The Ancient Greeks

Osprey Elite Series no. 7 (1986)
Text by Nick Sekunda. Colour plates by Angus McBride.
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Reviewed by Martin Smith

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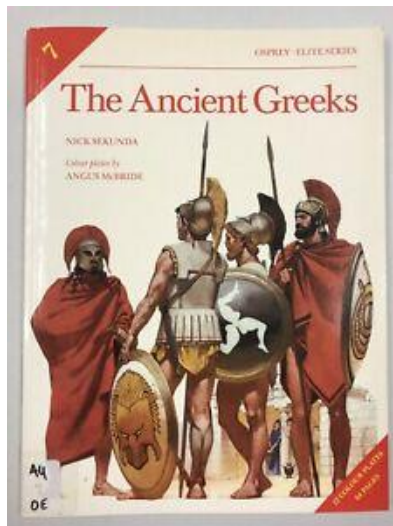Introduction
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This Elite series work focuses on the dress and military equipment of Greek armies from around 500 to 300 BC, sometimes referred to as the Classical or Hoplite period of Greek warfare, from successes against the Persians to the rise and supremacy of the Macedonians. Unlike some other Ospreys, rather than extensive text followed by descriptions of the plates the chapters are mostly taken up with discussion of the plates themselves. Frequent references are made to the sources used for these illustrations, such as coinage, vases, and funerary reliefs, many of which appear in black and white pictures throughout the book, and there is also some discussion of army organisations of the time.

Nick Sekunda is a well-known and respected expert in this period and field and does a fine job of leading the reader through the changes occurring in the appearance of Greek armies as they evolved over the span of two centuries.

The colour plates, by the late Angus McBride, are absolutely beautiful, making this an ideal resource for the wargames figure painter: The Ancient Greeks is one Osprey I've had on the shelf for decades but find myself going back to time and again for inspiration.

Thoroughly recommended.