

schooner with her distinctive crow's nest atop her foremast is still active as a merchant marine training vessel.

Goldman includes an unusual number of broad quotes delivered by pivotal historic figures or within documents during consequential events. Unfortunately, *American Yachts in Naval Service* struggles to cover all of American naval history up to 1945 within a scant 143 pages of text, while identifying hundreds of yachts and other vessels and their contributions. This makes for a "choppy literary sea" that, at times, appears shallow, but occasionally produced striking graphic prose: "Even in wartime, mundane routine, tedious duties and, throbbing engines that seemingly counted out each passing idle second far outnumbered the adrenaline rush of the call to General Quarters, ... the excitement of spotting a thin periscope and its feather wake, or the near unbearable tension of navigating in a fog obscured convoy when one could barely see the bow of one's own fragile yacht let alone the looming bulk of an escort freighter which might have zigged when it should have zagged" (94). The book's subject matter is unique and its notes, three appendices, and extensive bibliography are quite scholarly. Therefore, this work is potentially useful to any student interested in following the wakes of some of the many historical yachts unmoored and set adrift that collided with maritime history.

Louis Arthur Norton
West Simsbury, Connecticut

John D. Grainger. *Hellenistic and Roman Naval Wars, 336-31 BC*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Pen & Sword Maritime, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk 2020. 224 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. UK £14.99, US \$26.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-52678-232-

8.

John D. Grainger's book examines the naval history of the Hellenistic period, an often overshadowed element of that time. Beginning with Alexander the Great's minimal use of naval power to support his conquests, Grainger investigates the rise and deployment of naval warfare in places such as the Successor kingdoms in the eastern Mediterranean, the naval powers of the western Mediterranean (particularly Carthage and Syracuse), the entrance of Rome into the nautical world, and the emergence of Roman domination of the sea. He also surveys the activities of the lesser powers of the time, such as Rhodes, the Attalid kingdom of Asia Minor, and various Greek states.

While obviously focusing on naval aspects, the author does not neglect the relevant non-naval elements as well, thus providing as clear a picture as possible of the events and consequences of various conflicts. Grainger maintains a sympathetic view of those participants in the events who do not usually receive individual recognition—the oarsmen, sailors and shipwrights—frequently including statements such as; "As usual, the consul survived; thousands of his men died" (94). The very clear organization of the material by historic chronology and naval powers presents the information in a precise and comprehensible format; no mean feat for an extremely involved, and often confusing, age. Each significant player is addressed as they come to the fore, with a detailed analysis of the causes and means of their respective ascents and declines. While there is, by necessity, some chronological overlap from chapter to chapter, this transitional difficulty is effectively dealt with by means of brief references to and reminders of previously described elements.

Grainger considers political, geographical, and incidental factors in the naval developments and fates of each player, making extensive use of primary sources, both literary and epigraphic. In cases where there are conflicting or unclear sources, the author typically mentions all the relevant sources, while expressing his own views and impressions, accompanied by arguments explaining his interpretation.

The chronological organization is paralleled by a geographical organization. The events and the activities of the Hellenistic powers of eastern Mediterranean are examined in roughly the first third of the book. Grainger deftly weaves his way through the tangled politics and relations of the Hellenistic kingdoms with one another and with the other powers in the region.

The middle third of the book shifts the focus westward to Carthage and the emerging power of Rome. While the events described in this section are largely contemporaneous, there was minimal overlap between east and west, so the geographic transition is far more conducive to maintaining clarity than a strictly chronological format would be. This period in the west featured fewer significant powers, and in many cases more detailed sources regarding particular events; thus, the challenge of making an understandable presentation of the events is significantly reduced. This is not to say that Grainger's work on this section is less skillfully wrought.

The final third brings east and west together, with Rome's emergence as the dominant power, first in the western Mediterranean, and then in the entire region—a situation that would endure for the next three centuries. Notably, Grainger refutes the common view that the Romans paid little heed to naval matters, effectively showing that, while rarely spotlighted in the sources, the

Romans certainly did not ignore the importance of the sea in exerting control over their interests.

While the work is, overall, quite successfully presented, there are a few areas of concern. One is the use of Hellenized forms of ancient names. Spelling conventions are often outlined in the introduction, and this work lacks that. The use of Hellenized forms is particularly problematic in the latter parts dealing with the western Mediterranean and Rome, as many of the names are far more familiar to readers in their Latinized form, e.g., Rhegium rather than Rhegion (used by the author). This also presents a problem with the maps, as some use Hellenized names and some Latinized names. Maps of the western Mediterranean and entirety of the Mediterranean would be worthwhile, as would a map of the harbour of Carthage, considering its mention as one of the "four particularly notable harbours" (xii). Lastly, conceptual diagrams and illustrations of the significant vessels would be highly useful.

The aforementioned concerns are not significant enough to affect the overall success of the work. The author does an excellent job of presenting one of the most involved and difficult-to-understand periods of Greco-Roman history, addressing a somewhat overlooked aspect of that history. The book is both accessible to the lay reader and thorough enough for students and academic readers, making it a welcome and important addition to the libraries of those interested in the ancient Mediterranean world.

Ronald Atchison
Pensacola, Florida

John Grehan and Martin Pace. *Despatches from the Front: The Battle for Norway 1940-1942*. (Originally pub-