Foundation Myths and Politics in Ancient Ionia

This book examines foundation myths told about the Ionian cities during the archaic and classical periods. It uses these myths to explore the complex and changing ways in which civic identity was constructed in Ionia, relating this to the wider discourses about ethnicity and cultural difference that were current in the Greek world at this time. From an examination of their foundation myths, it emerges that the Ionian cities rejected the oppositional models of cultural difference which set in contrast East and West, Europe and Asia, Greek and Barbarian, opting instead for a more fluid and nuanced perspective on ethnic and cultural distinctions. The conclusions of this book have far-reaching implications for our understanding of Ionia, challenging current models of Greek ethnicity and identity, and suggesting that there was a more diverse conception of Greekness in antiquity than has often been assumed.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations for classical texts, corpora and journals are those used in *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, ed. S. Hornblower, A. Spawforth, and E. Eidinow, 4th edn (Oxford 2012).

**BNJ**  
*Brill's New Jacoby*. Editor in chief I. Worthington (the original numbering for fragments and testimonia is used in this book – see *FGrHist* – but *BNJ* references for the updated notes by a range of contributors)

**CIG**  
*Corpus Inscriptorum Graecarum*

**CTH**  

**Eklogē Historiōn**  

**Etym. Magn.**  
*Etymologicon Magnum*

**FGrHist**  
Jacoby, F. 1923–58. *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker* (fragments can often be accessed online through *Brill’s New Jacoby*)

**GEF**  

**Graham**  

**IACP**  

**I.Chios**  

**I.Didyma**  
List of abbreviations


IG  Inscriptiones Graecae


KST  Kaz Sonuçları Toplantısı

LGPN  Lexicon of Greek Personal Names


List of abbreviations

SEG  Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum
SGDI  Sammlung der griechischen Dialekt-Inschriften
Steph Byz  Stephanus Byzantinus
Preface

This book is not a comprehensive account of the foundation myths of the Ionian cities. There are several publications that already offer this for some individual cities, and I would not wish to duplicate this work. Instead, this book aims to offer a new approach to these stories, reassessing the social significance of foundation myths in Ionia during the archaic and classical periods (roughly between the seventh and the fourth centuries BC). I am interested not so much in what these myths can tell us about the actual origins of the Ionians as in what they tell us about the Ionian world view and in particular the way the people of Ionia conceived of cultural difference.

I have used both Greek and Roman spellings for names, sacrificing consistency in favour of common usage. Ancient names for places are used in most cases, save for occasional reference to the location of archaeological sites, where Turkish and Greek toponyms are used as appropriate.

This book has developed out of research that I undertook whilst I was a Research Fellow at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. I am very grateful to the Master and the Fellows of Fitzwilliam for allowing me the opportunity to pursue this research, and also to live and work alongside them in the College. I am also indebted to the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge for generous support in the form of travel grants and research expenses. Finally, I am also grateful to Colin Haselgrove and all of my current colleagues at the University of Leicester for their support and encouragement for the completion of this book.

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