

DECOLONIZED ANCIENT AFRICA

This issue brings us to the fifth edition of *Heródoto*, a diligent project that offers our readers, once again, an interview and a brief strictly linked to the magazine's thematic scope, as well as other contributions related to it. We have published, in Portuguese and English, and made available in video, an interview on *The Ancient Mediterranean and the North of Africa*. The interviewees – Professor Julio César Magalhães de Oliveira (FFLCH-USP) and Maria Cristina Nicolau Kormikiari Passos (MAE-USP) – are important scholars on Ancient Africa in Brazil and, from their specialized knowledge, speak about this theme. This edition's brief – *Ancient History in Africa and Africa in Ancient History* – is organized by Professors Luciano César Garcia Pinto (EFLCH-UNIFESP) and Pedro Falleiros Heise (DLLV-UFSC) and meets an important demand of studies on Ancient History in Brazil: the promotion of knowledge about Africa in Ancient Times. In this issue, the studies of Brazilian and African researchers include, in a very satisfactory way, the expectations regarding their organization. The Articles' section presents varied thematic content concerning the ancient world, and this is the characteristic that defines it within the magazine's structure. In the "Translations" section, we offer two important contributions in Portuguese – *On butterflies and rainbows: The Classics, Human Sciences and Africa*, by Michel Lambert, and *Putting Africa on the map*, by Jessie Maritz. Particularly for our Brazilian audience, both texts bring important discussions about the studies on Ancient Africa nowadays. Professor Lambert analyzes the experience with Classical Studies at the University of Ibadan, in Nigeria, and how the university appropriates classical tradition in a post-colonial context. Professor Maritz studies the representation of Africa in linear and visual forms, on maps, giving an overview of the map forms from Ancient Rome to the Renaissance. They also give a thematic organicity to this issue, the translation of the text *Les noirs dans l'Antiquité Méditerranéenne*, by Léopold Sédar Senghor, and two reviews on Ancient Africa.

The ancient history of African peoples was of little interest to Westerners. And, since at least the second half of the 20th century, this approach has been revised. The existence of Africans in Antiquity was often perceived through their relationships with Greeks and Romans. This perception, far from establishing an understanding of cultural interactions and exchanges, often naturalized hierarchical narratives about Greek and Roman domination. Based on this premise, *Heródoto* magazine aims to not only give place to the originality of studies on Africa in Antiquity in our context, but also to the relationships established by them with Greeks and Romans, beyond the normative ideas of

Greek and/or Roman predominance present in the concepts of *Hellenization* and *Romanization*, for example.

This perspective starts from the understanding of the existence of countless complex and heterogeneous societies that intercross within border situations and environments, many times decisive for the technological and social advances of the people involved; people who get closer and distance themselves, with different and supplementary contributions. The experiences of modern imperialism and colonialism not only instituted (Western) disciplinary fields focused on the studies of Afro-Asian peoples (Africanism and Orientalism), but also established an understanding only comprehensible if we link these fields to the contemporary contexts in which they were developed. This statement, however, should not reduce the understanding of Africanism neither of Orientalism – these days, much broader and more complex fields of study – to the great ideological disagreements on which they were founded. This issue of the magazine aims to contribute to this debate.

Therefore, in this issue, we have published 01 interview, 05 articles as thematic briefs, 04 articles with varied themes, 02 translations, 01 document and 03 reviews. For all stages of production of this issue, we could count on the important financial support of FAPESP (Process 2017/2461-1), through funds from the Institutional Technical Reserve of the Federal University of Sao Paulo, made possible by the university's Dean's Office and publishing house.

We wish you all a great reading!

Glaydson José da Silva and Gilberto da Silva Francisco
The Editors