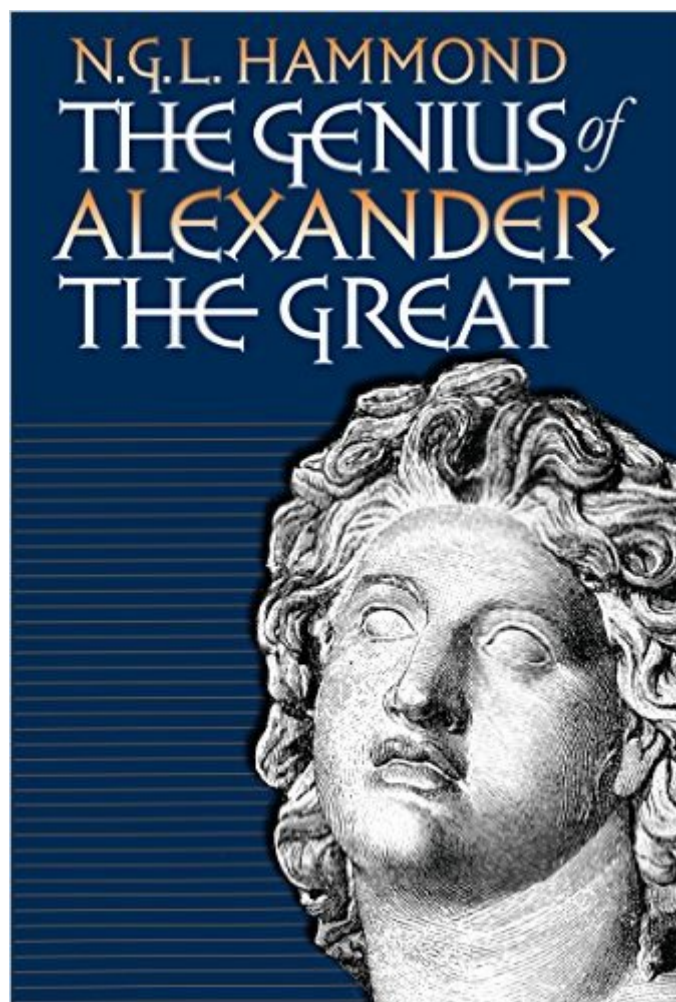


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The Genius Of Alexander The Great



Synopsis

By the time of his death in 323 B.C., Alexander III of Macedonia had built an empire that stretched from the eastern Mediterranean coast through Asia Minor and into the Indus valley. Even before his sudden death, Alexander had achieved mythical status throughout his kingdom, and in the centuries that followed his life became the subject of countless chronicles and biographies. N. G. L.

Hammond, the foremost expert on ancient Macedonian history, here presents a new account of Alexander's fabled career. Based on a thorough analysis of the ancient sources and enriched by a lifetime of research, Hammond's narrative pronounces the Macedonian conqueror a man truly deserving of the title Alexander the Great. According to Hammond, Alexander was a visionary statesman and general, the force behind a kingdom which rose above racism and nationalism to enjoy peace and prosperity. His intellect and charismatic personality, which earned him the respect, admiration, and devotion of his subjects, also help explain Alexander's endurance as a source of fascination into the present day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The works of only a handful of Alexander scholars are intensely anticipated; Hammond is one of them. In his 90th year, he has produced a highly readable account of the ancient world's greatest conqueror. The paucity of references may bother some, but Hammond sends them to his bibliographies in *The Cambridge Ancient History 6* (Cambridge Univ., 1994). Hammond does a good job of not losing the reader in a maze of sources; even someone not previously familiar with Arrian and Plutarch will gain new understandings of how and why Alexander acted as he did. There

are historians (E. Badian, for one) who would not agree with Hammond's high opinion of Alexander's motives. Nonetheless, the articulate fashion in which Hammond guides the reader through Alexander's life is outstanding. Recommended for academic and large public libraries. ?Clay Williams, Ferris State Univ., Big Rapids, Mich. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Modest in size, Hammond's biography of Alexander of Macedon possesses several large virtues. It is thoroughly grounded in the best available sources; it places Alexander in the context of both the values, religious and secular, of his time and the history of Macedon; and it carefully analyzes the less glamorous aspects of his astonishing military campaigns, such as logistics, a branch of war he and his father Philip virtually invented. Because of its brevity, those who already possess some knowledge of classical history will get the most out of it, but the clarity of Hammond's writing may inspire others to learn some of the background they lack. Hammond comes down unequivocally on the side of argument over Alexander that regards him as a rare genius in both war and statecraft. Those who have been waiting for a scholar who shares that verdict with Mary Renault, pronounced in her famous novels about Alexander, will applaud Hammond, even if he cannot express himself quite as elegantly as Renault. Roland Green --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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