APPENDIX III

THE ALEXANDER AND DARIUS VASES

Two Apulian Red-Figured vases dated to the 320’s show Hellas seated on an altar in an assembly of gods above a battle between Greeks and Persians while a third shows another group above Darius enthroned:

1. Naples area, now lost. Two krater(?) sherds acquired by Sir William Hamilton, known from engravings by W. Tischbein. Figure 173.


In the upper zone, left to right, forelegs of Artemis’ deer; Apollo seated with lyre; Athena seated with helmet, aegis, spear, and shield with Medusa’s head; Hellas seated on triglyph altar, binding hair with fillet; foot of approaching figure (Nike?). Diademed Hera standing with hand at shoulder; Zeus seated on block with long scepter; nude god with hand on hip, holding scarf in place (Poseidon?). Below: Bearded Greek horseman attacking Persian king fleeing in chariot. Amazon (or Persian?) attacked by bearded Greek foot soldier.


H. Heydemann, Vasensammlung des Museo Nazionale zu Neapel, Berlin 1872, 591-98, no. 3256; Furtwängler-Reichhold, Griechische Vasenmalerei II, 150-52, fig. 51; Hölscher, Griechische Historienbilder, 174-80; J.-M. Moret, Ilioupersis II, 8, 100, pls. 81-83, 1; Giuliani, AntK 20 (1977), 26-32, fig. 2; Trendall-Cambitoglou, Red-Figured Vases of Apulia II, 484-83, 495-96, no. 40.

Main scene on Side A. Above, left to right: Poseidon standing, nude but for scarf, with trident; draped Aphrodite seated with Eros beside her; Pan with goat horns; Athena armed, approaching in chariot; Hellas seated on altar;¹ Nike approaching with wreath and palm branch; Zeus

¹ A.D. Trendall calls this central figure Helios: Trendall-Cambitoglou, Red-Figured Vases of Apulia II, 496. I retain the earlier identification because she must be Hellas on the Darius vase and is so labelled on the Copenhagen sherd.
seated with thunderbolt and long scepter; Artemis standing with bow, drawing arrow from quiver; Apollo seated with laurel and kithara. Below: Greek (or Macedonian) foot soldier attacking with sarissa(?)\n\nGreek (or Macedonian) cavalryman; two Persian foot soldiers; chariot (of Darius?); duel between Persian foot soldier and Greek horseman.


Side A, above Darius enthroned: Artemis riding a stag; Apollo seated with his swan; Aphrodite with Eros; Zeus with winged thunderbolt; Hellas standing; Athena with shield; Apathe with two torches; Asia seated on an altar beside a pillar topped with a head (presumably a xoanon).

In addition a sherd by the Darius Painter now in Copenhagen preserves Hellas crowned by two Nikai and three horses’ heads (from Athena’s chariot?). An amphora from Ruvo has the combat scene without the gods.

In no case do the gods number twelve, and they may include Pan, who is not one of the Twelve Gods. Yet their support of Hellas above a conflict between Greeks and Persians or the Council of Darius suggests they have a similar concern for the welfare of Hellas and hence that they represent the Twelve.

It is now generally agreed that the combat scenes illustrate Alexander’s campaign against Darius III Codomannus, hence recent history, rather than the earlier Persian Wars as C. Robert proposed. H. Metzger thinks

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5 *Die Marathonschlacht in der Ptoikile und Weiteres über Polignot* [= 18. Hallesches Winckelmannsprogram], 1895. For recent attempts to reconstruct the Marathon painting see E. B.