



Alexander A. Sinitsyn (Saratov / Saint Petersburg, Russia)

PROFESSOR JOHN KINLOCH ANDERSON'S NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

On 3rd January 2014 John Kinloch Anderson, the famous classical scholar, turned ninety. J. K. (“Jock”) Anderson was born in 1924 in Multan, Punjab, an historical centre of the Orient. From 1937 to January 1942 he was educated at Glenalmond College, Scotland, a prestigious private boarding school. He was interested in physics, art, and history, especially in the history of the ancient art of war. Then came the war itself, and John had to quit his studies and join the Army. During the Second World War, he served in the legendary Scottish “Black Watch” as an intelligence officer and took part in the campaigns in Europe (Greece, Sicily) and South-East Asia (in north-western part of Indochina, in Burma, behind the Japanese lines). A new historical era was in the making, and during this grim period Anderson found himself practicing the art of war in earnest.

After the war, in 1946, Anderson studied classics at Christ Church, Oxford, England, graduating in 1949 with a bachelor’s degree in ancient history. In 1949–50, he attended the British School at Athens and in 1950–52 was a Mac-Millan Fellow at Yale University in the USA. Anderson took part in many archeological excavations: in the Peloponnese, digging at ancient Corinth, and in the Chios (Greece), and in Asia Minor where he spend several seasons digging at Old Smyrna (now Izmir, Turkey), and in others expeditions..

In January 1953 Anderson started working at the University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand); it was here that his career as a teacher and scholar began. For over five years (until 1958) he taught classical languages and ancient history there. During these years his first articles on the archeology, topography, and art of Achaea, Corinth, and Old Smyrna were published in the *Annual of the British School at Athens*. In 1955 his first book, entitled *A Handbook to the Greek Vases in the Otago Museum*, came out (Dunedin, N. Z., Otago Museum, 1955).

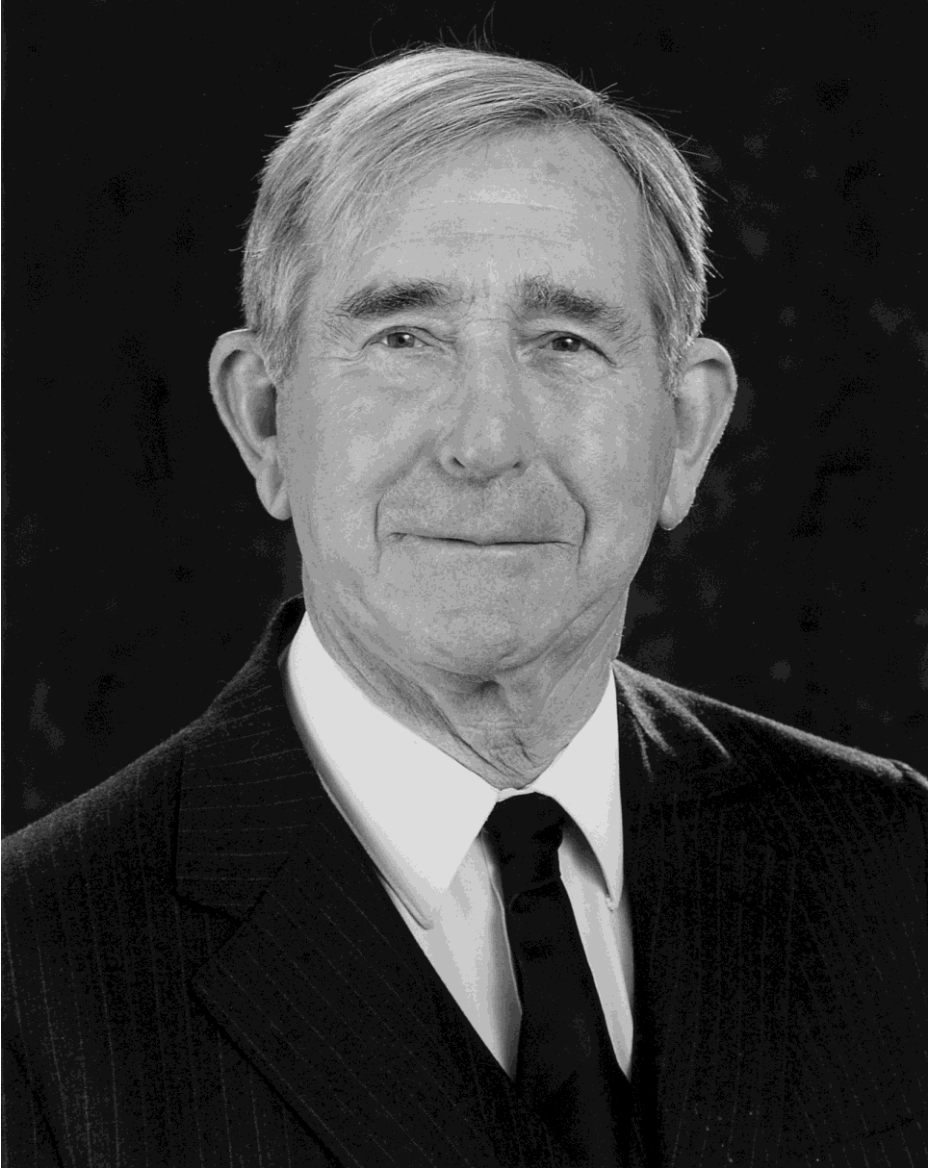


Fig. 1. Professor J. K. Anderson, Chair of Classical Archaeology, University of California, Berkeley, 1993

In 1958 Anderson received his master's degree, and in September of the same year he moved to California, to the city of Berkeley on the west coast of the USA, where he still resides. For three and a half decades he served at the University of California at Berkeley, starting as a Lecturer in Classics and then

becoming Professor of Classical Archeology. He held this position until his retirement in 1993.

Anderson has made substantial contributions to the study of the history of the *ars militaria*, first and foremost concerning the structure and weaponry of hoplite armies and Greek cavalry practices. His book *Ancient Greek Horsemanship*, published over half a century ago in 1961, is still of great scholarly importance. It includes and examines the various breeds of horses, harnesses, halters, bits, and saddle cloths, the economics of horse keeping and stable management, everyday practices of equitation, military equipment, and tactics. An appendix publishes his translation of Xenophon's *Περὶ ἵππικῆς* ("The Art of Horsemanship"). This book established Anderson as an expert in the history of equitation. This short work proved to be a landmark success for Anderson himself, delineating the key topics to be developed in his subsequent articles and books.

In 1970, Anderson published a comprehensive work that now included vase painting, which had always intrigued him, entitled *Military Theory and Practice in the Age of Xenophon*. The study of various aspects of the art of war guided his chapter divisions: "Hoplite Armour and Weapons," "Commissariat and Camps," "The General and His Officers," "Tactical Training," "Hoplites and Other Arms," and so on. In this historical and military study Anderson draws upon a wide range of ancient literary sources and artworks. The book received much international acclaim; to a certain extent, the two decades that followed the publication of the book can be called *the Age of Anderson* of the study of ancient Greek military theory and practice.

All his research proceeds from a thorough knowledge of the sources, primarily the classical trinity of the founding fathers of historical studies – works by Herodotus, Thucydides, and especially Xenophon, who ranks first. A pupil of Socrates and one of the most original thinkers of the ancient times, Xenophon was both a warrior and thinker, commander and historian, participant in military campaigns, expert in military theory and practice, and last but not least, the author of many treatises on war and horsemanship. Anderson devoted a special study to him (*Xenophon*, 1974). This small book shows various sides of his life and work: it treats the biography of the Athenian historian, his private and public life, his military campaigns, and his religious and political views. Anderson examines Xenophon's historical works, but focuses in particular upon his military treatises and his works on hunting and horsemanship.

In 1985, Anderson published a book entitled *Hunting in the Ancient World*, which analyzes a wide spectrum of issues of Greek and Roman hunting from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity. Drawing upon numerous narrative sources and archeological material – coins and other artworks, Anderson treated the heroic

hunt of the Archaic Age as an aristocratic pursuit and the hunt as an ancient occupation; he also examined practical aspects of hunting both on horseback and on foot in the ancient world. Richly illustrated, the book makes captivating reading, and is interesting for both experts in the ancient history and art, and the general reader.

For over half a century Anderson published dozens of articles in international journals on history, classical philology, and archeology, including the *American Journal of Archaeology*, the *Annual of the British School at Athens*, *California Studies in Classical Antiquity*, the *Classical Journal*, *Classical Philology*, *Classical World*, *Hesperia*, the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, and others. He was the author of chapters in multi-authored books on the military art of antiquity: *Civilization of the Ancient Mediterranean: Greece and Rome* (1988); *Hoplites: The classical Greek Battle Experience* (1991); *The Ages of Homer* (1995); and others.

Anderson is also an expert on ancient art. For many years he was the curator of the Classical collections of the Lowie Museum of Anthropology at Berkeley (now the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum of Anthropology); in the 1970s–1980s he organized several exhibitions of ancient Greek art from its collections, and personally edited the exhibition catalogs.

Throughout this period, he continued generously to credit mentors such as F. E. Adcock, T. J. Dunbabin, L. A. MacKay, W. K. Pritchett, and H. R. W. Smith with having great influence upon his thinking and his publications.

In 1966 Anderson was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 1988 won U.C. Berkeley's coveted Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Anderson was an active member of the Berkeley Greek Club, founded in the early 1960s by a renowned classical philologist and poet, Professor Louis Alexander MacKay. The Greek Club, a true *symposion* whose membership varied with the years, is limited for convenience to about ten members only. Its "symposiasts" meet every fortnight during the academic year to read and translate works by the ancient Greek authors. Anderson was the oldest member, with over half a century of membership, an *archegetes* of the Club and a frequent *symposiarch*. Professor Andrew Stewart describes "Jock" (as everyone calls him) and his participation at the meetings as follows: "We meet at each others' houses over wine, and the host provides bread, crackers, cheese, olives, and fruit. Jock was a founding member of the Club and retired from it only a couple of years ago, when his memory was fading. This must have been particularly painful for him, since he had a steel-trap recall of both Greek and English poetry, which he could – and did – recite to our general enjoyment at the drop of a hat. His dry, self-deprecating wit, kindness, hospitality, and general humanity were much valued and loved, and are sorely missed."

All his life, Anderson loved to ride, an avocation equally typical of the ancient Greek elite and of English and Scottish gentlemen. He had a passion for horses and took a great interest in everything related to them – in past and present, theory and practice. According to his daughter, Elizabeth Anderson, her father was a skillful rider in his younger years and won many prizes in the local horse races. In his book *Ancient Greek Horsemanship*, Anderson, repeatedly refers to his own experience in handling horses to support his arguments, and describes his own experiments with a simple rope halter instead of a bit and a bridle. It is not accidental that of all ancient historians he should have distinguished Xenophon as an ἀνὴρ φίλιππος – a label that he and his hero justly shared. Predictably, Anderson also instilled a love of horses into his children and grandchildren.



Fig. 2. “Xmaspony”, the Andersons with grandchildren at the ranch. California, 1990s.

Throughout his research, Anderson sought to combine theory with practice, be it war, archeology, museums, exhibitions, or zoology. Apart from horses, he was keen on bird watching. His colleagues say that when the weather was nice he could be spied with his binoculars on the Marin headlands, engrossed in watching birds of passage as they flew by.

Anderson is a member of the American Philological Society (now the American Society for Classical Studies), the Archaeological Institute of America, the British Schools at Athens and Ankara, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies in London, and other scholarly societies.

Professor John Kinloch Anderson has become a luminary of the contemporary study of antiquity. His works on military history have long been fundamental to scholarship and are now classics.

We congratulate the Master upon his anniversary!*

The Editors and Members of the Editorial Board of the journal "Anabasis" join in the congratulations.

* I wish to acknowledge my huge debt of gratitude to all the American colleagues and friends who helped me to write this article: Professors James Russell (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA), Andrew Stewart (University of California, Berkeley), who, apart from providing very useful information, took time and trouble to edit the English version of the text, and Mark Griffith (University of California, Berkeley); also Dr. Christopher Simon (University of California, Office of the President). I am very grateful to Elizabeth Anderson (Berkeley) for her reminiscences about her father and for sending me photographs from the family album, and to Andrew Stewart for sending me the official picture of J. K. Anderson taken in 1993 at the University of California. (None of these pictures have been published before.) The above-mentioned persons should be regarded as co-authors of this essay in homage to a great scholar.