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John Boardman, professor emeritus of classical archeology and art at Oxford, has here provided us with a "masterly summary," as the Times Literary Supplement has it, of what is known, archaeologically, of the Greeks from the time of Mycenea to the 6th century, BCE. This 4th edition of a 1964 original is a treasure trove for those whose first love of the ancients is artifactual. The 282 pages are heavily loaded with illustrations and descriptions. It is a monument to the efforts of the hundreds of excavators whose labors have provided historians, and the rest of us, with material evidence of the creativity of the people of past ages.

Whether finds are evidence merely of trade or also of actual settlement is a major problem. Prof. Boardman provides judicious discussion. He also provides some geographical information of major sites and links the ample discussion of the artifacts with their historical background. The title, however, is a bit misleading. Boardman is not interested in colonies and trade per se, but in the material evidence thereof. People and their political life, intellectual adventures, and economic and social structures, are set aside for others' discourse: his concern is with vases, crators, beads, sculpture, and the like. If that is your attention's focus, it will be amply rewarded with this compendium of the great diaspora which extended from Spain and Gaul to Egypt and the river Don.

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