

ABSTRACT

BATTLEFIELD TROPHIES OF ANCIENT GREECE: SYMBOLS OF VICTORY

This thesis investigates a somewhat obscure element of ancient Greek warfare—the battlefield trophy—in an attempt to understand the Greek notion of decisive victory during the Classical Period. This thesis closely examines the trophies and the type of warfare that produced them.

The battlefield trophy occurs fifty-eight times between the two primary historians of the classical age, Thucydides and Xenophon, but has received little attention from modern scholars. In the historical records there are instances where both sides set up trophies and claim victory. These split trophies occur much more often during sea-battles than land battles. This thesis contends that this disparity is directly related to the terrain of sea-battles. The small amount of scholarship that has been done on the battlefield trophy deals largely with the issue of its religious values. This thesis offers one answer to the questions surrounding the religiosity of the trophy.

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May 2006