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2001

Review of *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae (LIMC)*, vol. 8 (Thespiades-Zodiacus et Supplementum) and Indices

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#### Custom Citation

Ridgway, Brunilde S. 2001. Review of *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae (LIMC)*, vol. 8 (Thespiades-Zodiacus et Supplementum) and Indices. *American Journal of Archaeology* 105:105-106.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

DICTIONARY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST, edited by *Piotr Bienkowski* and *Alan Millard*. Pp. x + 342, b&w ills. 350. British Museum Press, London 2000. £29.99. ISBN 0-7141-1141-4 (cloth).

The British Museum has produced a handy reference, which is intended as a kind of introduction to their collections and to the ancient Near East (ANE) in general. The geographical limits of the ANE are those adopted by the museum: Mesopotamia, Iran, Anatolia, the Caucasus, the Levant, and Arabia. Since these limits exclude places that are traditionally considered part of the ANE, such as Egypt, one needs to be cautioned at the outset regarding the volume's more limited scope. Also, while the editors chose to treat subjects dated back to the Lower Paleolithic period (ca. 1.5 million years ago), they do not cover anything after the fall of Babylon and Cyrus the Great in 539 B.C. This restricted chronological range rather limits the coverage of the volume and eliminates some of the most transformative epics in ancient Near Eastern history, namely the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman eras. For a fuller and more comprehensive treatment the serious reader is referred to the five-volume *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Ancient Near East* (Oxford 1997), from which the authors regularly draw.

Despite the self-imposed limits, the first entry is on the "Achaemenids," which means that here and there there are exceptions to their rules. There is an excellent mix of technical and general articles, and it is clear that the editors have done a great deal of the writing themselves. The editors also admit in the "Preface" that they had to restrict the number of site entries, but for Syro-Palestinian sites, I am unable to determine what criteria were used for selection. So, for example, two of the most important sites in Israel, Tel Dan and Tel Dor, have no entries. On the other hand, there are unusual and unexpected entries such as "swastika."

Still, there can be no doubt that this volume is very useful and provides easy access to a difficult corpus of data. It is especially strong in prebiblical matters and in Mesopotamia. Perhaps the wealth of material uncovered in Israel and adjoining areas in recent decades presented the editorial team with impossible choices. As a useful guide or introduction to the ANE or to the British Museum holdings, this volume succeeds easily. While it has some limitations, the usefulness of the dictionary and the succinctness and clarity of the entries far outweigh its limitations. A listing of kings and useful index concludes this most attractive volume.

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LEXICON ICONOGRAPHICUM MYTHOLOGIAE CLASSICAE 8: THESPIADES-ZODIACUS ET SUPPLEMENTUM, ABILA-THERSITES. Vol. 1, pp. xxxiv + 1209; figs. 139; vol. 2, pp. 918, photographs 5328 in pls. 824. Artemis, Zurich/Düsseldorf 1997. SFR 1,940. ISBN 3-7608-8758-9 (cloth).

LEXICON ICONOGRAPHICUM MYTHOLOGIAE CLASSICAE, INDICES. Vol. 1, MUSEUMS, COLLECTIONS, SITES. Pp. xliii + 629; vol. 2, LITERARY AND EPIGRAPHICAL SOURCES MENTIONING LOST WORKS, MYTHOLOGICAL NAMES. Pp. vi + 397. Artemis, Düsseldorf 1999. ISBN 3-7608-8760-0 (cloth).

The *magnum opus* is complete: volume 8 concludes the systematic presentation of entries in alphabetical order, and two volumes of indices help us find our way through the wealth of information contained in the entire series. What 30 years ago had seemed an impossible task of international collaboration and gathering of information and photographs is now triumphantly accomplished, with a total of 46,250 documents produced by the 38 countries that are now members of the International Scientific Committee. Regrettably, many who had contributed and supported from the inception could not see the enterprise to its finish, as a history of *LIMC* details (8.1, xiv–xvii); L. Kahil herself, who sketched this outline and was the moving spirit behind it all, is now in poor health and cannot enjoy the fruits of her labors. In 1997 she was named Honorary Secretary General and more than deserves the tribute paid to her by the *Président du Conseil*, V. Lambrinouidakis (8.1 vii; Index 1, vii). Her position is now held by J. Ch. Balty.

Volume 8 contains even more illustrations than its predecessors. The main text offers the usual mixture of personifications (the most important being TYCHE and VICTORIA), geographic features (e.g., TIBER), and *Mischwesen* (e.g., TRITON, TRITONES). Of the major divinities, there are TURMS and UNI as the Etruscan counterparts of Hermes and Hera/Juno, VENUS and VULCANUS as the Roman equivalents of Aphrodite and Hephaistos. ZEUS is such an overwhelming figure that only his appearances in isolation or in narrative scenes until ca. 600 B.C. of them have been compiled—by a total of seven different authors, in their respective languages. Later depictions with other gods are listed simply as cross-references, by volume (371–4). In addition, there are entries on ZEUS IN PERIPHERIA ORIENTALI (six authors), on TINIAS, and on IUPPITER (with an Appendix on the CAPITOLINE TRIAD), and additional sections on IUPPITER IN PERIPHERIA OCCIDENTALI, IUPPITER DOLICHENUS.

While volumes 3 to 7 contain "Addenda" out of proper alphabetical sequence, volume 8 has the "Supplementum" often previously announced. Some of its entries are highly important: KENTAUROI ET KENTAURIDES (8 authors), SILENOI (SATYRS), MAINADES, and three major deities, KYBELE, PAN, and PERSEPHONE. Some continue the listing of homonymous figures (EUPHORBOS VI; EURYTOS IV–V); some (e.g., ASTRAPE) add to a previous mention (in volume 2). AIGIS includes a chart on ways of wearing the item (511), and KERYKEION another on the various types of the herald staff (728). HIEROS GAMOS ranks only a commentary and cross-references, and some items are admittedly "given up": HEROS CUBANS, KOUROTROPHOS, NATIONES, etc. The possibility of future *LIMC* supplements is adumbrated (Index 1, viii).

With this wealth of information, the Indices are a most welcome aid, and I have found them immediately useful, especially since monuments can be cited under unexpected names, according to individual opinions (e.g., the central slab of the Parthenon east frieze under TRAPEZO/TRAPEZOPHOROS ET KOSMO). Each section is preceded by indispensable instructions for use, in German, French, English, and Italian. In volume 1, the names of countries, towns, museums, and private collections are also given in their national form, if part of the four established languages; yet within each rubric, the objects are arranged under French headings, regrettably out of alphabetical order (e.g., peintures murales, ronde bosse en pierre, verre, bijoux, textiles). Inventory numbers determine the listing sequence, thus completing what was occasionally omitted in the entries; their place in the *LIMC* texts is indicated by the various names, without volume numbers, but with "S" if part of the "Supplement," with "#" if part of the "Addenda," to be found alphabetically listed on p. 9 (English version). Even casual mentions can be retrieved, identified with "ad," "ante," or "post" and the relevant catalogue or page number. Volume 2, in addition to the indices mentioned in its title, contains (27–33) a concordance with J. Overbeck, *Die antiken Schriftquellen zur Geschichte der bildenden Künste bei der Griechen* (Leipzig 1868), bibliographical addenda and corrigenda (the latter underlined, 279–384, although not all imperfections have been caught: cf. *AJA* 99 [1995] 744), and a list of authors with their respective contributions (385–97, for a total of 456 names).

These computerized indices are conceived as a help toward archival information, which is richer than the *LIMC* contents, themselves viewed not as a point of arrival but as one of departure for future iconographic research and new initiatives. A work dedicated to cults and rites in the classical world has, in fact, been in preparation for about two years, and the archives will be kept alive. This copious source of information is a vastly useful by-product of the *Lexicon*.

Looking back on the entire series (1981–1997), there is no question that the results have been worth the efforts and the expense (and we must indeed be grateful to the J. Paul Getty Trust for its continuous financial support that has substantially contributed to the completion of the work). Drawbacks and typographical errors are inevitable in a work of this magnitude, but seem minor and inconsequential—even the discrepant dates as-

signed to the same object by the various commentators serve the purpose of highlighting the uncertainty in our chronologies and the difference in our opinions. The indices now minimize some of the initial difficulties in finding whether a specific monument was included, and under what rubric.

Most of the entries were written by well-known, senior scholars, including J. Boardman, E. Simon, and L. Kahil herself. Among the most frequent contributors are A. Kossatz-Deissmann, I. Krauskopf, O. Touchefeu-Meynier, and R. Vollkommer; at the other end of the spectrum, some are credited with a single entry, whether major or minor. Although some unevenness was inevitable, the general quality of the information is very high, and collaboration, when present, ensures the expertise of the research.

To be sure, some of the same material could be found in *RE*, *EAA*, or the *OCD*, but the unparalleled advantage of the *LIMC* consists of its illustrations. Their abundance and quality have made the *LIMC* an invaluable help in studying and citing monuments that cannot otherwise be easily located; the high proportion of details and the inclusion of unpublished pieces are added bonuses.

Personally speaking, I have found my own research immeasurably enriched and facilitated by the volumes, and can attest to the heavy usage to which they are subjected by our students. Individual entries have already been expanded into monographs, and new observations have been and continue to be made. The true scholarly impact of the *LIMC* will not be fully apparent for years to come, but is bound to be remarkable.

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*Editors' Note.* The other reviews of *LIMC* by Brunilde Sismondo Ridgway are:

*LIMC* 1 (AARA–APHLAD): *AJA* 86 (1982) 599–600  
*LIMC* 2 (APRODISIAS–ATHENA): *AJA* 91 (1987)  
150–1  
*LIMC* 3 (ATHERION–EROS): *AJA* 92 (1988) 138–9  
*LIMC* 4 (EROS–HERAKLES): *AJA* 94 (1990) 504–5  
*LIMC* 5 (HERAKLES–KENCHRIAS): *AJA* 96 (1992)  
384–5  
*LIMC* 6 (KENTAUROI ET KENTAURIDES–OIAX):  
*AJA* 98 (1994) 371–3  
*LIMC* 7 (OIDIPOUS–THESEUS): *AJA* 99 (1995)  
743–4

SHELLS, by Cheryl Claassen. (Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology.) Pp. xiv + 266, figs. 38, tables 21. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1998. \$74.95 (cloth); \$27.95 (paper). ISBN 0-521-57036-0 (cloth); 0-521-57852 (paper).

*Shells* by C. Claassen is a manual designed to aid researchers in the study of archaeological shell deposits. This