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Sinope and the Amazon *Sanape*: the ideology of Athenian settlement ?

There are several stories of the foundation of the city of Sinope. Some are overtly mythical in their content, involving heroes, nymphs and the like. Others claim a stronger sense of reality, since they deal in mortal men and familiar places, most obviously Miletus. However, as modern scholars are increasingly ready to acknowledge, it is by no means apparent that any of these stories are more (or less) mythical than are others, whether they feature mortals or divinities.

Rather than pursue elusive questions of the "reality" of foundation-stories, it seems to many to be more rewarding to explore the development and impact of these various stories within colonies themselves, and indeed also in their relations with other communities. With that kind of agenda, I wish to consider the story of Sanape the Amazon and her role in the creation (and naming) of the city of Sinope. It seems that her tale was told by a mysterious Andron of Teos, but we may reasonably wonder how widely it was known in antiquity beyond his text and how (if at all) it was understood at Sinope. In that context, I shall explore an "Amazonian" procession which was regularly performed in the city by the fourth century, as it seems from the writings of Aeneas Tacticus. How important were Amazons to Sinope ?

With that in mind, I shall proceed to consider the apparent settlement of Athenians at Sinope in the later fifth century after the removal of Timesileos. There has been much discussion of this event (and some doubts about its historicity, which I do not share). But there seems to have been no consideration (as far as I know) of the ideological context of such a settlement. How did Athenians imagine that they fitted at Sinope? By what right and in what historical context ? In particular, are the Amazons (and especially Theseus' dealings with them both in the Black Sea and in Attica) at all relevant to the ideological underpinning of Athenian settlement at Sinope and perhaps further east at Amisus ?