

THE TEN THOUSAND IN THRACE



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JAN P. STRONK

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL
COMMENTARY ON XENOPHON'S *ANABASIS*,
BOOKS VI.iii-vi - VII



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PREFACE

This book started, about 1984, as a project of the Henri Frankfort Foundation. I was put upon Xenophon's trail by Dr.J.G.P.Best, who had by then been active on the field of Thracology during quite some years. Later, however, his interest focused on other fields of research and other activities, and our ways parted. Nevertheless, I am grateful to him for introducing me into a fascinating subject.

From the very first moment that this project started I have been supported by Prof.J.M.Bremer and Prof.P.J.Sijpesteijn. I have immensely enjoyed the discussions with both of them, and have benefited greatly from their vast knowledge of the classical world. Several of the, in my opinion, nicest parts of this book are the direct result of intriguing questions they put to me. I owe them a debt that can not be met easily. For their support, and contributions, I am owe a large debt to Prof. J.G.F.Hind, Prof.F.J.A.M.Meijer, Prof.H.W.A.M.Sancisi-Weerdenburg and Prof.B.van der Spek.

On the 3rd and 4th of February 1995 a conference, "Dans les pas des dix-mille. Peuples et pays du Proche-Orient vus par un Grec", was held at Toulouse. To my regret it was impossible to include papers presented during this conference into my observations. The proceedings of the conference will be published later this year by P.Briant.

I owe many thanks to Mr. C. van Veelen. In a time that computer-programmes were not yet as sophisticated as they are today, he created the possibilities for me to get on my computerscreen both Greek and Cyrillic and Latin characters simultaneously, instead of one set of these characters plus a number of square white boxes. Without his help writing would have been an even more difficult process. My work in the region of Calpes Limen would have been many times more difficult without the detailed maps provided by the keeper of the Dutch Historical-Archaeological Institute at Istanbul, Dr.J.J.Roodenberg.

Thanks are also due to Mr.B. (for Bob) Donker for his wonderful drawings. Many years ago, when I still was a student, I already envied his skill. I am glad that he was willing to draw the figures of this book.

I am very much indebted to Mr.J.C.Gieben who has in the most friendly and efficient manner undertaken the publication of this book.

I also wish to thank the Editors of the *Loeb Classical Library* for their permission both to use Brownson's translation of Xenophon's *Anabasis* as my English text and also to use translations of other classical authors published in the *Loeb* series; I am grateful to the board of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston for

providing me with photographs of an ivory *salpinx* and of a *lekythos* in their collection and the permission to publish them. I also owe many thanks to Prof. Rumen Katinčarov of the Ministry of Culture at Sofia for his permission to use material from Bulgarian museums. I am indebted to Dr. J.P.A. v.d. Vin from the Rijksmuseum Koninklijk Penningenkabinet at Leiden, both for providing information as well as making available photographs of several coins, and the trustees of the British Museum at London for providing me with a photograph of a *krater* kept in the Museum. I wish to thank the Vakgroepfonds Grieks of the Amsterdam University for its subsidy, which covered some of my expenses in the last stage of this dissertation.

An immense debt I owe to my parents, who always have supported me in any way they could. It was very painful, to say the least, that my father died only a few weeks before the final completion of the manuscript.

I know by now how difficult it is to write a book. How it is to share the house with one who is writing a book I do not know, but I guess it must be pretty tough. My wife, Anne Keverkamp, and my daughters, Merel and Clio, not only survived my tempers, but even succeeded most of the time in pretending that everything was going on quite normal. Moreover, Anne shared many hundreds of kilometers of travel in Bulgaria and Turkey with me as well as the inconveniences that sometimes go with such expeditions. Apart from that she also helped me with some problems I met on her domain, chemistry and food technology. With such a home front one really is blessed. It is to my home front, parents, Anne, Merel, and Clio, that I want to dedicate this book.

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