In short, this is a timely book, but less helpful—and less encyclopedic—than it might have been.

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FROM START TO FINISH

M. GOLDEN: *Sport in the Ancient World from A to Z.* Pp. xxiv + 184, map, ills. London and New York: Routledge, 2004. Cased, £45. ISBN: 0-415-24881-7.

It is improbable that many would call G.'s dictionary (or any dictionary) a 'good read', but that is how it seems to me. Although intended as a reference work, to be consulted about specific names or terms, I enjoyed going straight through it, A to Z. This may be a reflection of my own interest in athletics, but it is also due, at least in part, to G.'s writing style, which keeps the pages turning (s.v. Diet, Felix, et al.).

The entries are of use both to the student and to the specialist. G. has confronted the difficult task of deciding which athletes (and gladiators and charioteers) to include; many of the choices are obvious—the athlete had performed some feat that set him apart from the rest—but some are not, and the specialist will still have to consult Moretti's list of Olympic victors. I found particularly endearing the listing of many horses by name.

Problems of orthography will always plague us. G. elects to use Latinate forms for all his words (p. x), but does not always do so: *kappa* is sometimes 'c' as in Cimon, but sometimes 'k' as in *akon*. I would urge that in the next edition one-for-one transliterations be used for Greek words. That practice has proven useful to students who immediately understand the source language when they see, for example, a 'k', or a noun ending in -os as opposed to -us.

At the risk of appearing less than grateful for this wonderful addition to our resources, I would offer a few suggested corrections and additions. I hope to be forgiven if several have to do with Nemea. In this context I must make an observation that goes beyond G.'s book. As the excavations of the past thirty years have shown, and as G. recognizes (p. 108), the Nemean Games were actually at Nemea only for two discrete periods: 573 B.C. to about 415 B.C., and about 330 B.C. to 271 B.C. Hence, athletes successful at other times at the Nemean Games did not win 'at Nemea'. This is, then, an appeal to use expressions like 'at the Nemean Games' or 'a Nemean victory' in reference to victories during those times when the games were actually at Argos.

Agathos Daimon

Add: Wolfgang Decker, 'Olympiasieger aus Ägypten', *Religion und Philosophie in alten Ägypten*' (Leuven, 1991), pp. 102–3.

Apodytêrion

Add: Stephen G. Miller, *Nemea II: The Early Hellenistic Stadium* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 2001), pp. 139–224.

Aratus

Aratus and the Achaians broke the truce, not the Argives who had been holding the Nemean Games and invoking the Nemean Truce long before Aratus came along (Plutarch, *Aratos* 3.2).

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Chariot racing

Cross-reference to *DEXIOSEIROS* needed.

Diskos

Is described as a 'disc-shaped object of stone or (later) bronze, sloping from the centre to the edges'. This description of shape derives from the 5.707 kg dedicatory (i.e. non-competitive) diskos of Asklepiades at Olympia [inv. no. M 891], and ignores the many other examples that are of a nearly uniform thickness in section and similar in weight to, for example, the 1.984 kg *diskos* from Aigina now in Berlin [inv. no. FR 1273]. This also neglects a few extremely heavy iron *diskoi*, such as those from Nemea (8.51 kg) and from Taras (5.820 kg). See Stephen G. Miller, *Nemea: A Guide to the Site and Museum* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1990), p. 38; Felice Gino Lo Pietro, 'Tombe di atleti Tarentini', *Atti e memorie della Societa Magna Grecia* 8 (1967), Tomb F, p. 93 and plate XLIII b 5, respectively.

Melesias

The mention of Menander seems to be a slip; Melesias must be intended.

Mitra

Suggested revised entry: 'A waistband, or a headband, including a chaplet awarded to victors at the games, used to hold the *TAINIA* in place. Although the *mitra* is sometimes regarded as the equivalent of the *tainia*, Alkibiades on his return to Athens "crowned the Attic triremes with young branches and *mitra*s and *tainia*s". Such allusions to victory with regard to the *mitra* are made in athletic contexts by Pindar and both *mitra* and *tainia* are shown on a single victor in some vase-paintings. Athenaeus 535C; Pindar, *Olympians* 9.84; *Isthmians* 5.62; *Nemeans* 8.15. Eurydike Kephalidou, *ΝΙΚΗΤΗΣ. Εἰκονογραφικὴ μελέτη τοῦ ἀρχαίου ἑλληνικοῦ αὐλητισμοῦ* (Thessaloniki, 1996), pp. 65–8; Stephen G. Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics* (New Haven, 2004), Fig. 211 (Red-figure pelike of about 410 B.C., Vienna, inv. no. IV.769).'

Nemean games

The period of the celebration of the games given by G., August or September, is derived from modern attempts to make strict calendric equations between ancient calendars and ours. This has been questioned recently by Lambert, with justification. The ultimate cause of the problem stems from the failure to take into account the truly international cycle which was fundamental to such festivals—the agricultural cycle—and the astronomic phenomena associated with them. In Greece today, and in antiquity as well, the first crops to be harvested during the year are grains which are ripe in the two or three weeks before the summer solstice. There follows a period of agricultural inactivity which ends with the beginning of the grape harvest in the second half of August—more or less two months after the summer solstice. From then until December activities are non-stop, as the farmer races to get in the crops (mostly grapes and olives, but also almonds, walnuts, etc.) before they can be damaged by weather or left too long to rot. This is no time for a panhellenic festival. Hence, we should understand that the games at Olympia, Delphi, and Nemea were all organized around the second full moon after the summer solstice—that is, at a variable point between July 21 and August 20 on our calendar.

Add: Darice E. Birge, Lynn H. Kraynak, and Stephen G. Miller, *Nemea I: The Sacred Square, the Xenon, and the Bath* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1992); Miller

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(2001); Robert C. Knapp and John D. Mac Isaac, *Nemea III: The Coins* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 2004).

Nudity

The statement that all athletes practised infibulation may be true, but the vase-paintings do not support the statement. There are very few which show the tied-up foreskin of the athlete.

Olympic games (p. 117)

The section on the birth of the modern Olympics is interesting, if not quite sport in the ancient world, but there are omissions, such as the 1869–70 excavation of the Panathenaic stadium by Ziller, and the financial support of its restoration by Averoff long after the death of Zappas to whom G. exclusively attributes this beneficence. In this context, add: Aristea Papanikolaou-Christensen, *ΤΟ ΠΑΝΑΘΗΝΑΙΚΟΝ ΣΤΑΔΙΟΝ* (Athens, 2004).

Phyllobolia

Add: Kephalidou (1996), pp. 52–60.

Pythian games

Add K. Brodersen, 'Zur Datierung der ersten Pythien', *ZPE* 82 (1990), 25–31.

Salpinktês

Did not wear a short mantle or tunic, but a *chiton* with a *chlamys* over the top, and leggings—in other words, a military outfit betraying the 'day job' of this official. See, for example, the Panathenaic amphora of 340/39 in the Louvre, inv. no. MNC 706; Miller (2004), Fig. 163.

Tainia

Add cross-reference to *MITRA*; to the bibliography: Kephalidou (1996), pp. 55–8, 65–8.

Telestas

Correct impression that *nikô* and the name Telestas were inscribed at a single time by a single person on the wall of the entrance tunnel to the stadium at Nemea. In fact, there is a poorly preserved inscription intervening between the two words. Also, Telestas' victory at Olympia was in the boxing for boys, not the stadion. Add: Miller (2001), pp. 311–15 (GRAF 2).

Tênella kallinike

Add: P. Valavanis, '*ΤΗΝΕΛΛΑ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΕ*. Prozession von Panathenäensiegern auf der Akropolis', *AA* (1991), 487–98.

I would offer the following as new entries to be added in a future edition:

Anakêryxis

An announcement, used in an athletic context of the official announcement of the name of the victor at the conclusion of the event at the same time as the victor received his *tainia* and palm branch as is shown in several vase-paintings. See

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Kephalidou (1996), pp. 60–2; Panathenaic amphora of the Nikomachos Series, 340/39 B.C. Paris, Louvre inv. no. MNC 706 in Miller (2004), Fig. 163.

Betting

Or gambling—a subject frequently asked about.

Diaitater

An arbitrator or umpire. The name of the judges at Olympia before the adoption of *Hellanodikes* as their official designation. *SEG* 48.541.

Periageirmos

A crowd circuit, a victory lap. At the moment of victory a *TAINIA* was placed on the head of the victor (sometimes held in place by a *MITRA*) and a palm branch handed to him). Then he went on his *periageirmos*, while the crowd showered him with leaves and flowers (*PHYLLOBOLIA*). Described already by PINDAR, albeit without using the term *periageirmos* or a cognate, this sequence of events within the initial victory celebration is most succinctly outlined by Clemens Alexandrinus. Pindar, *Olympians* 9.91–4; Clemens Alexandrinus, *Paedagogus* 2.8.72. Kephalidou (1996), pp. 52–60.

Poda para poda [could be under *Aphetes*, or—preferably—a separate entry]

'Foot next to foot'—the first command shouted by the *APHETES* at the start of the foot races, the equivalent of 'on your mark', instructing the runners to place their feet in the starting grooves of the *BALBIS* in anticipation of the final command to go, *APITE* !' P. Valavanis, *Hysplex. The Starting Mechanism in Ancient Stadia. A Contribution to Ancient Greek Technology* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1999), pp. 4, 24, 168 n. 342.

Spongos

A sponge, shown as a typical part of the athlete's gear together with *ARYBALLOS* and STRIGIL.

Finally, I would note that 'the elite' make frequent appearances (e.g. under Alcibiades, Anniceris, Apênê, Demades, Gymnasiarch, Heavy, Hellanodikas, Nudity, Pindar, Trainers, Warfare, et al.), perhaps inevitably since they always get the press, but I wonder if the emphasis does not perpetuate only a partial image of the full range of involvement by the Greeks in their Games.

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ANCIENT BOTANY

S. AMIGUES: *Études de botanique antique*. Preface by P. Quézel. (Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres 25.) Pp. xv + 501, ills. Paris: Diffusion de Boccard, 2002. Paper, €140. ISBN: 2-87754-130-4.

The inexorable increase in the specialization of knowledge means that fewer individuals can command markedly disparate fields. One such individual is Suzanne Amigues. Her high competence in the classical languages is matched by a fine and detailed knowledge of botany, especially in plant characteristics, properties and taxonomy. The combination is best known from her magisterial critical edition,

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