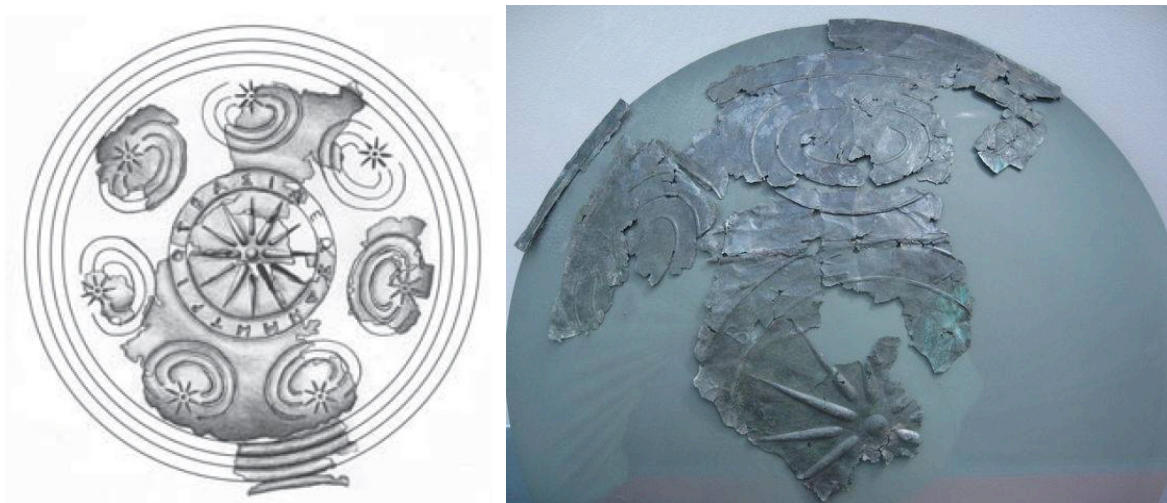


Macedonian Aspis with Vergina Sun decorations.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vergina_Sun



This new project dedicated to the historical (before Roman) period on the Balkan peninsula takes long time, efforts and funds. There is still a long way to go, but we are on the right track trying to fulfill one of our dreams to re-enact Makedonomachoi Living history and Experimental archaeology. So our new 2 Macedonian Aspis are ready in our Association store.





December 2019. The diameter of the first one shield, positioned (on the left) is 69.8 cm not counted the triangles shaped rim. It is made from copper alloy and it's 4 kilos, and a few grams in weigh, and a little more than 4 kilograms with the brace added.

The depth it the centrum is 15.5cm, but after the triangles folded inside the wooden core it will come close to 16cm in depth.

The metal copper list has 1mm thickness.

Our club carpenter done his work, and now metal list and wood core are adjusted and joined as one. The look of the shield with (folded back) triangles rim.



At the end shield is 5.100 kg. in weight.

June 2020 -Second one Macedonian Aspis positioned (on the right) site of the photo is ready in our Association store.



Tined the armband embrace "porpax "and handgrips braces with their decorative rosette.

New Aspis looks a little different design but still with Vergina Sun decorations, and we like them two very much. Made from one single metal copper list 1mm thickness, and wooden core on the back side.

No nails or rivets are used, only natural materials typical for the historian period like: copper, tin, glue, resin and wood.

Back neck linothorax part will be helpful in some way as a protection from the leather belt which may hurt the naked neck skin, because of the shield weight, and we plan to use scarf for extra protection!



This is the original artifact measurements we decided to follow:
A GREEK BRONZE SHIELD
HELLENISTIC PERIOD, CIRCA FIRST HALF OF THE 3RD CENTURY B.C.



Hammered from a single heavy sheet, of convex form, the rim rounded and folded over, with geometric decoration composed of a Macedonian star at the center, its twenty-four rays encircled within a double band flanking a Greek inscription, reading: BA\KS\kl\KL\kE\KW\k\KS\k\KD\kHMHPTIOY, "Of King Demetrios," surrounded by seven concentric arches, each centered by an eight-rayed star, three concentric bands along the edge

27½ in. (69.8 cm.) diameter

For our replica, we decided no letters to be engraved, because there were many Macedonian Aspis shield devices is serves in Greek army phalanx orders at this period known today as Hellenistic period.

Surviving examples and "apparently life-sized" representations seem to vary from about 65cm to about 80 cm, assuming that the "Pharnakes of Pontos" shield in the Getty -also here - is in fact a "Macedonian" shield: it certainly looks like one, but it is the largest example, and Melikian-Chirvani - argued that it was a type of Iranian cavalry shield.

One thing that this seems to mean is that when Asklepiodotos or Ailian say "The best shield for use in the phalanx is the Macedonian, of bronze, eight palms in diameter, and not too hollow" (Ask. V.1), then – since the palm is about 8cm, and so "eight palms" about 64 cm - the tacticians are citing the smaller end of the range of shield sizes. This sits a little oddly with their view that the sarissa-armed hoplitai use "shields of the largest size", since the shields they recommend a few paragraphs later are not really "the largest" at all. It's not entirely clear what the thought processes are here, and it's possible that one or other paragraph has been over-simplified since the original text of Poseidonios (or Polybios, or whoever actually wrote the first manual in the tradition). The range of sizes does also mean, though, that when people speak of Macedonian shields "two feet" or "60 cm" in diameter, that is slightly exaggerating how small they were – even the smallest is a bit larger than that, and some were noticeably bigger.

Sekunda, in both the Osprey "Macedonian Armies after Alexander" and his academic "The Antigonid Army", discusses recent finds of Antigonid shields from Greece and FYROMacedonia. Diameters of the six shields he cites are 74, 74, 73.6, 72, 66 and 66 cm. This he sees as two distinct groups, the larger of 74 cm which he suggests is carried by the ordinary phalanx, the other of 66 cm carried by the Antigonid "peltasts".

This isn't a large sample to be basing a conclusion on, but there do seem to be two groups there – with the 72 cm shield as maybe a bit of an intermediate anomaly. There is also some supporting artistic

evidence, in that the stele of Zoilos from Marvinci does show a smaller shield than the stele of Nikolaos son of Hadymos or the Lyson-Kallikles tomb. In addition we have the Pergamon shield-facing, reckoned at 66cm by Peltz, which isn't Antigonid but does neatly fit the same smaller size. We can accept Sekunda's suggestion that the Antigonids did make shields to two distinct patterns, slightly different in size, in which case it does seem more than likely that the smaller group belonged to the peltasts – and also corresponds to the size of Asklepiodotos' and Ailian's "eight-palm" phalanx shields, although they explicitly allocate this type of shield to the hoplitai and not to their "peltasts".

Another bit of supporting evidence, not for those particular sizes but for uniform shield sizes within a given army, is that we seem to have two life-sized representations of Ptolemaic shields. One is the stone model or former in the Allard Pierson museum, which is 70 cm in diameter according to the catalogue. The second is the relief of Macedonian arms in St Mark's in Venice, which may come from Egypt or may be a Roman copy of a Ptolemaic piece – again the shield measures 70cm.



Bronze shield in the name of King Pharnakes, Getty Villa (80.AC.60)

Shield in the name of Pharnakes (King Pharnaces I of Pontus). Bronze, made in Pontus. Date between 185 and 160 BC

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharnaces_I_of_Pontus

<http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/9221/unknown-maker-shield-greek-185-160-bc/?artview=dor583171>

Dimensions: 79.7 × 81.4 × 11.8 cm



The biggest one.

Shield, Apollonia. - Bronze, 97 cm. Museum of Apollonia Albania.

<http://archeoparks-albania.com/html/apollonia.html#nogo>

Some shields are shown painted in colorful colors



Some are presented in their original metal shining reflections.



A portrait of Antony and Cleopatra as Heracles and Omphale. Painting in the Villa of P. Fannius Sinistor at Boscoreale, near Pompeii. Discovered in 1900 in "Room H" (about 25 feet square) of the Villa of P. Fannius Sinistor in Boscoreale, which was buried along with its neighboring towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 C.E.

<http://www.jasperburns.com/gascleop.html>

Or another interpretation.

<https://www.romeartlover.it/Pompeii5.html>

Archaeological Museum of Naples: large painting from Villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale (IInd style)

Many statues which embellished the houses of the Romans were copies of Greek statues. Archaeologists think that also some of the paintings found at Pompeii were copies of Greek paintings. The right section of this large painting is assumed to portray a Macedonian king and his mother or personifications of Macedonia and Persia. The old man in the left section has been identified with a Greek philosopher, either Aratus of Soli or Menedemus of Eretria, who enjoyed the protection of Antigonos II Gonatas, King of Macedonia. Busts portraying Hellenistic kings have been found at Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum.

And another kind -The Argyraspides (in Greek: Ἀργυράσπιδες "Silver Shields"), were a division of the Macedonian army of Alexander the Great, who were so called because they carried silver-plated shields.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argyraspides>



The eight-pointed star.

[ATTICA_MEDONTID_CLAN.pdf](#)

Seconda metà VI secolo a.C. Museo Archeologico A. Salinas di Palermo



