

BOOK REVIEW

Sport in the Greek and Roman Worlds. Volume 1: Early Greece, the Olympics, and Contests. Edited by THOMAS F. SCANLON. Oxford Readings in Classical Studies. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Pp. xii + 338. Softcover, \$65.00. ISBN 9780199215324.

Sport in the Greek and Roman Worlds. Volume 2: Greek Athletic Identities and Roman Sports and Spectacle. Edited by THOMAS F. SCANLON. Oxford Readings in Classical Studies. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Pp. xii + 389. Softcover, \$65.00. ISBN 9780198703785.

For historians of ancient sport who also teach the subject at university, the range of textbooks and reference guides now available in English is fast becoming an embarrassment of riches, one that reflects the vibrant state of the field itself. The earliest genre to appear was the traditional sourcebook, which collects (in translation) the literary and epigraphic evidence from Greece (e.g. Stephen Miller 2004) and Rome (e.g. Anne Mahoney 2001). This was supplemented by a handy reference book on sport in both cultures (Mark Golden 2004). Surveys, the second genre, usually have been limited to a single period, culture, or theme (e.g. the Olympics), but at least two were notable for their sweeping chronological and historical scope (Donald Kyle 2007; David Potter 2012). The third and newest iteration is the edited volume which is variously packaged as a reader, companion, or handbook and which presents either previously-published scholarly articles arranged according to select themes (e.g. Jason König 2010) or newly-commissioned essays which aspire toward more catholic coverage (e.g. Paul Christesen and Donald Kyle 2013). The two-volume book under review here, a collection of journal articles, belongs to the third genre.

Both volumes include the editor's introduction, in which he lucidly summarizes the history and current state of the field, and includes a bibliography and (extremely detailed) index. The first, slightly slimmer volume begins with "Greek Heroes and Origins," with chapters on "Women, Bull Sports, Cults and Initiation in Minoan Crete" (Thomas Scanlon), "Athletic Contests in the Epic" (William Willis), and "Athletic Cults in Ancient Greece" (François de Polignac). The sec-

ond section, "Contesting the Olympics," includes "Olympia: The Place of the Contests in the Cult of Zeus Olympus" (Ulrich Sinn), "Athlete and State: Qualifying for the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece" (Nigel Crowther), and "Olympic Victors and the Popularity of the Games in the Imperial Period" (Andrew Farrington). Finally, "Enigmas and Solutions of the Greek Contests" surveys "Turns and Lanes in the Ancient Stadium" (Stephen Miller), "Winning and Watching the Greek Pentathlon" (Donald Kyle), and "Equestrian Competition in Ancient Greece: Difference, Dissent, Democracy" (Mark Golden). The chapters in this volume cover a lot of ground and yet hang together tightly, and Scanlon helpfully contextualizes all of their arguments and subsequent work in his three section introductions. In addition, eight of the nine contributions have thorough addenda by their authors.

The second volume begins with a section on "Identity, Status, and the Greek Athlete," which includes "On the Sociology of Ancient Sport" (Henry Pleket), "Professionalism in Archaic and Classical Greek Athletics" (Donald Young), "Gymnasion" (Wolfgang Decker), and "Racing for Hera" (Thomas Scanlon). "Greek Sports in the Roman Era" features "Greek Sport and Roman Identity: The *Certamina Athletarum* at Rome" (Christian Mann) and "Olympia and the *Curia Athletarum* in Rome" (Ulrich Sinn). The final section, "Etruscan and Roman Sports and Spectacles," contains "Etruscan Sports and Festivals" (Gigliola Gori), "The Roman Arena in Late-Republican Italy: A Re-evaluation" (Katherine Welch), "Gladiatorial Ranking and the *SC de Pretiis Gladiatorum Minuendis*" (Michael Carter), "Animal Spectacles in Ancient Rome: Meat and Meaning" (Donald Kyle), and "The Organization of Roman Racing" (Harold Harris).

Again, Scanlon introduces each section, but the Italic material receives much briefer treatment: where the sections on the Greek material in Volumes 1 and 2 receive an average of three pages, those on Italy get barely a page. In addition, only six of the 11 contributions have addenda, which is disappointing. For instance, Welch provides no addendum, but the arguments made in her article (and subsequent 2007 monograph) should now be evaluated in light of the detailed reviews by Thomas Hufschmid and Frank Sear (*Journal of Roman Archaeology* 23 [2010]: 488–504; 505–509). Such omissions are a lost opportunity since one of the most fascinating and beneficial aspects for a student or a scholar reading such a collection is to learn from each author's responses to his or her work's reception (animated by flashes of wit and humanity in the addenda by Golden and Young).

In addition, I found the selections on Etruscan sport and Roman chariot racing left much wanting: while both are reliable and engaging surveys, Gori's work is now 30 years old, Harris's almost 50. Scanlon provides more updated bibliographical information about both topics in his introduction, but this is of no immediate benefit to the student consulting these outdated readings (instead, see now Jean-Paul Thuillier's chapter on "Etruscan Spectacles" in *The Etruscan World*, edited by Jean MacIntosh Turfa. London: Routledge, 2013; also, Laura Banducci, "Mourning Deaths and Endangering Lives: Etruscan Chariot Racing between Symbol and Reality," *Papers of the British School at Rome* 82 [2004] 1-39). While I applaud the editor's mission to draw exclusively from journals to avoid poaching from other edited collections, the quality of the book's content has been oddly bent here to meet the demands of its format.

In the final analysis, no book—be it a sourcebook, survey or reader/companion/handbook—could ever meet the needs of every educator. Designing a course on sport (and spectacle) depends on one's own interests as well as the perceived interests and abilities of one's students and, given the vibrancy of the field, few instructors likely use exactly the same materials every semester. Scanlon's collection is a welcome addition to existing offerings then, especially as it collects, updates and synthesizes important scholarship by all the heavy-hitters in the field, articles which undergraduates would be hard-pressed to locate in their original, relatively obscure journals or to read in foreign languages. Seen in that way, Scanlon's collection—as the latest entrant into the increasingly crowded field of sport history texts—is a winner.

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