

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editors of *The Classical Review*.

Dr. W. W. Tarn, discussing the arrangements of the Greek trireme (*C.R.* lv, 1941, p. 89), says that there is not 'any word for porthole in the Greek language'. How does he render *τοῦτον δῆσαι διὰ θαλαμῆς διελόντας τῆς νεώς* in Herodotus, v. 33? The new L. and S. conserves the traditional meaning 'porthole' for *θαλαμῆ*.

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I answered this question years ago (*Mariner's Mirror*, xix, 1933, p. 458, n. 1); but perhaps I had better do so again, though it is clear enough if one reads the context of the Herodotus passage, v. 33. Megabates went round the fleet, which was at anchor, to see that watch was being kept (*φυλακάς*). He found a ship on which no watch was being kept (*οὐδεὶς φυλάσσω*), so he ordered his guards to put the captain through the forward hatch and tie him there with his body inside the cabin and his head outside, i.e. above the deck, thus compelling the man to keep watch whether he would or no and in a very uncomfortable position. The whole point of the story is the *watch*; a man with his head out through a porthole could not keep watch. *θάλαμος*, which means a room, was the forward cabin, the first part of

a ship to be decked; it kept the *name* even when the ship was completely decked, like our 'fo'c'sle'. There would of course be a hatch. That there *was* a hatch is shown by Ar. *Pax* 1232-4, where *θαλαμῆ* is called *τρύπημα τῆς νεώς*, the opening of the ship. What puzzles me is how anyone who read the context in Herodotus could ever have misunderstood it.

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The context of Ar. *Pax* 1232 is even more significant, for (1) *θαλαμῆ* is there applied to *each* of the lateral arm-holes of a cuirass; (2) *τρύπημα* is more literally applicable to a porthole than to a hatch; (3) though the adjective *θαλαμῆ* might refer to any kind of opening in a *θάλαμος*, it is here expressly distinguished from the upward opening of the cuirass; (4) Rogers's explanation of the jest about *τρύπημα* has no point if the ship's hatch was meant. Similarly in Hdt. v. 33, *θαλαμῆ* may describe a deck hatch, which suits the sense, as Dr. Tarn says; but the absence of *τῆς* implies *one* of a number of *θαλαμῆαι*, and is in closer accord with the only other occurrence of the word. Ancient ships (like many modern Greek vessels) 'kept watch' over themselves, both with figure-heads and with eyes painted on the sides.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

All publications which have a bearing on classical studies will be entered in this list if they are sent for review. The price should in all cases be stated.

\* \* \* Excerpts or extracts from periodicals and collections will not be included unless they are also published separately.

Allen (H. M.), Garrod (H. W.) *Opus Epistolarum Des. Erasmi Roterodami*. Tom. X. 1532-4. Pp. xxiv+440; 2 plates. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1941. Cloth, 28s. net.

Argenti (P. P.) *Chios Vincta*, or the occupation of Chios by the Turks (1566) and their administration of the island (1566-1912) described in contemporary diplomatic reports and official dispatches. Edited with an introduction by P. P. A., with a preface by Sir S. Gaselee. Pp. cclxxvii+264; 2 illustrations. Cambridge: University Press, 1941. Cloth, 25s. net.

Benedict (C. H.) *A History of Narbo*. Pp. 93. Princeton (printed by the Lancaster Press, Lancaster, Pa.), 1941. Paper, \$1.

Bodkin (M.) *The Quest for Salvation in an Ancient and a Modern Play*. Pp. 54. London: Oxford University Press, 1941. Paper, 2s. 6d. net.

Cornford (F. M.) *The Republic of Plato translated with Introduction and Notes*. Pp. xxvii+356. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1941. Cloth, 7s. 6d. net.

De Lacy (P. H. and E. A.) *Philodemus: On Methods of Inference*. Edited, with translation and commentary. Pp. ix+200. (Philological Monographs published by the American Philological Association, No. X.) Lancaster, Pa.:

Lancaster Press (Oxford: Blackwell), 1941. Cloth, \$2.50.

Duckworth (G. E.) *T. Macci Plauti Epidicus*. Edited with Critical Apparatus and Commentary, in which is included the work of the late A. L. Wheeler. Pp. xiii+464. Princeton: Princeton University Press (London: Milford), 1940. Cloth, 45s. 6d. net.

*Durham University Journal*, Vol. XXXIV (New Series, Vol. III), No. 1. December 1941.

*Excavations at Olynthus*. Part X. Metals and Minor Miscellaneous Finds. An Original Contribution to Greek Life. By D. M. Robinson. Pp. xxvii+593; 37 figures, 172 plates. (The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Archaeology, No. 31.) Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press (London: Milford), 1941. Cloth, 120s. net.

Forster (E. S.) *A Short History of Modern Greece 1821-1940*. Pp. xv+237; 5 maps. London: Methuen, 1941. Cloth, 12s. 6d. net.

Ginsburg (M.) *Hunting Scenes on Roman Glass in the Rhineland*. Pp. 31; 12 figures. (Studies 41, 2 = Studies in the Humanities No. 1.) Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska, 1941. Paper, 75 cents.

Glover (T. R.) *The Disciple*. Pp. 62. Cambridge: University Press, 1941. Cloth, 2s. 6d. net.