

# ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND HIS TIME



AGNES SAVILL

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

IN this edition I have amended several of the errors discovered by kind reviewers. The pages dealing with the *Phaedrus* and the *Symposium* have been completely rewritten after further study of these remarkable Dialogues.

Alexander was one of the few men who deserve the title "The Great". Most of his defeated enemies, astonished by his clement and magnanimous treatment, became his devoted followers. It is believed that Alexander's ideas of culture and of religion surpassed those of any other supreme conqueror. His private life was of a quality so noble that Sir William Tarn, the most profound of the Alexander historians, said of him that "he gave the strange impression of one whose body was his servant."

When several schoolmasters wrote that my book should be in every school library for the benefit of upper form pupils, I realized that my work had been rewarded. In this disturbed modern world, with idealism and religion being regarded as out-of-date, the young should be encouraged by learning the record of a man who was successful in battle, who loved the Arts, who respected every form of religion, and who was the first to advocate the brotherhood of all mankind.

AGNES SAVILL

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE introductory pages of Chapter 1 explain the reasons which induced me to begin to write for the general reader a short study on perhaps the most remarkable figure in history. But no brief summary could do justice to the subject—the meteoric career and the development of the aims and the character of Alexander the Great.

The book is divided into two parts: Part I describes the military achievements of Alexander, the break-up of his Empire and the changed condition of the world. Quotations

## PREFACE

from both appreciative and hostile authors are given in Chapter XII; if the latter were omitted, some readers might question why the fame of the victor of Asia remained so long under a cloud. Both points of view are presented; in any case, every estimate will be accepted or rejected according to the temperament of the reader.

Part II is necessary because the character and the lifework of Alexander cannot be understood without some knowledge of his background—his education, the surroundings in which his youth was passed, the religion and the culture of his time. Greek and Latin used to form the basis of education in our schools and universities, but to-day the growing demand for training in science is displacing the classics; many students are ignorant of their value to life. However, in recent years excellent English translations, broadcast talks and representations of Greek dramas have aroused so much interest that the general public is beginning to turn to the treasures of ancient Greece. It is hoped that the final chapters of this book—mere headlines of a vast subject—may induce many to continue further study of Hellenic culture; its noble teaching, which Alexander the Great endeavoured to spread throughout his Empire, remains to this day an inspiring ideal for our unhappy modern world.

Apart from the exhaustive research of Sir William Tarn, the books which have given most aid for Part I were Arrian's *Anabasis*, the French translation of Droysen's *Alexandre* and the volume of Lieutenant-Colonel Dodge. Arrian, with military and administrative experience in Roman days, and access to ancient works now lost, was able to pronounce reliable judgment on the victories and character of Alexander. Droysen had insight into the psychology of the King, the Hellenes and the Oriental races. Dodge, a professional soldier, a profound admirer of Alexander as a captain, stated that no man could have been so successful without nobility of nature and supreme intellectual gifts. C. G. Jung's studies on the unconscious and the driving force which in individual men brings about the great movements of history, shed a new light on Alexander's work and character. Dr. Gilbert Murray's *Five Stages of Greek Religion*, *The Rise of the Greek Epic*

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and translations of Greek plays, C. Seltman's *Twelve Olympians*, Werner Jaeger's *Paideia* and many of the Dialogues of Plato, all contributed to provide the material for Part II.

I am grateful to Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin and Company, publishers of Lieutenant-Colonel Dodge's book, for permission to reproduce the sketch of the opponents in the battle of Gaugamela, and to copy the tabular list of the long march through Asia, the Punjab and back to Babylon. A map of the route was drawn by Mr. Tresadern, who grudged no time nor trouble to ensure its accuracy. The dates inserted on the arrowed lines help readers to follow the steps of the eleven years' campaign.

I have profited by the encouragement, advice and criticism of many friends. I mention gratefully these names: Mr. John Hunt, who read every chapter; Dr. Redvers Ironside, who gave special attention to the chapter on the city-state. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Phillips aided in many ways; without the assistance of Mrs. Phillips, a student of the C.G. Jung Institute of Zurich, the pages dealing with the myths and Jung's philosophy would not have been clearly expressed for the general reader. Valuable help was given by my nephew, R. L. S. Blackadder; others whose useful suggestions were adopted should be mentioned—Mrs. Van Somern Godfery, Dr. Elizabeth Senior, Dr. Patricia Jevons, Mr. Peter Hunt, Miss Elise McMichael, Dr. Ethel Browning and Mrs. Gina Franklin; their interest and appreciation encouraged me to continue an apparently interminable task.

I am indebted to Mr. Cuthbert Wilkinson for help with the reading of proofs and the compilation of the index, and to the following publishers who have kindly permitted me to use quotations from their books:

The Cambridge University Press  
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The Encyclopædia Britannica Ltd.  
The English Universities Press Ltd.

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The Thinkers' Library

I should also like to thank most warmly the staff of the London Library for their assistance in tracing quotations from ancient authors, and my publishers for helpful co-operation throughout the passage of this book from the typed MS to the completed volume.

AGNES SAVILL

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# IMPORTANT DATES<sup>1</sup>

Some of the distances in miles are given by Lieutenant-Colonel Dodge. The back and forward hasty travelling, necessitated by the revolts and attacks from several directions in Bactria, Sogdiana and adjacent territories, add up to 3,900 miles.

The mileage in the region of the Five Rivers mounts up to 1,070.

The miles traversed from the starting point of Pella to Alexander's death at Babylon amount to 21,900.

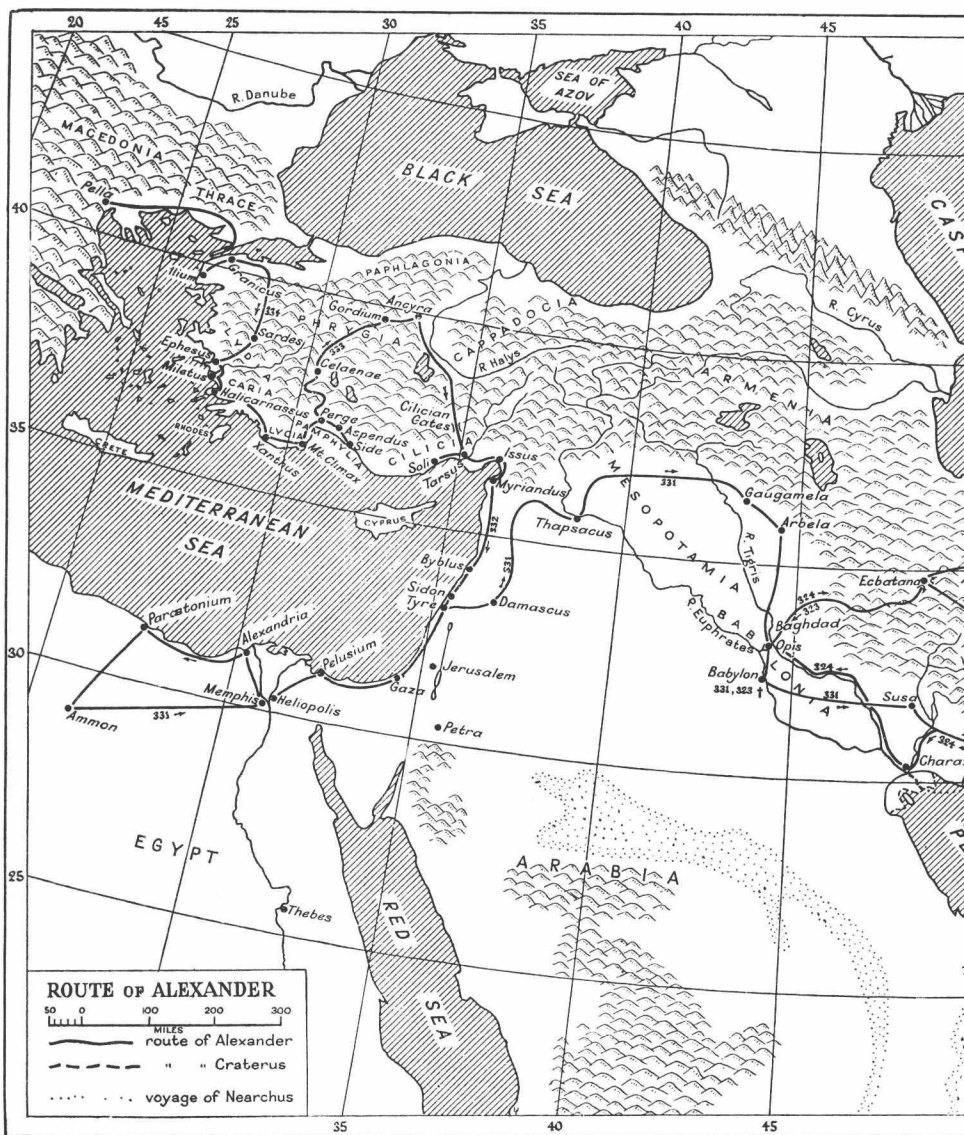
In Asia minor, from the Hellespont to the Granicus was fifty miles.

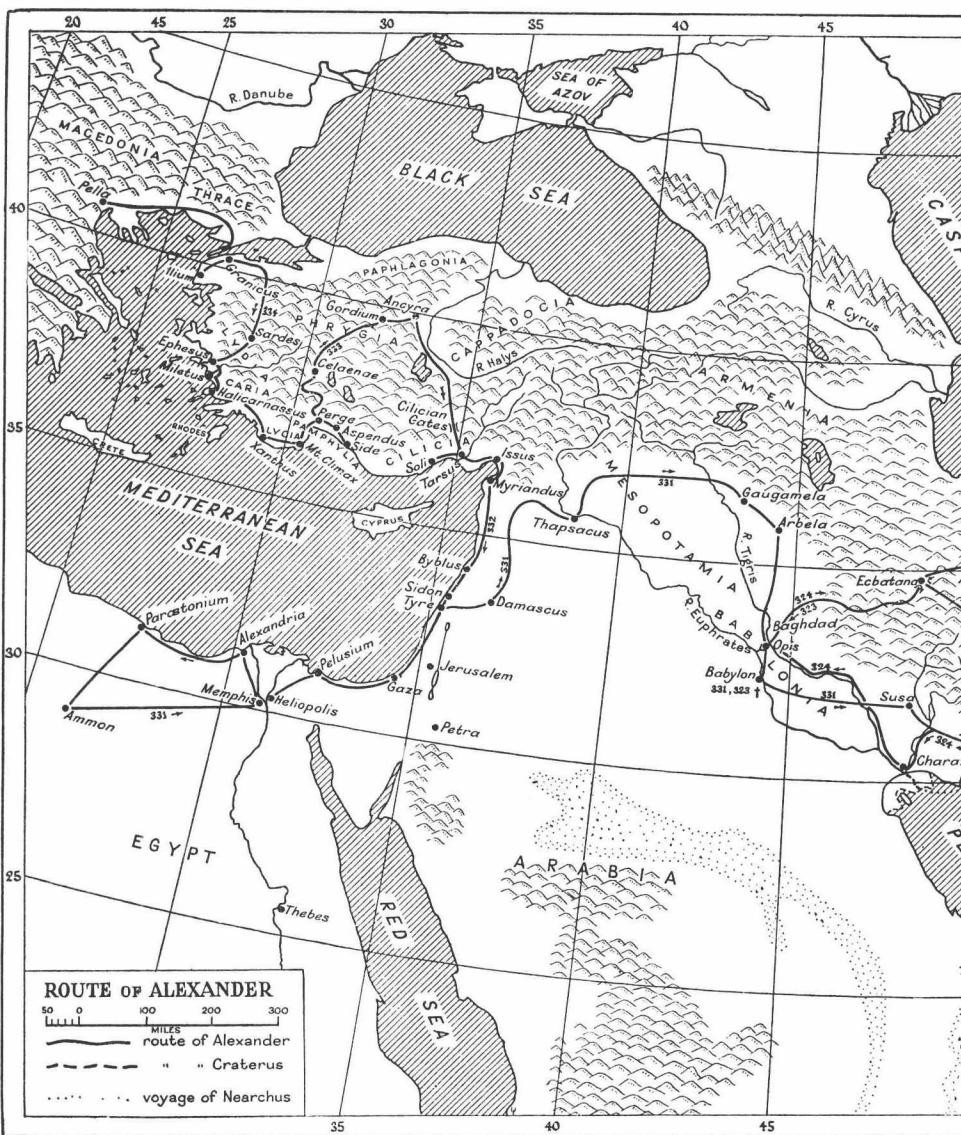
558-529		Conquests of Cyrus
336		Alexander became King
335	Autumn	Thebes
334	Spring	Alexander starts for Asia
334	May	Battle of the Granicus
333	March	Left Gordium
333	Summer	Cilician Gates
333	November	Battle of Issus
333-332	Mid-winter	Tyre siege begun
332	August	Tyre taken
332-331	Winter	Egypt
331	Early summer	Euphrates
331	October 1st	Battle of Gaugamela
331	October	Babylon
331	November	Susa
331	Early	
	December	Uxian campaign
331	December	Persian Gates taken
331	December	Persepolis
330	March	Left Persepolis
330	May	Ecbatana
330	July 1st	Death of Darius
330	August	Tapurian Campaign
330	September	Caspian Gates Campaign
330	October	Drangiana and Arachotia
329	January to	
	March	Alexandria-ad-Caucasum built
329	April	Passage of the Parapamisus
329	May	Oxus crossed
329	Summer	Scythian Campaign

<sup>1</sup>Taken from the Table of Lieutenant-Colonel Dodge, published in his *Alexander*, by kind permission of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

# IMPORTANT DATES

329	Autumn	Back to Maracanda
329	Autumn	Success of Spitamenes
329-328	Winter	In Zariaspa
328	Spring to Summer	Five Column Campaign
328	Autumn	Final Sogdian Campaign
327	Early	Sogdian Rock and Rock of Chorienes
327	Spring	Back to Zariaspa
327	May	To Alexandria-ad-Caucasum
327	July	Left Alexandria and Nicea
326	Late Winter	Campaigns of Cophen and Aornos
326	Early Spring	Crossing of Indus
326	April	In Taxila
326	May	Crossing of Hydaspes river and battle
326	June and July	Five Rivers Campaign
326	End of July	At Hyphasis
326	August	Back to Hydaspes
326	October	Start down river
326	November and December	Mallian Campaign
325	January to June	Campaign lower Indus
325	July	Pattala
325	August	Indus delta
325	September	Oreitian Campaign
325	October and November	Desert of Gedrosia
324	January	In Persepolis
324	Spring	In Susa
324	July	Mutiny at Opis
324	Autumn	Ecbatana
324-323	December to January	Cossean Campaign
323	Spring	Babylon
323	May	Funeral rites of Hephaestion
323	June	Death of Alexander





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