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American Anabasis. Xenophon and the Idea of America from the Mexican War to Iraq.

By ROOD, T.,

Book Condition: New. Duckworth Overlook, London / New Yor, 2010. 292p. ills. Cloth wrps. 'It may seem excessive', writes Tim Rood, 'to devote a whole book to two words - especially when they are both the same.' But there is nothing excessive about this project, which is consistently amusing, well-written, and full of nicely calibrated insights. (.) This is a book with many pleasing and some genuinely sharp observations. The reversal of the final chapter demonstrates a really engaged methodological awareness that also points out how easy it is for a book with so many fine stories to avoid the bigger pictures and the harder arguments. The last chapter pulls the book towards making a very serious general contribution to current thinking on classics, which the previous eight chapters have downplayed. There is perhaps something of an opportunity missed to bring together the argumentative flair of the last chapter and the reading skills of the earlier analyses. None the less, the heritage of classics and the history of classical learning are hot topics in contemporary scholarship, and The Sea! The Sea! proves to be a book full of surprises, pleasures and cleverness, which makes a real contribution to both these...



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