 4th/3rd centuries BC and Late Antiquity were periods of growth and prosperity at Sinope is an important contribution to our understanding of the city’s

history. In summary, therefore, the volume will be a fundamental resource for scholars interested in the history of one of the premier cities of the ancient Black Sea.

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