

Thomas F. SCANLON, *Sport in the Greek and Roman Worlds*. 1. *Early Greece, the Olympics, and Contests*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2014. 1 vol. XII-338 p. (OXFORD READINGS IN CLASSICAL STUDIES). Prix : £ 65. ISBN 978-0-19-921532-4.

Thomas F. SCANLON, *Sport in the Greek and Roman Worlds*. 2. *Greek Athletic Identities and Roman Sports and Spectacle*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2014. 1 vol. XII-389 p. (OXFORD READINGS IN CLASSICAL STUDIES). Prix : £ 40. ISBN 978-0-19-870378-5.

The history of ancient Greek sport has come into its own; over the last decades it has become a staple undergraduate course on both sides of the Atlantic. Only as late as the 1980's Gardiner's *Athletics of the ancient world* (1930) would have been the handbook of choice, but this has now been replaced by recent titles, e.g. Miller (2004), Kyle (2007). Source books have also appeared, e.g. Miller (2004³), as well as companions, e.g. Christesen and Kyle (2013). Thomas Scanlon has played no mean part in this development: his bibliographical survey of 1984 opened a wide range of studies on ancient sport history to a (student) readership. He has published a number of important articles and studies on the topic, and his Oxford Handbook has been announced. Parallel to this project OUP has also commissioned the two volumes' set of *Oxford Readings in Classical Studies* under review. This series aims to present "a representative selection of the best and most influential articles on a particular author, work, or subject". One would have thought the on-line availability, and especially JSTOR, to have rendered this type of collection redundant, but most of the contributions are not found easily online. At the same time, overlap with a similar, but slimmer volume edited by König (2010) has been avoided. Moreover, six articles have been translated from the original French or German into English. Scanlon offers a brief survey of the recent historiography of the topic (repeated in the second volume), and additional bibliographic information can be found in the introductions to the sections, as well as in the afterwords that follow most of the articles. Section I opens with an article by Scanlon (or. 1999) on the (problematic) evidence for sport activities in Minoan Crete. It was apparently not easy to find a recent article on sport in Homer: Willis (or. 1941) aims to reconstruct the realities of ancient funeral games, such as are represented in epic from Homer up to Nonnus and Quintus Smyrnaeus. There is little attention (and none in the afterword) for historical traditions of funeral games. The section concludes with a translation of an article on athletes and hero cults by de Polignac (or. 1979), who uses the afterword for an elegant critique of his own views and even suggests where later authors on the topic could have pushed matters further. The next section offers a diachronic survey of the ancient Olympics. We find an important discussion by Sinn (or. 1991) on the early history – suggesting that the first Olympics after the Persian wars presented a crucial step in the development as a Panhellenic contest. Crowther (or. 1996) discusses the (limited) involvement of cities with "their" athletes appearing at Olympia; and Farrington (or. 1997) investigates the catchment area of the Olympics over the centuries, pointing at remarkable geographic changes, with implications for their function as a marker of Greek identity in the imperial period. Section III focuses on technical matters, like lanes and turns in running competitions by Miller (or. 1980) and the scoring of the pentathlon by Kyle

(or. 1990), both of which must remain somewhat speculative. Golden's chapter on the division of labour and commemoration of equestrian victory (or. 1997) has more relevance for the social historian, and could fruitfully have been placed in the next section, in vol. 2, on identity and social status. – Vol. 2 opens with Pleket's seminal contribution on the sociology of ancient sport (or. 1978, reprised in 2001), followed by David Young (or. 1983) on ancient amateurism in Greek athletics. Decker discusses gymnasia (or. 1995), in the afterword he refers the reader rightly to the excellent collection on the Hellenistic *gymnasion* by Kah and Scholz (2004). A study of the *gymnasion* in Roman times is still a desideratum. Scanlon's own discussion of girls' participation in the Heraia (or. 2002) concludes this section. In the afterword he concedes that the evidence for female is scarce, but he is right to argue against an overly skeptical view in this respect. The next session turns the attention to Greek games under Rome. Mann (or. 2002) deals with Roman interest and Roman participation in Greek games, and Sinn (or. 1998) discusses the *schola* (somewhat anachronistically described as a guildhall) of the athletic association in Rome, which has been a German excavation. We may note that there is still no major study of these associations under Rome. It is a pity that these chapters are not followed by a discussion of athletic contests at other sites and in individual Greek cities (such as Athens), which would have contributed towards a better understanding of sport as a long-term Greek cultural phenomenon. In the last part the focus is on Italy. Scanlon (p. 14) maintains that "Roman games (*ludi*) and Greek (*agōnes*) connote non-serious leisure playing the same semantic sphere as other cultures", but this is debatable. Louis Robert has repeatedly asserted that the Greek *agōn* is better translated as contest – if only to stress its serious nature. Moreover, even if gladiators in the Eastern provinces sometimes borrowed from athletic modes of self-representation e.g. for their epitaphs, they still did not occupy a similar position in the eyes of organisers, audiences, or indeed their hometowns. As it is, the volume contains three pieces on Roman *ludi*: Welch (or. 1994) on the history of the Roman arena in Italy, Carter (or. 2003) on the famous *Senatus Consultum de Pretiis Gladiatorum Minuendis*, and Kyle (or. 1994) on the issue of how the meat of animal fights found its way into the Roman food-chain. Gori discusses Etruscan sport (or. 1986-1987). The volume is concluded by a somewhat dated piece on Roman chariot races by Harris (or. 1972). Each volume has its own excellent index. To conclude: this reviewer would have expected a focus on Greek athletics alone – and a separate volume on Roman spectacles – but we may be grateful for what we get here: a fine collection of articles and an excellent contribution to our teaching materials.

Onno VAN NIJF

Maia WELLINGTON GAHTAN & Donatella PEGAZZANO (Ed.), *Museum Archetypes and Collecting in the Ancient World*. Leyde – Boston, Brill, 2015. 1 vol. XIV-222 p., 43 ill. n/b, (MONUMENTA GRAECA ET ROMANA, 21). Prix : 135 € (relié). ISBN 978-90-0428050-2.

Cet ouvrage regroupe les contributions présentées lors d'un colloque qui s'est tenu en 2013 sur le thème des collections dans l'Antiquité. Si les collections d'antiques depuis la Renaissance jusqu'à l'époque contemporaine ont été relativement bien