

## Secondary Publication



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Peter Soustal: *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 11. Makedonien, Südlicher Teil. Mit Beiträgen von Andreas Pülz und unter Mitwirkung von Mihailo St. Popović. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften 2022 (Denkschriften der philosophisch-historischen Klasse 535). 1287 pp., 198 reproductions on plates paginated I–XCIX, three maps on unpaginated plates, one enclosed folded, oversized map. Two volumes, continuously paginated. € 390.00. ISBN: 978-3-7001-8650-2.

Much of what I have written in a recent review on *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* (TIB) 13<sup>1</sup> might be of interest to a reader of the present review; this especially pertains to the TIB project as a whole. To avoid repetition, readers may like to refer to this TIB 13 review in addition to the review of TIB 11 offered here.

TIB 11 – the publication under review – shares many characteristics with TIB 13, while there are also notable differences. Let us start with the differences. While the publication of TIB 13 was FWF-supported (which meant that the final output had to be available in open access), TIB 11 unfortunately was not. This means that if you wish to consult it, you cannot simply download a PDF from the internet, but need to find a library that spent almost 400 € on the volumes. This is sad indeed: this outstanding piece of scholarship deserves the largest audience possible.

The other decisive difference is that TIB 11 (“Macedonia, Southern Part”) is one part of conjoined twins, the other being the as yet unpublished TIB 16 (“Macedonia, Northern Part”). The reason for this is entirely practical: TIB 11 is already huge at 1287 pages, so it makes sense to split up the whole of Macedonia into two TIB volumes. No less pragmatic is the concrete delineation of these two parts: TIB 11 covers the part of historic Macedonia which now belongs to the modern state of Greece, whereas the unpublished TIB 16 will include those parts of it which are today located in North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Albania. This split of Byzantine Macedonia into two volumes has one important consequence: there will be only one historical introduction, to be included with TIB 16. This in turn means that TIB 11 is

1 In: Plekos 23, 2021, pp. 9–14. URL: <http://www.plekos.uni-muenchen.de/2021/r-belke.pdf>.

unusual insofar as there is no introduction (apart from a few pages of preliminary matter, devoted to practical questions). Given that TIB 16 will not appear for at least two years, we will have to make do meanwhile without introduction.

As there is no introduction, an even larger part than expected of TIB 11's 1287 pages is devoted to the gargantuan gazetteer. Many readers will need to use it in close conjunction with the expansive index of placenames, as Greek Macedonia is infamous for countless deliberate changes of toponyms which happened in the early 20th century. TIB opts (not unfittingly) to use the Byzantine names as lemma headwords. Let us have a look at one example. You won't find Aristotle's birthplace "Stageira" in the gazetteer. In the index, there are two entries: "Stageira, Stageiros, antik" (i. e., the "real" Stageira) and "Stagira, Stageira, aktuell" (which is the place that was renamed in the early 20th century as "Stageira" just to get rid of its Turkish name).<sup>2</sup> The ancient Stageira can be found s. v. Libysdias (pp. 672–674), the modern one s. v. Siderokausia (pp. 982–984). Yet strictly speaking, the exact location of Byzantine Siderokausia is unknown, as the gazetteer informs us; the place renamed in the 1920s to "Stageira" was called "Kazantze" before. "Kazantze" (and several Turkish versions of that name) can of course be found in the index, too. Hence be sure always to use the index if you wish to look up a place. Perhaps it would have made sense to add some forwarding references to the gazetteer itself (e. g., in our example it would have been user-friendly to encounter there – and not only in the index many casual users will overlook – the two "Stageira" forwarding references).

Apart from the messy problems of Macedonian placenames, TIB 11 is another magisterial volume in one of the most important projects in classical and Byzantine studies. An immense amount of time and labor goes into individual volumes, often covering several decades of the respective authors' lives. Yet the result makes their effort worthwhile: any scholar interested in the history and archeology of a specific site feels fortunate if there is a TIB volume available, because this one publication usually settles the matter, providing full information on extant remains and the modern research literature.

2 Actually, there are even three entries, as there also is "Stagira, antik," referring to the page where attestations of this orthography are listed (which derive, unsurprisingly, from Latin authors).

However, the outlook is not wholly rosy. While TIB proceeds quickly in recent years and TIB 16 is already on the horizon, it will be a while until we can welcome the next volume. TIB 11 is also the first volume in recent years which is not available in open access. This is problematic, given both the price tag and the reluctance of many libraries to send out such volumes for interlibrary loan. Finally, the TIB project focuses exclusively on Asia Minor and the Balkan peninsula (with the Syria volume being a one-time exception). This makes sense, given their manpower restrictions, but is still sad. Just look at the wealth of Byzantine traces in present day Tunisia, for example!

Most of these problems could be solved with money, and we as scholarly community can only hope that this magnificent project will continue to secure funding, perhaps even additional means for full open access rights and research beyond the core area of the Byzantine Empire.

## Appendix

My TIB 13 review (written two years ago) included a list of links to open access versions of earlier TIB volumes. Many of these links are now defunct, so here is an updated list (current as of September 2022).

The **online versions** of OA and out-of-print volumes can be found here (volumes missing in this list are not available online):

TIB 1: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib1.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 2: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib2.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 3: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib3.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 4: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib4.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 5: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib5.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 6: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib6.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 7: <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/static/reader/TIB/tib7.html> [just reader, no download possible]

TIB 12: <https://austriaca.at/3945-4inhalt> [PDFs for individual chapters]

TIB 13: <https://www.austriaca.at/9783700183297> [full PDF]

TIB 15: <https://austriaca.at/7090-7inhalt> [PDFs for individual chapters]

The **maps** of all TIB volumes can be found here: at <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/atlas>, click the “layer” icon at the upper right corner. A radio-button list of TIB maps appears in which the map of interest can be selected.

Some digitized **slides** are available at <https://catalogue.tib.oeaw.ac.at>. Remember, they are not in the public domain (i. e., you cannot download and re-use them), but they have permalinks and can be cited in publications according to these.

The **indices** of all volumes can be accessed at <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/tib-register/all>. If this consolidated index is overwhelming, at <https://tib.oeaw.ac.at/tib-register> the indices of individual volumes are available.

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