

Thucydides and Thrace:

linking texts, objects, and places

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The topic

- broader local context
- political/cultural/ethnolinguistic contacts
- linking texts, places, objects
- parallel study of local and international scholars

Major points of interest

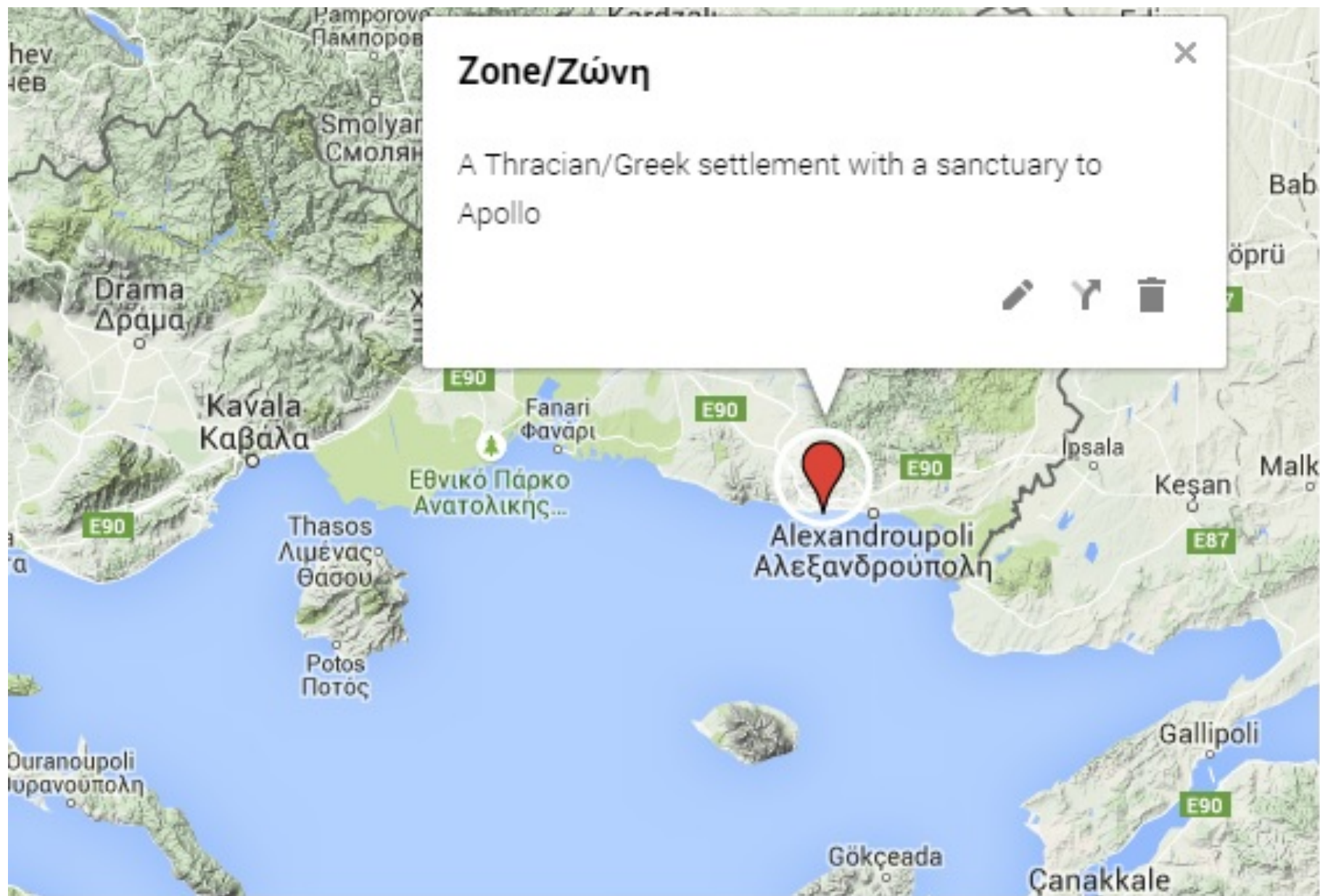
- The Greek world and Thrace: contact zones
- Thucydides and Thrace
- Thrace in Thucydides' *Histories*
- Thrace in objects, artefacts, and toponyms

Peloponnesian War = “The First Balkan War”?

- Peloponnesian allies
- Athenian league
- Odryssian Thracian kingdom:
Sitalces, Sparadokos (son), Seuthes I (son)
- Macedonian kingdom:
Perdiccas, Philippos (brother), Amyntas (nephew)

A zone of contact



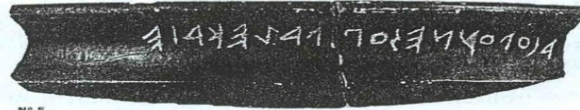


Brixhe, Cl., Zônè et Samothrace : lueurs sur la langue thrace et nouveau chapitre de la grammaire comparée?, *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, 150/2006, pp. 121-146

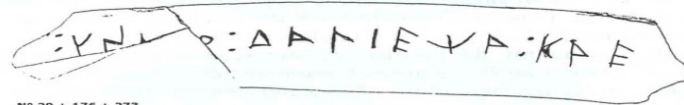
http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/crai_0065-0536_2006_num_150_1_86917

Samothrace: 65 indigenous graffiti on vessels

Zone: 36 inscriptions in Greek, 220 indigenous



Nº 5



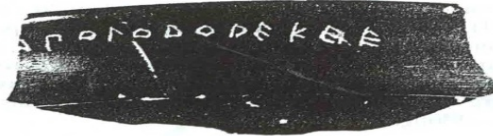
Nº 20 + 176 + 273



N° 36



N° 153



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FIG. 1. — Dédicaces non grecques de Zôné. Cl. et dessins : P. Tsatsopoulou 1989, 1997 et 2001 et l'équipe qu'elle dirige.



N° 1



N° 4

FIG. 2. – Dédicaces non grecques de Samothrace (sanctuaire des Grands Dieux). Cl. : LEHMANN 1960, pl. I et II.



N° 1



N° 2



N° 3

FIG. 3. – Dédicaces non grecques de Samothrace (sanctuaire de Bendis). Dessins : MATSAS 2004.

Slavova, M., Inscriptions on Edonian coins, *Kadmos. Zeitschrift für vor- und frühgriechische Epigraphik*. Band XLVII. 2008, 177–190.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Thucydides and Thrace

Marcellini Vita Thuc. 1

Θουκυδίδης τοίνυν ὁ
συγγραφεὺς Ὀλόρου μὲν
προῆλθε πατρός, τὴν
ἐπωνυμίαν ἔχοντος ἀπὸ
Ὀλόρου τοῦ Θρακῶν
βασιλέως, καὶ μητρὸς
Ἡγησιπύλης, ἀπόγονος
δὲ τῶν εὐδοκιμωτάτων
στρατηγῶν, λέγω δὴ τῶν
περὶ Μιλτιάδην καὶ
Κίμωνα.

Thucydides, the writer, came forth
from Olorus his father, who had his
name from Olorus, the king of the
Thracians, and his mother,
Hegeisipyle, and was a descendant of
most highly esteemed generals, such
as the ones from the kin of Miltiades
and Cymon.

Marcellini *Vita Thuc.* 5-9

Θρᾶκες καὶ Δόλογχοι
ἐπολέμουν πρὸς Ἀψινθίους
ὄντας γείτονας.
ταλαιπωρούμενοι δὲ τῷ
πολέμῳ... καταφεύγουσιν
ἐπὶ τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ χρηστήρια...
οὐκ ἐψεύσθησαν τῶν
ἐλπίδων· ἐχρήσθησαν γὰρ
κράτιστον ἔξιν ἡγεμόνα
τοῦτον ὃς ἂν αὐτοὺς
ἄλωμένους ἐπὶ ξενίαν
καλέσῃ.

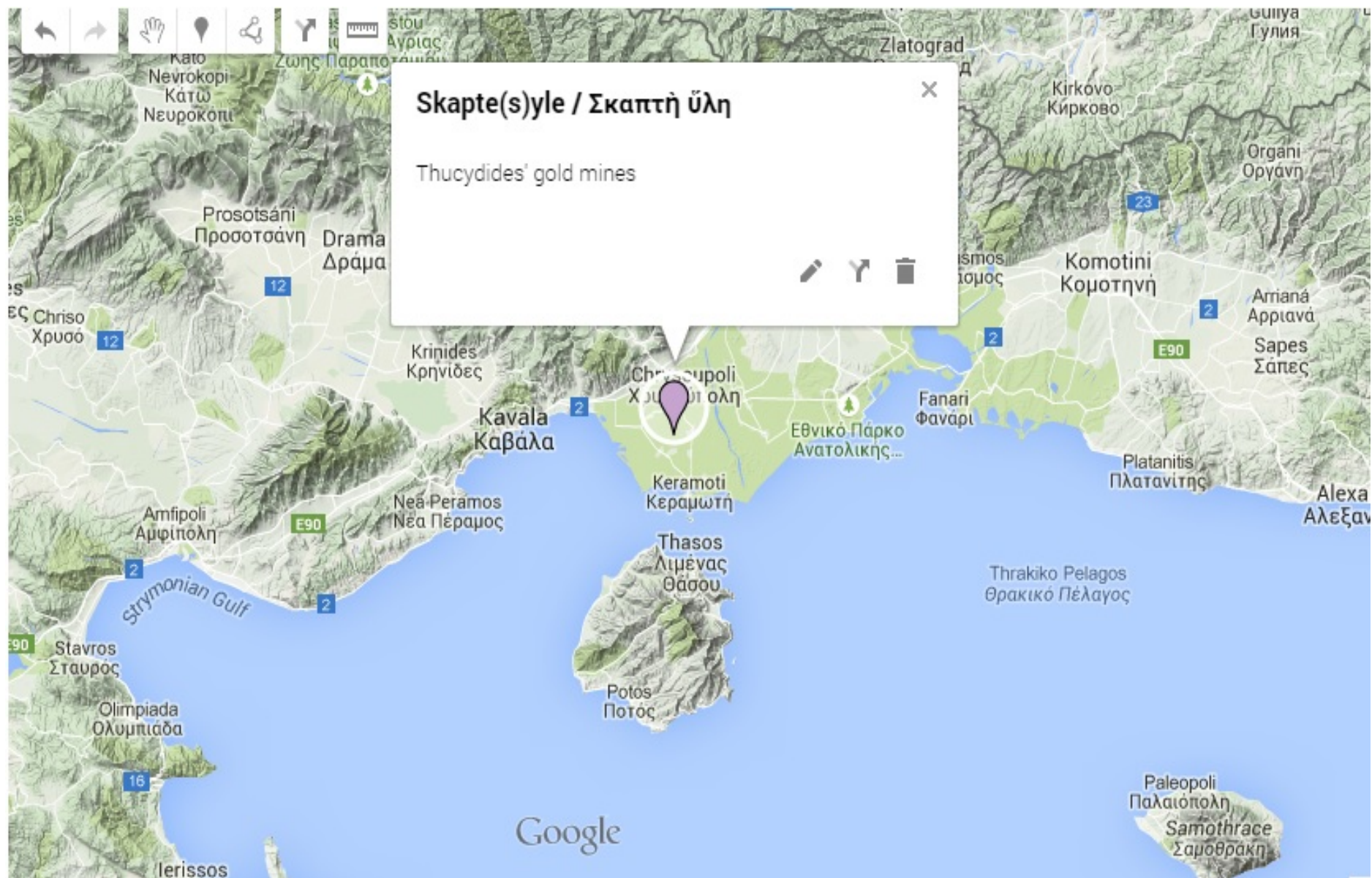
The Thracians and the Dolonkians
waged war against the Apsinthians,
their neighbours. Distressed by war
and having suffered not a little evil,
they took refuge in the oracle of a
god... They were not deceived in their
hopes. For they were given an oracle
that the most able man would be their
leader, who would call to them with
hospitality as they were wandering.

Marcellini Vita Thuc. 5-9

ἐπανιόντες οὖν ἀπὸ τοῦ
χρηστηρίου περιέτυχον τῷ
Μιλτιάδῃ πρὸ τῶν ὁρῶν
καθεζομένῳ τῆς Ἀττικῆς,
ἀχθομένῳ μὲν τῇ τυραννίδι,
ζητοῦντι δὲ δικαίαν τῆς
Ἀττικῆς ἔξοδον... ὁρῶν οὖν
αὐτοὺς πλανητῶν ἔχοντας
στολήν... καλεῖ τοὺς ἄνδρας
ἐπὶ ξενίαν... οἱ δ' ἤσθησαν
τὸν ἡγεμόνα τὸν ἀπὸ τῶν
ξενίων εἰληφότες, καὶ
πάντα αὐτῷ διηγησάμενοι
στρατηγὸν ἐχειροτόνησαν
αὐτῶν.

On their return from the oracle, they
chanced upon Miltiades, who was
seated before the boundaries of Attica.
He was vexed at the tyranny and was
seeking a just escape. When he saw
them dressed as wanderers, he invited
them. They were glad that they have
found their foreign leader. After they
also described in detail everything to
him, they elected him their general.





431 BC – Thuc. 2.29

During the same summer Nymphodorus, son of Pythes, an Abderite, whose sister Sitalces had married, was made their Proxenus by the Athenians and sent for to Athens. They had hitherto considered him their enemy; but he had great influence with Sitalces, and they wished this prince to become their ally. Sitalces was the son of Teres and king of the Thracians. [2] Teres, the father of Sitalces, was the first to establish the great kingdom of the Odrysians on a scale quite unknown to the rest of Thrace, a large portion of the Thracians being independent. [3] This Teres is in no way related to Tereus who married Pandion's daughter Procne from Athens; nor indeed did they belong to the same part of Thrace. Tereus lived in Daulis, part of what is now called Phocis, but which at that time was inhabited by Thracians. It was in this land that the women perpetrated the outrage upon Itys; and many of the poets when they mention the nightingale call it the Daulian bird. Besides, Pandion in contracting an alliance for his daughter would consider the advantages of mutual assistance, and would naturally prefer a match at the above moderate distance to the journey of many days which separates Athens from the Odrysians. Again the names are different; and this Teres was king of the Odrysians, the first by the way who attained to any power.

431 BC – Thuc. 2.29

[4] Sitalces, his son, was now sought as an ally by the Athenians, who desired his aid in the reduction of the Thracian towns and of Perdiccas. [5] Coming to Athens, Nymphodorus concluded the alliance with Sitalces and made his son Sadocus an Athenian citizen, and promised to finish the war in Thrace by persuading Sitalces to send the Athenians a force of Thracian horse and targeteers. [6] He also reconciled them with Perdiccas, and induced them to restore Therme to him; upon which Perdiccas at once joined the Athenians and Phormio in an expedition against the Chalcidians. [7] Thus Sitalces, son of Teres, king of the Thracians, and Perdiccas, son of Alexander, king of the Macedonians, became allies of Athens.

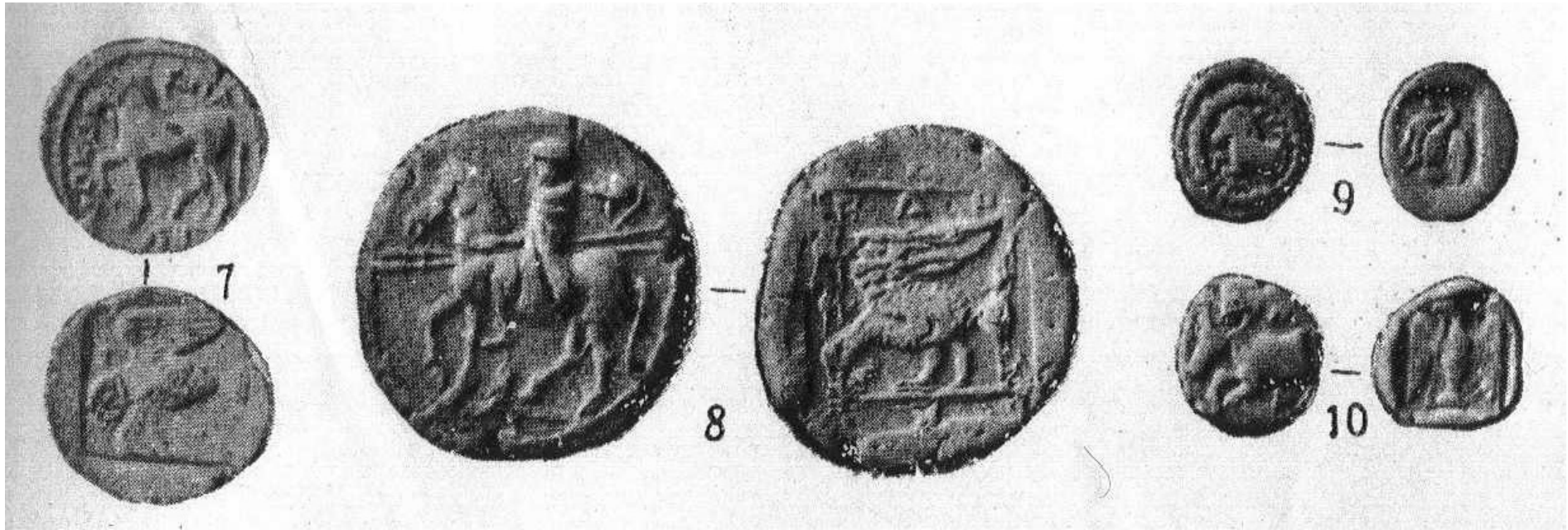
430 BC – Thuc. 2.67

At the end of the same summer, Aristeus the Corinthian, the Lacedaemonian ambassadors Aneristus, Nicolaus, and Stratodemus, Timagoras of Tegea, and Pollis of Argos who had no public mission, were on their way to Asia in the hope of persuading the King to give them money and join in the war. They went first of all to Sitalces son of Teres, in Thrace, wishing if possible to detach him from the Athenians, and induce him to lead an army to the relief of Potidaea, which was still blockaded by Athenian forces; they also wanted him to convey them across the Hellespont on their intended journey to Pharnaces, the son of Pharnabazus, who was to send them on to the King. [2] At the time of their arrival two Athenian envoys, Learchus the son of Callimachus, and Ameiniades the son of Philemon, chanced to be at the court of Sitalces; and they entreated his son Sadocus, who had been made an Athenian citizen, to deliver the envoys into their hands, that they might not find their way to the King and so injure a city which was in some degree his own.

430 BC – Thuc. 2.67

[3] He consented, and, sending a body of men with Learchus and Ameiniades, before they embarked, as they were on their way through Thrace to the vessel in which they were going to cross the Hellespont, seized them; [4] they were then, in accordance with the orders of Sadocus, handed over to the Athenian envoys, who conveyed them to Athens. On the very day of their arrival the Athenians, fearing that Aristeus, whom they considered to be the cause of all their troubles at Potidaea and in Chalcidicè, would do them still further mischief if he escaped, put them all to death without trial and without hearing what they wanted to say; they then threw their bodies down precipices. They considered that they had a right to retaliate on the Lacedaemonians, who had begun by treating in the same way the traders of the Athenians and their allies when they caught their vessels off the coast of Peloponnesus. For at the commencement of the war, all whom the Lacedaemonians captured at sea were treated by them as enemies and indiscriminately slaughtered, whether they were allies of the Athenians or neutrals.

See Hdt. 7.137



Moushmov, N., *Ancient Coins of the Balkan Peninsula*. Translation from the Bulgarian and HTML Conversion by STS Enterprises. Denitsa Genkova, Dave Surber and Slavei Theodore Slaveev

<http://www.wildwinds.com/moushmov/>

429/8 BC – Thuc. 2.95-101

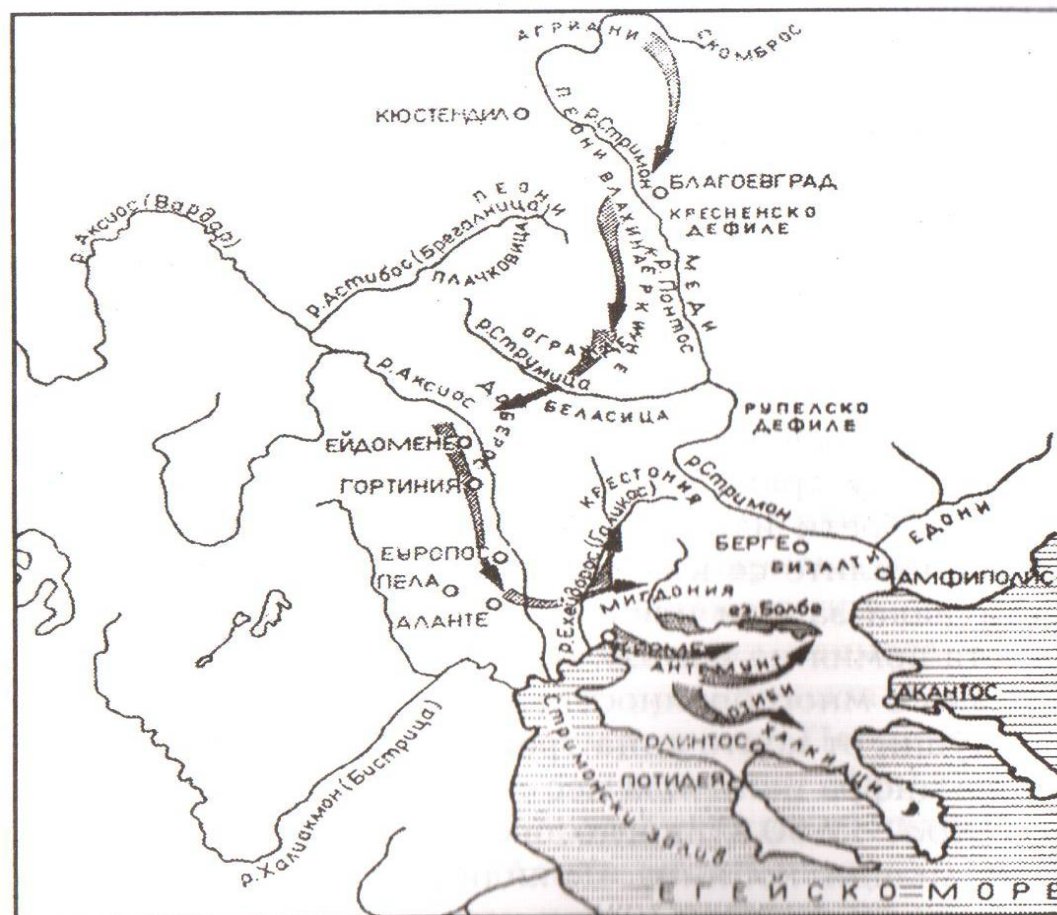
- Sitalces king of Thrace, in alliances with Athens attacks Perdiccas and the Thracian Chalcidians
- The forces of Sitalces:
 - Thracians in the Hebros plane to the Black Sea and the Bosphorus
 - Getai (ὄμοροί τε τοῖς Σκύθαις καὶ ὁμόσκευοι)
 - highland Thracians from the Rhodope mountains (Dii μαχαιοφόροι)
 - the Paeonian tribes under his rule (Agrianes and Laiaioi)





429/8 BC – Thuc. 2.95-101

- Sitalces and his army enter Macedonia.
- The Macedonians retire into their strongholds. Their cavalry oppose the invaders, but are compelled by their inferiority of numbers to desist.
- Sitalces holds a conference with Perdiccas, and after an unsuccessful campaign in Botticè and Chalcidicè, is persuaded by his nephew Seuthes (who had been gained over by Perdiccas) to return home. Alarm in Hellas.



Обр. 11

Схема на трасето на Ситалковия поход (429 г.)

Thuc. 2.97

The empire of the Odrysae measured by the coast-line reaches from the city of Abdera to the¹ mouth of the Ister in the Euxine. The voyage round can be made by a merchant vessel, if the wind is favourable the whole way, at the quickest in four days and as many nights. Or an expeditious traveller going by land from Abdera to the mouth of the Ister, if he takes the shortest route, will accomplish the journey in eleven days. [2] Such was the extent of the Odrysian empire towards the sea: up the country the land journey from Byzantium to the Laeaeans and to the Strymon, this being the longest line which can be drawn from the sea into the interior, may be accomplished by an expeditious traveller in thirteen days.

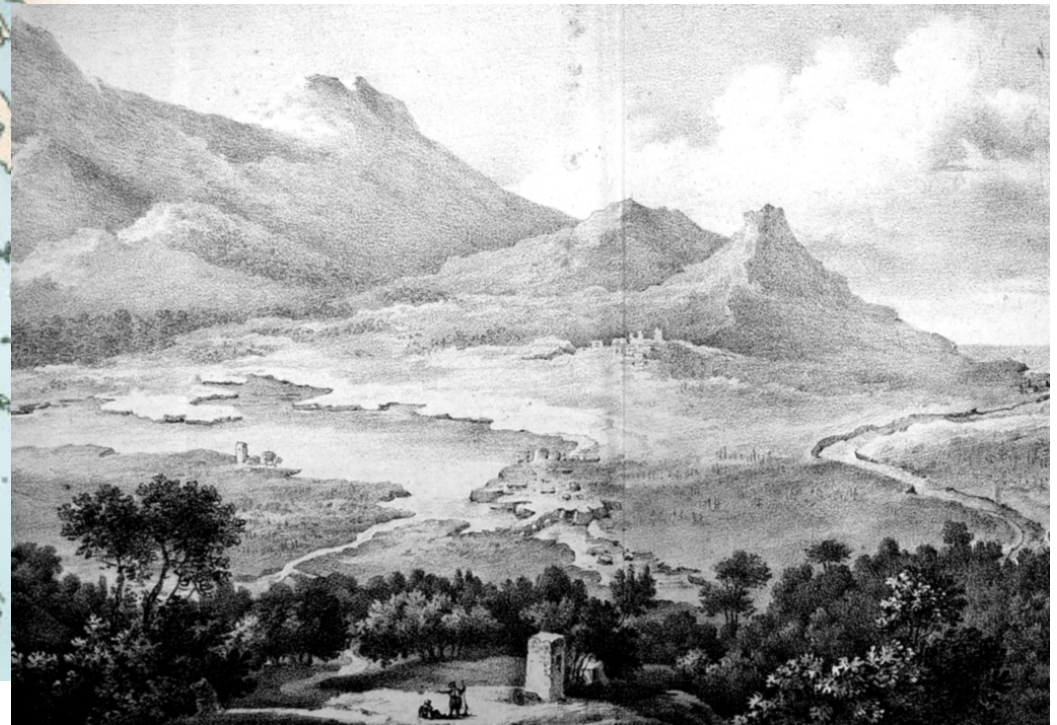
Thuc. 2.97

[3] The tribute which was collected from the Hellenic cities and from all the barbarous nations in the reign of Seuthes, the successor of Sitalces, under whom the amount was greatest, was valued at about four hundred talents of coined money², reckoning only gold and silver. Presents of gold and silver equal in value to the tribute, besides stuffs embroidered or plain and other articles, were also brought, not only to the king himself, but to the inferior chiefs and nobles of the Odrysae. [4] For their custom was the opposite of that which prevailed in the Persian kingdom; they were more ready to receive than to give; and he who asked and was refused was not so much discredited as he who refused when he was asked. The same custom prevailed among the other Thracians in a less degree, but among the Odrysae, who were richer, more extensively; nothing could be done without presents.

Thuc. 2.97

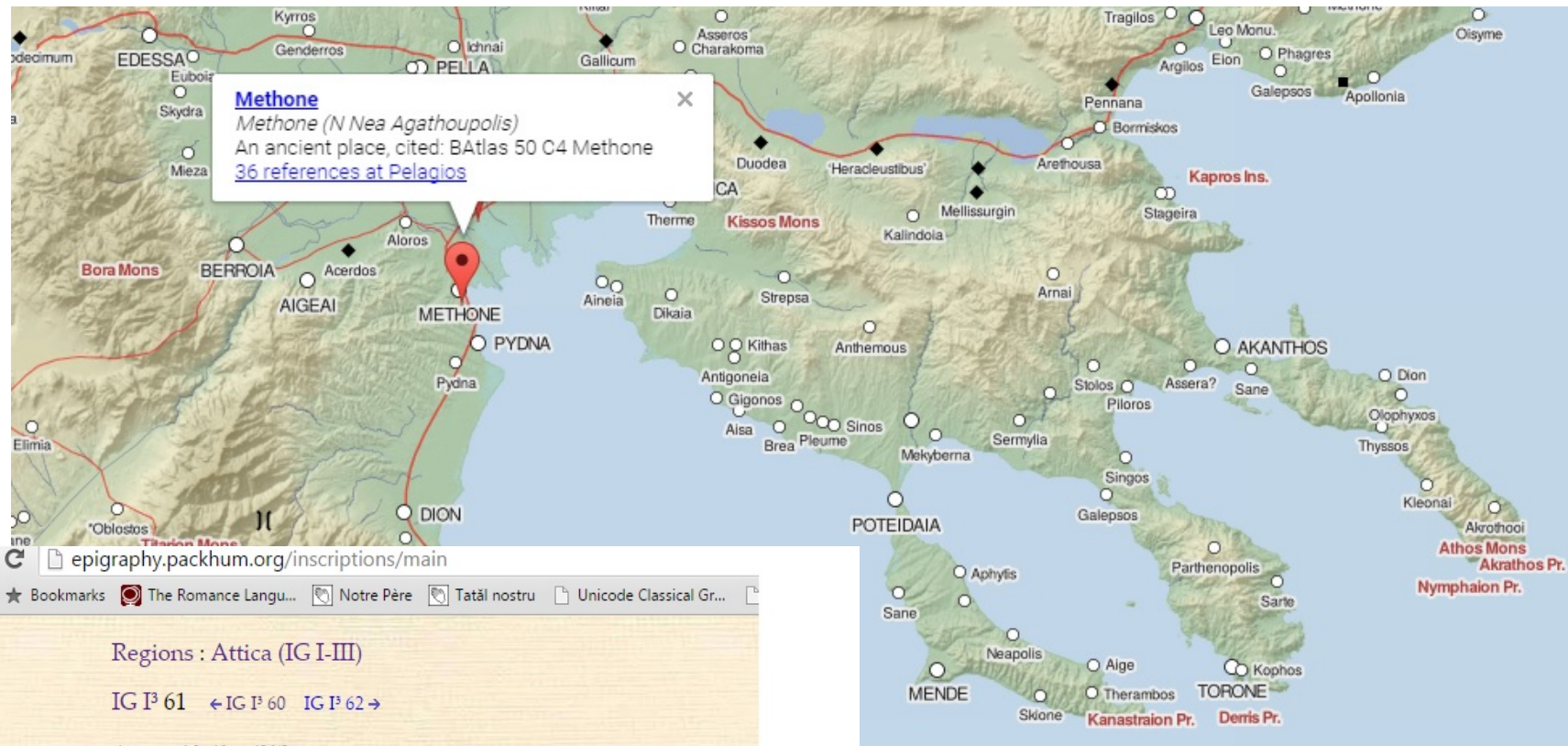
[5] By these means the kingdom became very powerful, and in revenue and general prosperity exceeded all the nations of Europe which lie between the Ionian Sea and the Euxine; in the size and strength of their army being second only, though far inferior, to the Scythians. [6] For if the Scythians were united, there is no nation which could compare with them, or would be capable of resisting them; I do not say in Europe, but even in Asia—not that they are at all on a level with other nations in sense, or in that intelligence which uses to advantage the ordinary means of life.

The siege of Amphipolis (Thuc. 4.103 107)



Thuc. 4.105

Meanwhile Brasidas, fearing the arrival of the ships from Thasos, and hearing that Thucydides had the right of working gold¹ mines in the neighboring district of Thrace, and was consequently one of the leading men of the country, did his utmost to get possession of the city before his arrival. He was afraid that, if Thucydides once came, the people of Amphipolis would no longer be disposed to surrender. For their hope would be that he would bring in allies from the islands or maritime towns or from the interior of Thrace, and relieve them. [2] He therefore offered moderate terms, proclaiming that any Amphipolitan or Athenian might either remain in the city and have the enjoyment of his property on terms of equality; or, if he preferred, might depart, taking his goods with him, within five days.



Regions : Attica (IG I-III)

IG I³ 61 ← IG I³ 60 IG I³ 62 →

Att. — stoich. 41 — 424/3 a.

Μεθοναίων ἐκ Πιερί[ας]
 [Φ]αίνιππος Φρυνίχο ἐγραμμάτ[ευε]
 [ἐδ]οχσεν τεί βολεί καὶ τοὶ δέμοι· Ἐρεχθεὶς ἐπρ[υτάν]-
 [ευε], Σκόπας ἐγραμμάτευσεν, Τιμονίδες ἐπεστάτε, Δ[ιοπ]-
 [εῖ]θες εἶπε· δι[α]χειροτονέσαι τὸν δέμον αὐτίκ[α προ]-
 [ς Μ]εθοναίους εἴτε φόρον δοκεῖ τάττεν τὸν δέμον αὐτ[ι]-
 [κ]α μάλ' ἔχ[σ]αρκέν αὐτοῖς τελέν ἡόσον τεί θε[οῖ] ἀπ[ι]-
 [ό τ]σ' φόρο ἐγίγνετο ἡὸν τοῖς προτέροις Παν[αθ]ε[ναίο]-
 [ις] ἐτετάχατο φέρειν, τὸ δ' ἄλλο ἀτελεῖς ἑνα[ν] τὸν δὲ ὄφ[ι]-
 [ει]λεμάτων ἡὰ γεγράφαται τοῖς δημοσίοις τ[ὸν] ἀπειτε]-
 [με]νοι Μεθοναῖοι ὀφείλοντες, ἐὰν ὅσι ἐπιτ[έδειοι Α]-
 [θε]ναίοις ὅσπερ τε νῦν καὶ ἔτι ἀμείνους, ἐπι[χορ]έν ἀπ[ι]-
 [ότ]αχσιν περὶ τῆς πράχσεος Ἀθηναῖος, καὶ ἐὰν [κοινὸ]-
 [ν] ψέφισμά τι περὶ τὸν ὀφειλεμάτων τὸν ἐν τ[έ]ισι σα]-
 [νί]σι γίγνεται μεδέν προσ[η]κετό Μεθοναίοις ἐὰμ μ[ι]-
 [ἐ]χ[ο]ρίς γίγνεται ψέφισμα περὶ Μεθοναίων· π[ρ]έσβε]-
 [ς δ]ὲ τρεῖς πέμψαι ὑπὲρ πεντέκοντα ἔτε γεγον[ό]τας
 [ἡ]ος Περδίκκα[ν], εἰπέν δὲ Περδίκκαὶ ἡότι δοκε[ῖ] δίκαια-

ommon Session

