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A Review and Bibliography of Boiotian Studies

Compiled by A. Schachter

Contents:

Notice of Conference

Work in Progress

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Jose Pascual Gonzalez

Bibliography

1. Historical

2. Literary

NOTICE OF CONFERENCE

The Society of Boeotian Studies has announced that the 5th International Congress of Boeotian Studies in Greece will take place in Thebes, on 16-19 September of this year.

Further information can be obtained from the Society, at 8-10 Z. Pigis Street, 3rd Floor, Athens 106, Greece.

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WORK IN PROGRESS

051.0.01 Adolfo J. Dominguez of the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid sends the following report:

RESEARCH PROJECT IN EPIKNEMIDIAN LOKRIS

A research team of the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, in collaboration with the 14th Ephoria of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of Greece, has carried out a research project with the objective of developing a study of the historical topography of Epiknemidian Lokris, within a more extensive scheme which comprises diverse territories of Central Greece.

The territory studied is bounded by Thermopylai on the northwest and Mount Knemis on the southeast, and lies between Mount Kallidromos and the northern end of the Gulf of Euboia.

The literary sources do not say much about the history of this territory, and there is not even unanimity concerning the number of states within it. Epigraphy does not provide much useful information either, since there are not many inscriptions from the region. A large part of the literary and epigraphical material was collected and analysed by W. A. Oldfather in his articles in the RE.

As far as archaeology is concerned, there have been hardly any systematic excavations in Epiknemidian Lokris, except for emergency excavations caused by agricultural or construction activity, whose results are published in ADELTA and various other publications.

The region has been the object of some analyses in several chapters of W. K. Pritchett's *STUDIES IN GREEK TOPOGRAPHY*. He has also brought to light a number of unpublished works and notes by Oldfather, concerning the region.

With regard to numismatics, the issues of the fifth century – the period in which, apparently, Thronion minted coins -- are not well known; as for the coins of the fourth century, what is needed is a thorough study to determine whether, among the various types shared by members of the Koinon of the Eastern Lokrians, there might have existed issues of individual poleis.

To this general picture we have to add that, for a large part of its history, Epiknemidian Lokris was integrated within the Koinon of the Eastern Lokrians, and that, together with the Western Lokrians, it formed part of the Lokrian ethnos, which was entitled to two hieromnemes in the Pylian-Delphic Amphiktyony.

The project which we have developed, and whose publication we are preparing, consists of a re-reading of all the existing literary sources on Lokris, from both historical and topographical points of view, as well as a revision of the opinions which authorities who have worked on the territory have proposed. All of this has been accompanied by a ground survey without collecting material, in collaboration with the 14th Ephoria, which has allowed us to challenge earlier opinions and to embark upon our own working hypotheses.

Our survey combined with earlier efforts will permit us to create a digitalised cartography based on the 1:50000 and 1:5000 maps of the Geographical Service of the Hellenic Army, on which a GIS can be applied; this should allow us, once the points detected in this cartography have been established, to elaborate a theoretical model of the occupation of the region, usage of its natural resources, the relation with routes of communication, elevations, visibility, and in addition, the possibility of tracing the theoretical frontiers of individual poleis; in this last context, Delphic epigraphy has come to our aid as well, in the form of an inscription (FD 4.42) which alludes to boundary disputes between the two principal states of the territory, Thronion and Skarpheia.

In the same way, the assistance of geographers of the Universidad Autonomia de Madrid has permitted us to add to our possibilities an analysis of the natural resources and the configuration of the region, as well as the coastal dynamics of this part of Lokris. These are characterised by a considerable advance of the seacoast during the past 2500 years as a result of the alluviation of the rivers and torrents of the area, and, in the extreme northwest of our area of study, because of contributions from the thermal waters of Thermopylai and the river Spercheios. Phenomena attested in the literary tradition, such as earthquakes and tsunamis, can be explained thanks to the study of these coastal dynamics.

The ancient road network, especially that which linked Epiknemidian Lokris and Phokis, has also been examined, not so much from the point of view of reconstructing the entire system of

ancient roads (a very difficult task because of present conditions affecting the territory) as from that of the relationship between the ancient road network and the location of settlements.

As far as the latter are concerned, it is possible to consider as satisfactorily identified Alpenos, Skarpheia (concerning which the publication of our conclusions will present data which were not taken into account by Pritchett), Thronion, Knemis and Naryka. Rather less certain, but very possible, is the location of the city of Nikaia, as well as the harbour of Thronion, for which we shall also be making a proposal.

Not yet identified is the site at Anavra, where a necropolis of the Geometric period has been excavated, of which only a few preliminary accounts and finds have been published, and in whose upper section there is a very impressive fortification of the Classical period; in the definitive publication we shall argue against the suggestion by Pritchett that the Palaiokastro of Anavra represents the Classical phase of Alpenos. Similarly, we are unable to propose a plausible identification for the city which existed at the Kastro of Mendenitsa, nor for that which occupied the neighbouring hill of Profitis Elias.

The zone immediately to the east of Mount Knemis, watered by the Dipotamos, to the west of whose mouth was found the city of Daphnous, might have served at one time or another as a boundary, with whom it is not possible to say, although we cannot forget the interest of the Phokians in this territory, as Strabo (9.3.1 and 17) has revealed in relation to Daphnous.

In the same way, it turns out to be difficult to assign to concrete deposits, despite several earlier attempts, names such as Argolai, Pharygai, Tarphe, Kalliaros, etcetera, mentioned in various contexts by ancient authors.

We expect to be able to deduce more in the publication in progress, but in the meantime it seems that the population of Epiknemidian Lokris was concentrated around a series of coastal centres (Alpenos, Skarpheia, Thronion, and later, Nikaia), located in zones suitable for maritime commerce, and frequently near the mouths of rivers (e.g. the Boagrioi). Other poleis in the interior were connected with these coastal centres (Anavra, Mendenitsa, Profitis Eleias, and Naryka); these, at some point, were fortified and controlled the passes linking Epiknemidian Lokris and Phokis. The case of Knemides, located at high altitude (615 m. above sea level), and fortified, but near the coast, is to be explained by its virtually impregnable character, and by its position between the two parts of Eastern Lokris. This model of settlement could have arisen during the Archaic period, and reached its maturity during the Classical period. It is difficult to evaluate its origins, since for earlier epochs we possess only scanty remains, such as the Geometric necropolis of Anavra, and the one excavated in the 1950's near Kainourgio, another part of which was being excavated in 2004. Among the important contributions which the 14th Ephoria is making to the project will be the topography of some of the settlements which are most outstanding from the architectural point of view (Anavra, Knemides), in addition to data concerning the archaeological work conducted in the area in recent years, including unpublished material.

Together with these studies we have also embarked upon several distinct subjects relating to the emergence of Lokrian identity, both in Greece and its colonies abroad.

With the present project, we hope, once it is published, to have available up-to-date information and analyses which will make possible a better historical understanding of regions of Central Greece which have received relatively little attention from historical and archaeological investigation. At the present time, when territories which have not usually received excessive attention are beginning to be the object of new investigation, we hope our project will shed enough light to permit further studies, which will lead to a better

understanding of these regions.

051.0.02 Dr. Jose Pascual Gonzalez, of the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, has sent the following report:

THE HERAKLES PROJECT

Since the nineties the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid has developed a research project that has as its main objective the application of GIS to the study of ancient Boeotia in the Classical period. The GIS involves, first, the digitalization or conversion into a numeric format of a map, that is, its cartographic fixation in the computer. Once the digitalization process was completed we had a map on which we could work efficiently, where we could fix any point with absolute accuracy, and where we could introduce all the information available. We were able to measure areas, perimeters, distances, fluvial courses, contour lines, slopes, and to do so in quantities, and with a rapidity and reliability, impossible to obtain through traditional cartography.

Ancient Boeotia occupied 2,816 sq. km with a perimeter of 326 Km, and an area of 2,818 sq. km and a perimeter of 338 km if we include the small islands of Domvraina bay in the south. Nevertheless, this area did not coincide with the total space occupied by the Federal State or its useable land in specific historic periods or annual seasons. Thus, from the above area we would have to take away Oropus (some 158 sq. km) for various periods, and depending on the season, the surface occupied by the three lakes, Copais, Likeri and Paralimni, which covered the western part of Boeotia between November and March. There thus remained around 2,400 sq. km, which still made Boeotia one of the largest Greek states, similar in size to Attica (c. 2,450 sq. km) or Elis (2,660 sq. km)

A simple analysis through the GIS is enough to prove conclusively that Boeotia was far from being a mountainous region. No altitude is over 1600 m. and the area that might be considered as mountainous, that is, the territory above 600 m, adds up to 273 sq. km, which accounts for only 9.7% of the total area of Boeotia; 293.1 sq km, 10.40% of the total, lie between 600 and 400 m above sea level, and 2,252.7 sq. km, nearly 80% of the total, lie between 0 and 400m. These figures are exactly the opposite of the Greek average where 80% of the territory is considered as mountainous or semi-mountainous. The very core of Boeotia was inland and was formed by the basins of the Copais (1,059 sq. km., that is, 38% of the total) and Thebes (1,044 sq. km, or 37%).

Boeotian settlement is normally located below 400 m above sea level, so perhaps we should consider the areas above 400-600 m as mountainous areas which lacked grouped settlements in antiquity. The ideal field for living in Boeotia was around 200 m above sea level.

Through the GIS and several other sources of information we can trace the border lines of poleis of the Boeotian federation (not the syntelic ones; it has to be recognized that most of the time the line is hypothetical), measure the resulting areas and classify the Boeotian poleis by size into three categories: first, small poleis like Acraephia, Chaeronea and Hysiae, whose area was around 50-60 sq. km. Each of these accounted for approximately 2% of the territory of the federation. Four poleis were around 100 sq. km. in area and form what we might call middle-sized Boeotian states: Haliartus (88 sq. km) , Coronea (117), Copae (116) and Lebadea (127). Each of these accounted for 4 and 5% respectively of the total area of the Boeotian Confederation. Other poleis can be considered the larger ones, Orchomenus (196,265 sq. km),

Tanagra (245,65 sq. km) and Thespieae (447,358 sq. km). Thebes, with its 907,612 sq. km was a great polis, unusually large.

Thus, in Boeotia, the average area of a polis was around 100 sq. km. This area guaranteed the survival of a polis with a sufficient level of economic autarchy and the continued benefit of its political independence. Below this, poleis of 50-60 sq. km. had a precarious economic and political existence. It was necessary to have at least 200 sq. km for a city to be considered, within the Boeotian context, as a prime power, and 1,000 sq. km, like Thebes or Corinth (with 948 sq. km), to be considered as a great Greek State.

There is a close correlation between the territorial area of the poleis and their contribution to the Federal State. Thus, for example, the territory of Thebes accounted for 908 sq. km, that is 37.8 % of the total (2,400). With its four districts Thebes provided 36.36% of federal contributions. This correlation breaks down only in the case of the shared districts of Orchomenus and Hysiae (247 sq. km, 10.3% of the federal territory and 18.18% of federal charges). The main reason was Theban policy which tried to debilitate its main Orchomenian rival.

We can say that on average, in Boeotia, it is clear that the area between 0-200 m. above sea level accounts for 70% of the territory of a polis, the area of low hills (400-600 m.) is around 15% and mountainous territory in the strict sense of the term (600-1600m.) accounts for the remaining 15%.

In sum, using the GIS we have a better opportunity to study in depth the real diversity and wealth of the Greek world. And here Boeotian studies can be a leader as a model for other areas of Greece, such as, for example, in our case, Epicnemidian Locris.

Results available in <http://www.ffil.uam.es/antigua/grecia/herakles/herakles1.htm>

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