

army of alexander the great

Army of Alexander the Great: The Force That Changed the Ancient World

army of alexander the great is one of the most fascinating and legendary military forces in history. Known for its discipline, innovation, and unparalleled effectiveness, this army propelled Alexander to create one of the largest empires the world had ever seen. Understanding the structure, tactics, and unique characteristics of Alexander's army not only sheds light on his military genius but also offers timeless insights into leadership, strategy, and the art of warfare.

The Composition and Structure of Alexander's Army

The army of Alexander the Great was a carefully organized and diverse fighting force, combining traditional Macedonian infantry with cavalry, specialized units, and allied troops from across Greece and beyond. Alexander inherited a solid military foundation from his father, Philip II, who had revolutionized Macedonian warfare, but he also adapted and expanded it to meet the demands of his ambitious campaigns.

The Macedonian Phalanx: The Backbone of the Army

At the core of Alexander's army was the Macedonian phalanx, a dense formation of heavily armed infantrymen known as phalangites. Equipped with the sarissa, a spear about 18 feet long, these soldiers could hold enemies at bay with a wall of spear points. Unlike the traditional Greek hoplites who fought in close quarters with shorter spears, the sarissa allowed the phalanx to strike from a distance and maintain a tight, nearly impenetrable formation.

The phalanx was not just a static wall of spears; it required highly trained and disciplined soldiers who could maintain formation while marching and fighting. This discipline gave Alexander's army a significant advantage on the battlefield, allowing it to absorb and repel enemy attacks effectively.

The Companion Cavalry: Alexander's Strike Force

While the phalanx provided a solid defensive and offensive core, the army's mobility and striking power came from the Companion Cavalry. This elite cavalry unit was composed of noble Macedonians and was personally led by Alexander himself. Known for their speed, agility, and shock tactics, the Companion Cavalry was often used to exploit weaknesses in enemy lines or to deliver decisive charges that could turn the tide of battle.

The synergy between the phalanx and the cavalry was a hallmark of Alexander's tactics.

The phalanx would engage and pin down enemy forces, creating openings for the cavalry to exploit. This combination showcased Alexander's understanding of combined arms warfare—a concept still relevant in modern military strategy.

Diverse Auxiliary Troops and Siege Engineers

Alexander's campaigns took him far beyond Macedonia and Greece, requiring his army to adapt to new terrains and enemies. To meet these challenges, he incorporated a variety of auxiliary troops, including archers from Crete, slingers from the Balearic Islands, and light infantry from Thrace and other regions.

Additionally, Alexander understood the importance of siege warfare in conquering fortified cities. His army included skilled siege engineers who constructed battering rams, catapults, and other siege engines. This ability to conduct prolonged sieges was crucial in his conquest of cities like Tyre and Gaza.

Innovations and Tactics in the Army of Alexander the Great

One of the reasons the army of Alexander the Great was so effective was its innovative approach to battlefield tactics and strategy. Alexander was not content to rely solely on traditional methods; instead, he constantly adapted and experimented to gain an edge over his adversaries.

Flexible Phalanx Deployment

While the phalanx was traditionally a rigid formation, Alexander introduced greater flexibility into its deployment. He sometimes arranged the phalanx in deeper formations for greater pushing power or spread it thinner to cover more ground. This adaptability allowed his forces to respond effectively to different enemy tactics and battlefield conditions.

Use of Terrain and Surprise

Alexander was a master of using terrain to his advantage. Whether it was the narrow passes during the battles in Asia Minor or the open plains of India, he carefully chose battlegrounds that favored his army's strengths. Moreover, he frequently employed surprise attacks, night marches, and deceptive maneuvers to keep his enemies off balance.

For instance, during the Battle of Gaugamela, Alexander faced a numerically superior Persian army. By exploiting the terrain and executing a well-planned oblique attack, he managed to break the Persian lines and secure a decisive victory.

Combined Arms Warfare

The army of Alexander the Great exemplified the power of combined arms warfare—the coordinated use of different types of troops to complement each other's strengths and mitigate weaknesses. Infantry, cavalry, archers, and siege units worked together seamlessly, creating a force greater than the sum of its parts.

This approach allowed Alexander to tackle a wide variety of enemies and situations, from open-field battles to sieges and guerrilla warfare. It also enabled rapid adaptability, which was essential during his extended campaigns across diverse regions.

Training, Discipline, and Morale

Behind the impressive tactics and equipment of Alexander's army was a foundation of rigorous training and discipline. Soldiers were drilled extensively to maintain formation, execute complex maneuvers, and operate specialized weapons like the sarissa. This training ensured that even under the stress of battle, the army could perform coordinated actions.

Moreover, Alexander inspired exceptional loyalty and morale among his troops. He often led from the front, sharing the hardships and dangers of the campaign. His charisma and leadership forged a strong bond between commander and soldiers, motivating them to push beyond their limits.

Incentives and Rewards

Alexander's army was also driven by a system of rewards and spoils. Soldiers received shares of captured wealth and were granted land or titles after successful campaigns. This not only incentivized bravery and loyalty but also helped integrate conquered peoples by establishing Macedonian settlers in new territories.

The Legacy of the Army of Alexander the Great

The impact of Alexander's army extended far beyond his lifetime. After his untimely death, his generals divided his empire, but the military innovations and tactics developed under his command influenced warfare for centuries. The Hellenistic kingdoms that followed maintained phalanx-based armies, and many Roman military strategies bear traces of Macedonian influence.

Furthermore, the army of Alexander the Great set an example of how disciplined training, combined arms coordination, and inspired leadership can overcome even numerically superior foes. Military historians and enthusiasts continue to study his campaigns for lessons in strategy, leadership, and adaptability.

Exploring the army of Alexander the Great gives us a window into a transformative period of history where military innovation reshaped the ancient world. The blend of traditional Macedonian might with diverse auxiliary forces, combined with Alexander's tactical brilliance, created a force that not only conquered vast lands but also left an enduring legacy in the art of war.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the composition of Alexander the Great's army?

Alexander the Great's army was primarily composed of Macedonian infantry called phalangites, cavalry units including the elite Companion Cavalry, and allied Greek hoplites. The army also included specialized troops such as archers, engineers, and siege units.

How did the Macedonian phalanx contribute to Alexander's military success?

The Macedonian phalanx was a tightly packed infantry formation armed with long spears called sarissas. Its dense formation and reach provided both offensive and defensive strength, allowing Alexander to hold the line and create opportunities for cavalry maneuvers, significantly contributing to his battlefield dominance.

What role did the Companion Cavalry play in Alexander the Great's campaigns?

The Companion Cavalry was the elite heavy cavalry unit directly commanded by Alexander. They executed decisive charges that broke enemy lines, exploited weaknesses, and pursued fleeing foes, often turning the tide of battle in Alexander's favor.

How did Alexander the Great integrate various ethnic groups into his army?

Alexander incorporated soldiers from conquered territories, including Persians and other local peoples, into his army. He formed mixed units and promoted cultural integration to strengthen loyalty and utilize diverse military skills, which helped sustain his campaigns across vast regions.

What logistical strategies did Alexander the Great use to maintain his army during long campaigns?

Alexander employed efficient supply lines, established depots, and utilized local resources to provision his army. He also adapted to different terrains and climates by incorporating native troops and adjusting tactics to maintain the army's mobility and effectiveness over

extended campaigns.

How large was Alexander the Great's army during his invasion of the Persian Empire?

At the start of his Persian campaign, Alexander's army numbered approximately 40,000 infantry and 5,000 cavalry. This force varied in size over time due to reinforcements, casualties, and the integration of allied troops from conquered regions.

What weapons and armor were commonly used by soldiers in Alexander the Great's army?

Soldiers in Alexander's army typically used the sarissa, a long pike for infantry, and the xiphos, a short sword. Cavalrymen used spears and swords. Armor included bronze or leather helmets, breastplates, greaves, and shields, providing a balance of protection and mobility.

How did Alexander the Great's army adapt to different battlefields and enemies?

Alexander's army was highly adaptable, employing flexible tactics such as combined arms operations, using terrain to their advantage, and incorporating local troops and techniques. This adaptability allowed them to face diverse enemies from Persian cavalry to Indian war elephants effectively.

Additional Resources

Army of Alexander the Great: A Tactical Marvel of Antiquity

army of alexander the great stands as one of the most formidable and strategically innovative military forces in ancient history. Renowned for its discipline, versatility, and groundbreaking tactics, this army enabled Alexander to forge an empire stretching from Greece to the fringes of India within a decade. Analyzing the composition, strategies, and operational framework of Alexander's forces reveals not only the military genius of its leader but also the evolution of warfare during the Classical period.

The Structure and Composition of Alexander's Army

At the core of the army of Alexander the Great was the Macedonian phalanx, a dense formation of heavily armed infantrymen known as phalangites. These soldiers were equipped with the sarissa, a long pike measuring up to 18 feet, which provided a significant reach advantage over enemy troops. The phalanx served as both a defensive bulwark and an offensive spearhead, capable of withstanding charges and pushing

forward with coordinated force.

Complementing the phalanx were the Companion Cavalry, an elite heavy cavalry unit personally led by Alexander himself. This unit was crucial for executing rapid flanking maneuvers and exploiting breaches in enemy lines. Their mobility and shock power allowed Alexander to deliver decisive blows during battles such as Gaugamela and Issus.

The army also integrated various auxiliary forces, including light infantry, archers, and specialized troops recruited from conquered territories. This diversity enhanced the army's adaptability across different terrains and against various foes. The inclusion of siege engineers and logistics specialists underscored the army's capacity for prolonged campaigns and complex operations.

Infantry: The Backbone of the Macedonian Forces

The infantry was divided into several categories:

- **Phalangites:** Equipped with the sarissa and a small shield, these men fought in close ranks, creating an almost impenetrable wall of spear points.
- **Hypaspists:** These were elite infantry soldiers serving as a link between the phalanx and cavalry. Their role was to provide flexibility where the rigid phalanx could not operate effectively.
- **Light Infantry and Peltasts:** These troops carried lighter weapons and shields, allowing for skirmishing, reconnaissance, and harassment of enemy formations.

Cavalry: Mobility and Shock Value

The Companion Cavalry was arguably the most celebrated segment of Alexander's army. Organized into squadrons called *ilai*, each unit was expertly trained to perform complex battlefield maneuvers. The cavalry's primary role was to exploit weaknesses in enemy formations, pursue fleeing enemies, and protect the flanks of the infantry.

Besides the heavy cavalry, Alexander incorporated lighter horsemen and horse archers drawn from various regions, such as Thrace and Scythia. These units provided greater tactical flexibility, especially in the open terrains of Central Asia.

Innovative Tactics and Battlefield Strategies

One of the defining features of the army of Alexander the Great was its tactical innovation. Alexander combined traditional Macedonian warfare with novel approaches inspired by

the diverse cultures he encountered.

The Combined Arms Approach

Alexander's most notable strategic advantage was his effective use of combined arms—integrating infantry, cavalry, archers, and siege equipment into a cohesive fighting force. This approach allowed for coordinated attacks where each unit complemented the others. For example, the phalanx would fix the enemy in place while the cavalry struck from the flanks or rear.

Flexibility and Adaptability

Unlike many armies of his time, Alexander's forces were not rigidly bound to a single formation or tactic. The hypaspists and light infantry provided the flexibility to operate in rough terrain or to conduct rapid assaults and retreats. This adaptability was crucial during campaigns in mountainous regions and against unconventional warfare tactics used by Indian and Central Asian opponents.

Psychological Warfare and Morale

Alexander understood the psychological dimension of warfare. His personal presence on the battlefield and his reputation as an invincible leader boosted troop morale. Moreover, the army often employed surprise attacks, night marches, and deceptive maneuvers to disorient and demoralize foes before engagements.

Logistics and Supply: Sustaining an Empire on the Move

Maintaining the army of Alexander the Great across vast and diverse territories required sophisticated logistical planning. The army's ability to march thousands of miles through deserts, mountains, and river crossings without losing cohesion was a testament to its organization.

Supply Chains and Fortifications

Alexander established supply depots and fortified positions along his routes, ensuring continuous access to provisions and safe havens. The army utilized local resources when possible but also maintained a network of pack animals and wagons to transport food, weapons, and siege equipment.

Integration of Local Forces

Another logistical advantage was Alexander's policy of integrating local soldiers and leaders into his army. This not only supplemented manpower but also eased supply challenges by leveraging local knowledge and resources. Such integration also helped in administering newly conquered regions and maintaining control.

Comparative Analysis: Alexander's Army Versus Contemporary Forces

When compared with contemporary armies such as the Persian forces or the Greek city-state militias, Alexander's army exhibited superior discipline, cohesion, and strategic innovation.

- **Persian Army:** Though numerically larger, the Persian forces often lacked the unity and tactical flexibility of Alexander's troops. The Macedonian phalanx and cavalry exploited these weaknesses effectively.
- **Greek City-States:** Traditional hoplite armies were formidable in set-piece battles but lacked the mobility and combined arms coordination that Alexander developed.

Alexander's ability to blend the best elements of various military traditions into a single, unified force set his army apart and contributed to his unprecedented conquests.

Pros and Cons of Alexander's Military System

1. **Pros:** Exceptional tactical flexibility, strong leadership, effective combined arms, high morale, and logistical efficiency.
2. **Cons:** Heavy reliance on Macedonian core troops sometimes led to overextension; incorporation of diverse auxiliaries occasionally caused coordination challenges; the phalanx was less effective in broken terrain.

These factors highlight the complexity of managing a multi-ethnic and multi-functional army over vast distances.

Legacy and Influence of Alexander's Army

The army of Alexander the Great not only secured his empire but also influenced military doctrines for centuries. The Hellenistic successor states maintained and adapted his military structures, spreading Macedonian tactics throughout the Mediterranean and Near East.

The use of the sarissa and phalanx formations persisted until the rise of Roman legions, which themselves borrowed and refined aspects of Macedonian military organization. Furthermore, Alexander's emphasis on mobility, combined arms, and leadership became fundamental principles in warfare.

In summary, the army of Alexander the Great was more than just a collection of soldiers; it was a pioneering military system that combined innovation, discipline, and strategic vision. Its successes and limitations offer invaluable insights into the art of war and empire-building in the ancient world.

Army Of Alexander The Great

army of alexander the great: The Army of Alexander the Great Stephen English, 2009-03-19 Alexander the Great is one of the most famous men in history, and many believe he was the greatest military genius of all time (Julius Caesar wept at the feet of his statue in envy of his achievements). Most of his thirteen year reign as king of Macedon was spent in hard campaigning which conquered half the known world, during which he was never defeated in open battle and never besieged a city he did not take. Yet, while biographies of Alexander abound, there are relatively few full-length books dedicated to the Macedonian army which made his dazzling conquests possible and which proved itself the most formidable machine of the age. Stephen English investigates every aspect of the Macedonian forces, analysing the recruitment, equipment, organisation, tactics, command and control of the fighting arms (including the famous pike phalanxes, elite Hypaspists and incomparable Companion cavalry). Some of Alexander's most famous battles and sieges are described in detail to show the army in action. With forensic thoroughness he draws on recent archaeological evidence and scholarship to present a detailed portrait of the army which demonstrated a superiority over its opponents equal to (but much longer-lasting than) that enjoyed by the German forces in the blitzkrieg campaigns of 1939/40. Alexander's navy is also covered.

army of alexander the great: Alexander the Great and the Logistics of the Macedonian Army Donald W. Engels, 2023-11-15 The most important work on Alexander the Great to appear in a long time. Neither scholarship nor semi-fictional biography will ever be the same again. . . . Engels at last uses all the archaeological work done in Asia in the past generation and makes it accessible. . . . Careful analyses of terrain, climate, and supply requirements are throughout combined in a masterly fashion to help account for Alexander's strategic decision in the light of the options open to him... The chief merit of this splendid book is perhaps the way in which it brings an ancient army to life, as it really was and moved: the hours it took for simple operations of washing and cooking and feeding animals; the train of noncombatants moving with the army. . . . this is a book that will set the reader thinking. There are not many books on Alexander the Great that do.—New York Review of Books The most important work on Alexander the Great to appear in a long time. Neither scholarship nor semi-fictional biography will ever be the same again. . . . Engels at last uses all the archaeological work done in Asia in the past generation and makes it a

army of alexander the great: A YOUNG MACEDONIAN in the Army of Alexander the Great Alfred J. Church, 2014-08-21 ABOUT six months have passed since the events recorded in my last chapter. Charidemus had reported to Alexander so much of the young Theban's answer as it seemed to him expedient to communicate; and the king had been pleased to receive it very graciously. I am glad, he said, that you will have a friend in your campaigns. I should like to have such friendships all through my army. Two men watching over each other, helping each other, are worth more than double two who fight each for his own hand. You shall be a captain in the Guards. I can't give your friend the same rank. It would give great offence. My Macedonians would be terribly annoyed to see a young untried Greek put over them. He must make his way. I promise you that as soon as my men see that he is fit to lead, they will be perfectly willing to be led by him. Meanwhile let him join your company as a volunteer. He can thus be with you. And I will give orders that he shall draw the same pay and rations as you do. And now that is settled, the king went on, I shall want you with me for a little time. Your friend shall go to Pella, and learn his drill, and make himself useful. This accordingly had been done. Charondas had spent the winter in Pella. In this place (which Alexander's father had made the capital of his kingdom) the army was gathering for the great expedition. A gayer or more bustling scene could not well be imagined, or, except the vast array which Xerxes had swept all Asia to bring against Greece a century and a half before, a stranger collection of specimens of humanity. Savage mountaineers from the Thracian Highlands, and fishermen from the primitive lake-villages of Paeonia, jostled in the streets with representatives of almost every city of Greece, the Lesser Greece which was the home of the race, and the Greater Greece which had spread its borders over the shores of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, which had almost touched with its outposts the Caspian on the east and the Pillars of Hercules on the west. The prospect of a booty such as passed all the dreams of avarice, the hope of ransacking the treasuries into which all Asia had poured its wealth for generations, had drawn adventurers from all points of the compass. The only difficulty that the recruiting officers had was in choosing. The king was determined that the strength of his army should be his own Macedonians. A sturdy race, untouched by the luxury which had corrupted the vigor of more civilized Greece, they supplied a material of the most solid value. Nor was it now the rough, untempered metal that it had been a generation before. Philip had wrought it by years of patient care into a most serviceable weapon, and it only remained for his son to give its final polish and to wield it. So complete was the organization left behind him by the great king, that such recruits as were needed to make up the necessary numbers of the army of Asia- and none but tried soldiers were recruited- easily fell into their proper places. The preparation of siege trains, of such machines as battering-rams and the like, of the artillery of the time, catapults, small and great, some used for throwing darts and some for hurling stones, was a more laborious business. The equipment of the army was far from complete. Every anvil in Macedonia was hard at work. Of provisions no great store was prepared. The king counted for supplying his needs in this direction in the country which he was about to overrun. The military chest was empty, or worse than empty; for Philip, who always preferred the spear of silver to the spear of steel, had left little but debt behind him. The personal baggage of the army was on the most moderate scale. Never was there a force which gave a better promise of being able to march anywhere, and more amply fulfilled it. Charondas, as it may easily be imagined, did not find the time hang heavily on his hands.

army of alexander the great: A Young Macedonian in the Army of Alexander the Great Alfred John Church, 1907

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army of alexander the great: Alexander the Great Nick Sekunda, John Gibson Warry, 1998 This book combines Men-at-Arms 148- 'The Army of Alexander the Great' and Campaign 7-

'Alexander 334-323BC- Conquest of the Persian Empire'. Upon the assassination of his father King Philip II in the summer of 336BC, Alexander took over the reins of power of a now united Greece. When he led his combined Macedonian and Greek army into Asia a year later he began the greatest career of military conquest in world history. In 11 short years he overcame the might of the Persian Empire and campaigned across the face of the known world. Two eminent scholars of the Classical world (Nick Sekunda and John Warry) describe in detail the make up of Alexander's army, and the course of his epic campaigns.

army of alexander the great: The Macedonian Army of Philip II and Alexander the Great, 359-323 BC Gabriele Esposito, 2022-07-20 This book provides a complete and detailed analysis of the organization and equipment of the Macedonian army built by Philip II and later employed to world-changing effect by his son, Alexander III (the Great). This work explains how Philip took the traditional forces of Macedon and reformed them into the most modern and sophisticated combined-arms force in the Mediterranean world. Not only the formidable pike phalanx and the hard-charging Companion cavalry, but also the less famous components, such as light and cavalry types, are described in detail. The tactics employed in the great battles that won the largest empire the world had seen are analyzed. With numerous color photos showing replica weapons and equipment in use, this is a vivid, detailed and accessible study of the army that made Alexander great.

army of alexander the great: The Army of Alexander the Great Nicholas Sekunda, 1992-03-26 When Philip II ascended the throne in 359 BC, Macedonia was in danger of being engulfed by wild barbarian tribes to the north and wily Greek cities to the south. Philip had to expand the power of the throne or be swallowed up: the creation of a powerful army was imperative. When his son, Alexander, inherited his kingdom at the age of 20, he also inherited an army which was truly unrivalled. The Macedonians were veterans of battle, well equipped and eager for conquest. Add to this Alexander's supreme gifts as military commander and it is little wonder they achieved so much.

army of alexander the great: A Young Macedonian in the Army of Alexander the Great Alfred John Church, 2013-09 This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1907 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER III PREPARATIONS About six months have passed since the events recorded in my last chapter. Charidemus had reported to Alexander so much of the young Theban's answer as it seemed to him expedient to communicate; and the king had been pleased to receive it very graciously. I am glad, he said, that you will have a friend in your campaigns. I should like to have such friendships all through my army. Two men watching over each other, helping each other, are worth more than double two who fight each for his own hand. You shall be a captain in the Guards.¹ I can't give your friend the same rank. It would give great offence. My Macedonians would be terribly annoyed to see a young untried Greek put over them. He must make his way. I promise you that as soon as my men see that he is fit to lead, they will be perfectly willing to be led by him. Meanwhile let him join your company as a volunteer. He can thus be with you. And I will give orders that he shall draw the same pay and rations as you do. And now that is settled, the king went on, I shall want you with me for a little time. Your friend shall go to Pella, and learn his drill, and make himself useful. ¹ A complete description of the organization of the Macedonian army would be out of place in a book of this kind. Any reader who may be anxious to make himself acquainted with the subject will find it treated with much fulness in Grote's History of Greece (vol. xii. pp. 75-89). For my purposes a brief outline will suffice. The Macedonian infantry consisted (i) of the Pezetaeri, or Foot Companions, who made up the phalanx, of which I shall have occasion to say something hereafter; (2) the Hypaspistse, i.e., shield-bearers, originally a bodyguard for the person of the king, ...

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army of alexander the great: The Generalship Of Alexander The Great J.F.C. Fuller, 1960 A thrilling portrayal of Alexander's military career and genius.--American Historical Review In a brief and meteoric life (356-323 BC) the greatest of all conquerors redirected the course of world history. Alexander the Great accomplished this feat with a small army-no more than 40,000 men-and a constellation of bold, revolutionary ideas about the conduct of war and the nature of government. In a style both clear and witty, Fuller imparts the many sides to Alexander's genius and the full extent of his empire, stretching from India to Egypt. Of all General Fuller's brilliant books, this is his masterpiece.--B. H. Liddell Hart

army of alexander the great: Alexander the Great at War Ruth Sheppard, 2008-05-20 Alexander was arguably the greatest military commander ever. Upon the assassination of his father King Philip II of Macedon in the summer of 336 BC, he took over the reins of power of a now united Greece. Two years later he led his combined Macedonian and Greek army into Asia and began the greatest military conquest in world history. In eleven short years and an extraordinary sequence of marches, battles and sieges, he overcame the might of the Persian Empire and campaigned across deserts, plains and forests as far as the Indian subcontinent to become master of most of the known world, at least on the battlefield. He died in Babylon at the age of 33 This richly illustrated book examines all of Alexander's incredible campaigns, describing in detail his armies and the armies he defeated as he created his enormous empire, and explains the extraordinary generalship and tactics that won him his victories. Numerous maps and photographs, and full-color artwork reconstructions and 3-D bird's-eye views of battles combine with authoritative text to relive one of history's most epic military adventures.

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and an attentiveness to historic accuracy, *A Young Macedonian* is an underrated classic of ancient historical fiction. Alfred John Church was a renowned scholar of classics who studied and taught in universities in London and wider England. An able translator of Greek and Latin, he produced several new editions of ancient works, particularly letters and biographic material.

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eyes, lately so smiling, and the red lips were set firmly together. He had now the look of one who could make himself feared as well as loved. His friends were loud in their expressions of wrath. With an emphatic gesture of his hand the judge commanded silence. Justify your words, he said to the Theban lad. For a few a rely moments Charondas stood silent. Then he turned to the crowd, as if looking for inspiration or help. A man of middle age stepped forward and addressed the judge. Permit me, sir, on behalf of my son, whose youth and modesty hinder him from speaking freely in your august presence, to make a statement of facts. Speak on, said the judge, but say nothing that you cannot prove. Such charges as that which we have just heard may not be lightly brought. I allege that Charidemus, said to be of Argos, is not in truth the son of Callicles, but is by birth a Macedonian.

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