

**R. Malcolm Errington: A History of the Hellenistic World. 323-30 B.C.
(Oxford 2008) – Some Notes on the Illustrations –**

von DIETER SALZMANN, Münster

The reviewers unanimously characterise Errington's *A History of the Hellenistic World* as an outstanding introduction to the period that aims predominantly of students.¹

In view of the target group of the book it is to be regretted that some descriptions of the coins of Hellenistic rulers reproduced in the text are either wrong or faulty. The reviewers did not notice this,² and future historians will notice it even less.

If furthermore the pertinent coin descriptions will be corrected, it is not a matter of knowing it all, but an attempt to prevent mistakes from being perpetuated with reference to these coins.

P. 4, ill. 2

The tetradrachm carrying the portrait of Ptolemaios I does not date from the years „ca.300-283“ but was struck under Ptolemaios III Euergetes (246-221). Published by A. Kromann-Mørkholm, SNG The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals Danish National Museum 40. Egypt: The Ptolemies (Copenhagen 1977) no. 167, pl. 7.

P. 172, ill. 9

There the comment runs „Official coin portrait of Achaios wearing the diadem; the reverse names him „King Achaios“. Issued by him at Sardis, 220-213“. In truth the obverse of a tetradrachm carrying the portrait of Antiochos III (223-187) from the Tarsos mint has been reproduced. Publication: G.K. Jenkins/M.C. Hipólito, A catalogue of the Calouste

¹ E. Faber, <<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/rezensionen>> (17.11.2009): „[...] Errington hat mit dem hier zu besprechenden Band eine nützliche Darstellung des Hellenismus abgeliefert, die sich erkennbar an ‚(under)graduate students‘ richtet und verdient hat, die Studenten auch zu erreichen.“ J. Atkinson, <<http://www.classics.ukzn.ac.za/reviews/09-10err.htm>> (17.11.2009): „So this is [...] a new narrative history, written by an expert in the field, offering an authoritative and accessible survey for students and readers alike.“ F. Daubner, in *sehepunkte* 9 (2009), Nr. 3 [15.03.2009] <<http://www.sehepunkte.de/2009/03/14396.html>> (17.11.2009): „Gerade als Einführung in diese für Studenten oft abschreckend komplexe Materie ist das Buch trefflich geeignet“. A. Meeus, *The Classical Review* vol. 59 no. 2 (2009) 530-531: „It is primarily meant for ‘students and the general reader’, but the volume is well worth reading by anyone with an interest in the period“.

² Faber fn. 3 notes: „Das Kartenmaterial ist in Ordnung, die Abbildungen eher uninspiriert – ausschließlich Portraitbüsten und Münzbilder der Herrscher.“

Gulbenkian Collection of Greek Coins II: Greece to East (Lisboa 1987) 147 no. 1030, pl. 94.

P. 199, ill. 11 has this description: „Early official coin portrait of the young Macedonian King Philip V wearing the diadem, probably issued at Pella, ca. 220-217.“ The reproduction shows, however, the obverse of a drachm carrying the portrait of King Perseus (179-168). Publication: Jenkins/Hipólito op. cit. 116 no. 888, pl. 82.

P. 285, ill. 16 is said to show the „official coin portrait of Nikomedes III of Bithynia wearing the diadem ...“. The coin shown was indeed struck under Nikomedes III (127-94), specifically in 111 B.C. since the reverse gives year 188 of the Bithynian era. The obverse, however, does not show the head of this ruler but the posthumous portrait of Nikomedes II (149-127), as do all tetradrachms struck under the kings Nikomedes III and IV.³ Publication: SNG The Royal Collection of coins and medals Danish National Museum. 18. Bosphorus-Bithynia (Copenhagen 1944). no. 649, pl. 16.

In another publication I have drawn attention to the fact that reproductions of ancient coins taken from the world wide web are often wrongly described.⁴ In this case the situation is different and more confusing. The coins mentioned and discussed here have already been given their scholarly publication. If the relevant publications had been consulted and cited, the mistakes described above would not have happened.

Prof. Dr. Dieter Salzmann
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Institut für Klassische Archäologie und
Frühchristliche Archäologie / Archäologisches Museum
Domplatz 20-22
D-48143 Münster
E-Mail: salzman@uni-muenster.de

³ W.H. Waddington/E. Babelon/Th. Reinach, Recueil général des monnaies grecques d'Asie Mineure 1,2. Bithynie (Paris 1908) 228 fn. 2.

⁴ Theodosius oder Nero: Wen kümmerts?, in: R. Einicke (Ed.), Zurück zum Gegenstand. Festschrift für Andreas E. Furtwängler, vol. 2 (Langenweißbach 2009) 631-633.