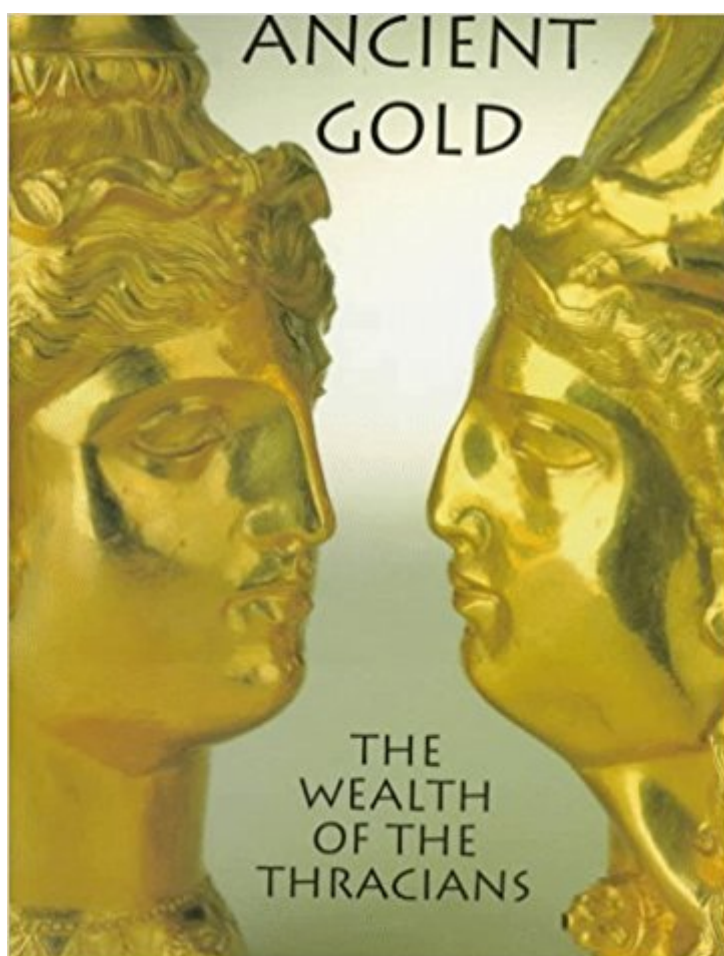


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Ancient Gold: The Wealth Of The Thracians



Synopsis

Published to accompany an exhibition at six US museums, starting at the Saint Louis Museum in February 1998, this is a study of the remarkable artistic accomplishments of the Thracians, a people who lived to the north of Greece in ancient times. In the "Iliad", Homer described the Thracians as formidable enemies of the Greeks in the Trojan War, and their mountainous country gave birth to legendary poets such as Orpheus. But the Thracians had no written language, and until recently little was known about this enigmatic people. During the last three decades, however, newly discovered archaeological sites have been excavated and studied to reveal the Thracians as a people of extraordinary sophistication. Their metalwork, in particular, which included gold and silver jewellery, bridle ornaments, vases and vessels, was of great beauty and of the highest quality. The book's authors, all specialists in various aspects of Thracian studies, provide commentaries on the objects illustrated. Using a wealth of evidence from ancient Greek and Roman accounts, as well as linguistic, archaeological and ethnographic sources, they present a picture of life in ancient Thrace.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This beautiful catalog of an important exhibit currently touring the United States gives a rare window into the little-known history of ancient Thrace. Unlike its better-documented ancient counterparts, Greece and Rome, Thrace is not now a household word. It was a small, fragmented but influential country in what is now southern Bulgaria. Thrace had a heritage of war, music, and poetry; traditionally, it was the birthplace of both Orpheus and Aries. Because the Thracians had no alphabet of their own, what literary accounts are available were written by their neighbors, a chancy

means of analysis at best. A better way to consider Thracian life is through its eloquent art. Hundreds of photographs gleam here with astonishingly beautiful objects, but this is not just another pretty face?there is substance as well. Scholarship is strong, with essays by noted Bulgarian scholars. Highly recommended for both art and ancient history collections.?Mary Morgan Smith, Northland P.L., PittsburghCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Beautiful book! outstanding photos and good text!

This is the first book that captures the unique culture of Thrace through extensive photographs of ancient treasures from museums throughout Bulgaria. I am happy to see that all photographs are accompanied with captions providing a wealth of information about the objects as well as info in which museums they can be seen. The preface details the history, culture, and religion of Thrace, and it's filled with fascinating facts. It gives you deeper understanding of the political and cultural complexity of the ancient world and the relationships among Thracians, Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans, etc. There is a timetable at the end that conveniently displays the various periods in the development of Thrace parallel to famous world events. Needless to say, the book is a must for everybody interested in ancient history. It also makes a great coffee table book, unique and fascinating like Thrace itself.

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