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Edited by Larissa Bonfante

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THE BARBARIANS OF ANCIENT EUROPE

The Barbarians of Ancient Europe deals with the reality of the indigenous peoples of Europe, in contrast to many publications that explore these peoples in the context of the Greek idea of “barbarians” as the “Other.” These varied groups – Thracians, Scythians, Celts, Germans, Etruscans, and other peoples of Italy, the Alps, and beyond – had contact with one another and with Greek culture during its flowering. Images on the spectacular gold and silver objects buried in royal tombs show how the horse-riding nomads and the barbarian women warriors known in antiquity as Amazons saw themselves. Archaeological discoveries show how these “barbarian” peoples dressed, what they ate and drank, where they lived, and how they honored their dead kings with barbaric splendor and human sacrifices, allowing us to change, correct, or confirm the picture given in Greek and Roman literature.

Larissa Bonfante is Professor of Classics Emerita at New York University. A member of the American Philosophical Society and the German Archaeological Institute and President of the U.S. Section of the Istituto di Studi Etruschi, she is the author of *Etruscan Dress, Etruscan Life and Afterlife: A Handbook of Etruscan Studies*, and *The Etruscan Language: An Introduction* (with Giuliano Bonfante); coeditor of *The World of Roman Costume*; and coauthor of *Etruscan Myths*.

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Realities and Interactions

Edited by

LARISSA BONFANTE

New York University



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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The present volume had its origins in a conference that took place at the University of Richmond, Virginia, in 2003, made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and hosted by the Classics Department of the University of Richmond during the spring semester of 2003. The subject of the conference, the barbarian peoples of ancient Europe, with its specific geographical and chronological focus, allowed for comparisons and contrasts of barbarians with their Greek and Etruscan neighbors and with each other and provided scholars specializing in these subjects – often used to working in isolation – with an opportunity to collaborate more closely and perhaps even come to some conclusions.

The enthusiastic response of the participants, all of them specialists in their fields, resulted in an exhilarating meeting of minds. In spite of the difficult moment of our recent history, the beginning of the current Iraq war, they came down from the cold North to the sunny climes of the South, like the European barbarians of old, and for one magical weekend we all traveled back into the past together. Later, during the long publication process, they graciously answered queries and put up with delays. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with them.

I am deeply grateful for the advice and constant support of Ann E. Farkas throughout the conference and period of publication. She was the spirit behind the splendid Scythian exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2000, and her non-Hellenocentric view of barbarians



has helped to keep the book on an even keel. Included in this volume are her notes on Delacroix's beautiful painting, *Ovid among the Scythians* (Plate XXIII).

Not everyone who participated at the conference is represented in this volume. Guenter Kopcke's paper on Hellenism, which contributed much to the discussions, is absent, as is Gocha Tsetskhladze's report on the Iberians. Nor could the Barbarian Fashion Show produced by Bernard and Norma Goldman and modeled by student volunteers be included. We mourn the death of Bernard Goldman.

Also sadly missing from the volume and from the Richmond he loved is Stuart Wheeler, co-organizer of the conference and chief of protocol, at that time the Chairman of the Department of Classics. He was a native Virginian whose deep knowledge of the history and the world of Richmond enriched our stay in many ways.

During the course of the semester, my former student and longtime friend Julie Laskaris, and Erica Longenbach, my student assistant, cheerfully and efficiently steered me through schedules and snowstorms. Dean June Aprille and Margaret Mayo at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts did much to make the original conference a success, as did the bureaucratic savvy and care of Stella Jones, administrative assistant of the Classics Department.

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Larissa Bonfante