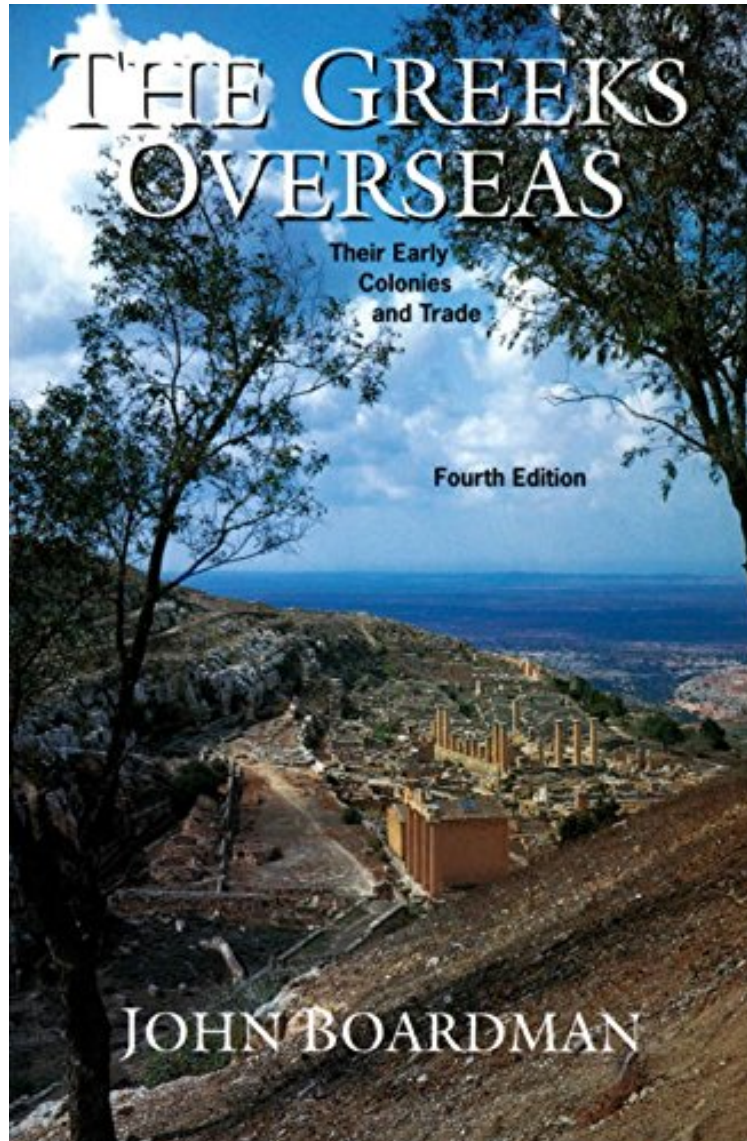


(Download pdf) The Greeks Overseas: The Early Colonies and Trade

# The Greeks Overseas: The Early Colonies and Trade

*John Boardman*

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**John Boardman : The Greeks Overseas: The Early Colonies and Trade** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Greeks Overseas: The Early Colonies and Trade:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. The standard work in English, very dated sadly...By MoheThis is an archaeological survey of Greek colonization, it is very old, and quite dated but still invaluable since there is really no other book in English on the subject that is not very localized. There is a new Afterward (circa 1999) that briefly corrects some errors in the text, but this is about the extent of the updates. It is by no means a pleasure to read, and

comes from an antique school of classical archaeology that is Hellenophilic to say the least. There are moments in the text where one starts to appreciate modern Processual archaeology, something I thought I would never write. After reading this I actually pulled out Binford and Flannery and even Sahlins and felt apologetic. As another reviewer has pointed out, it is not bad as an art history book for Archaic Greek art, but when a work contains such marvelous passages as this: "The result, with a further massive injection of Greek influence in the sixth century, was 'Etruscan Art'; the showy blend of Greek, oriental, and barbarian taste which can still inspire or impress those who cannot come to terms with the more controlled achievements of Greek art." One starts to get irritated, even if I understand what the author means. This distaste for the Oriental, reaches full florescence in Boardman's disdain for Cypriot Greek art and culture, something belatedly and only partially retracted in the epilogue, and even the Egyptians do not escape his Philo-Hellenism. The ultimate though is his very traditional "old school" high opinion of the Scythians. So why four stars? Because it is really the only book available on the subject to the English language audience, it is beautifully illustrated with excellent black and white illustrations, and aside from all the annoyances it is still by far the best book on the major Greek colonies from Syria and Egypt to Marseilles and the Black Sea. It is sad to say that if this is a subject you are interested in you have really no choice but to read this book. Other than in the Black Sea or Ionia there is no real competition, even in the form of Historically themed works that are easily available, except for the Classical and Roman authors themselves. So that even if you don't enjoy reading dated and not entirely convincing discussions of pottery, you will have to wade through this anyway. This is as good as it gets, so in parting I would like to say: "Please sir may I have some more?" Somebody please write a more modern synthesis!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Ancient Greeks Travelling and Trading By Darkmom Very readable and covering a good range of material with some interesting conclusions. Extremely happy with this book! 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By DEMETRIOS LIAROUTSO Exactly what I expected

A masterly summary. The Times Literary Supplement The spread of Greek civilization through Europe and into Africa and the Near East began long before the classical period, long after Troy, Mycenae, and Knossos had fallen. This study gives an archaeologist's view of one of the most important periods of European history, describing how, out of a time of reduced population and comparative penury, the Greeks set their sails north, south, east, and west to plant trading posts and colonies, to reap whatever harvest of materials and expertise the barbarian could offer, and to disseminate the benefits of their own rapidly developing and brilliant civilization. The book vividly demonstrates the value of archaeology to the historical record and indicates how much the arts and culture of classical Greece already owed to foreign influences. 332 black-and-white illustrations

A delight. - Biblical Archaeologist About the Author John Boardman, Lincoln Professor Emeritus of Classical Archaeology and Art at Oxford University, has written widely on the art and archaeology of ancient Greece. His previous books include *The Greeks Overseas*, *The History of Greek Vases*, *The World of Ancient Art*, and others.