IN THIS ISSUE - An in-depth look at kings and other rulers in Antiquity

ROYALTY
IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

THEME - MYCENAEAN KINGSHIP // COURT OF THE HELLENISTIC KING // DOMUS AUREA IN ROME
SPECIALS - TOLKIEN & THE CLASSICAL WORLD // NU WA, GODDESS OF LIFE // ANCIENT ANCHORS

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Ancient kings were quite different from medieval and modern monarchs. In this issue of Ancient History, we explore the concept of ‘royalty’ in the ancient world.

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IMPRESSIVELY RICH BURIALS
From ca. 1000 BC, some high-ranking members of the elite were buried in ‘princely tombs’.

A ‘GOLDEN HOUSE’ FIT FOR A KING
After a fire destroyed much of Rome, Nero ordered the construction of a massive new estate.
EDITORIAL

Getting a handle on what this issue was going to be about was tricky. ‘Royalty in the ancient world’ is such a large and wide-ranging topic, that it’s difficult to decide what angle to take. I had received quite a few proposals for this issue, but nearly all of them focused on the Graeco-Roman world. As a result, I wanted to add some variety and picked a Mesopotamian topic for the cover illustration. Radu Oltean did an outstanding job in coming up with a very dramatic take on the Assyrian lion hunt, and Arianna Sacco helped tremendously in writing an informative yet brief article about the topic.

I also decided that my historical introduction (which begins on the opposite page) would offer a wide view on kingship in different regions of the ancient world and hopefully serve to bring some focus to the issue as a whole. The main thing that I wanted to make clear is that royalty in the ancient world is a highly diverse topic. What exactly separates a king from a dictator, and where do sole rulers like the Greek tyrants fit in? How was Egyptian kingship different from Roman monarchy? I feel that with the articles in this issue, we’ve managed to touch upon many of these questions.

While I would have liked to have included articles that delve into Near-Eastern and Egyptian kingship in more detail, I also realize that future issues of Ancient History are likely to touch upon these matters. For example, issue 15 will deal with death and the afterlife in ancient Egypt, and we obviously won’t be able to avoid discussing the burial customs of Egyptian kings and other high-ranking figures.

I am also pleased with the non-theme-related articles in this issue. As a piece on Classical reception, Marc DeSantis’s piece on Tolkien and the ancient world hopefully serves as a bit of an eye-opener. Tang Long’s brief article on the Chinese goddess Nu Wa takes the magazine beyond the ancient Mediterranean, while Holger Michiels’s contribution on ancient anchors is deliciously technical.

—Josho Brouwers
Editor, Ancient History

UPCOMING THEMES

Here are some of the upcoming themes we have planned for Ancient History magazine along with the proposal deadlines for these issues:

- Issue 11: The end of Antiquity (deadline passed)
- Issue 12: Health and medicine in the ancient world (deadline passed)
- Issue 13: Everyday life in Pompeii (1 June 2017)
- Issue 14: Slaves and serfs in the ancient world (1 August 2017)
- Issue 15: Death and the afterlife in ancient Egypt (1 October 2017)
- Issue 16: Sex and love in the ancient world (1 December 2017)

If you’d like to write for one of these issues, please send an e-mail with a short abstract of your proposed article to Josho: editor@ancienthistorymagazine.com