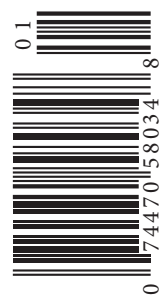




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BEYOND THE KNOWN WORLD

EXPLORERS & EXPLORATION IN ANTIQUITY

THEME - ICE, SNOW, AND GREEKS // HERODOTUS MAPS IT OUT // CARTHAGINIANS IN CAMEROON
SPECIALS - THE DARK AGE OF MEDIA // PORPHYRIUS THE CHARIOTEER // ROME'S FIRE BRIGADE

DUIK IN HET VERLEDEN
DIVE INTO THE PAST

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SICILIË EN DE ZEE

SICILY AND THE SEA

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PRELIMINARIES

A new magazine about old cultures

It all started in Antiquity. We domesticated animals, built cities, learned to read and write, began to create art, waged war, composed poetry, made laws, developed new technologies, started to explore the world, handed down our insights to our children. The story of the ancient world – let's say the period between 3000 BC and AD 650 – is as fascinating as *The Lord of the Rings* or *A Game of Thrones*, except that it is not invented. It really happened and it is about real people. That makes Antiquity so extremely attractive.

It is also a complex story about many cultures, faiths, and nations. Kingdoms rose, empires fell, nations were created, cultures interacted with other cultures. Diverse as they may seem, they have one thing in common: when we want to know more about them, we are faced with a devastating lack of data. We therefore cannot afford to ignore any one category of evidence.

This gives the study of the ancient world, among the many branches of science and scholarship, a unique position: the lack of information forces us to use several types of fascinating evidence and allows us to be philologists and archaeologists and historians at the same time. As a consequence, the study of Antiquity is exceptionally diverse and always entertaining. It poses unusual intellectual challenges and rewards us with amazement.

Whenever you read about the ancient world, travel to the Mediterranean or eastern cities, or visit a museum, you always find something marvelous waiting for you to enjoy. You will always have the delightful feeling that you are just beginning to understand it. It is this feeling – astonishment, wonder – that we hope to convey in *Ancient History Magazine*.

It's no coincidence that we've chosen the ancient explorers as theme of the first issue of *Ancient History Magazine*:

we wanted to surprise you. Antiquity is not normally associated with the gorillas and Arctic landscapes you'll find in this issue, but they are just as much part of the ancient world as Seneca, donkeys, the Nile, hexameters, Pompeii, cuneiform tablets, olive trees, Mount Olympus, legions, the Doric building order, rabbis, wine, chitons, inscriptions, and other subjects that will no doubt be dealt with in future issues.

Bringing together what belongs together

Conveying a sense of adventure is one goal of *Ancient History Magazine*, but there is a more serious side as well: we want to bring together what belongs together. We believe that it is quite pointless to study ancient texts or ancient objects in isolation. Only if we combine every single scrap of information, may we hope to understand the Babylonians, Egyptians, Jews, Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines a bit better.

Ancient History Magazine also wants to bring the classical world, Greece and Rome, together with the Near East. They shared the same world. From Babylon in the east to Gades in the west, and from York in the north to Meroe in the south, the cities were connected: not just by trade, but also by the exchange of stories and ideas. If you focus on one culture only, you deny yourself valuable insights.

Most of all, however, *Ancient History Magazine* wants to bring together scholarship and readers. In the humanities, too many ideas remain locked in academic libraries or on pay sites, inaccessible those outside that world. As a consequence, people hardly know what the study of Antiquity is about or why it matters. It's just ancient history to them. *Ancient History Magazine* will try to show that ancient history is usually interesting and always entertaining.

