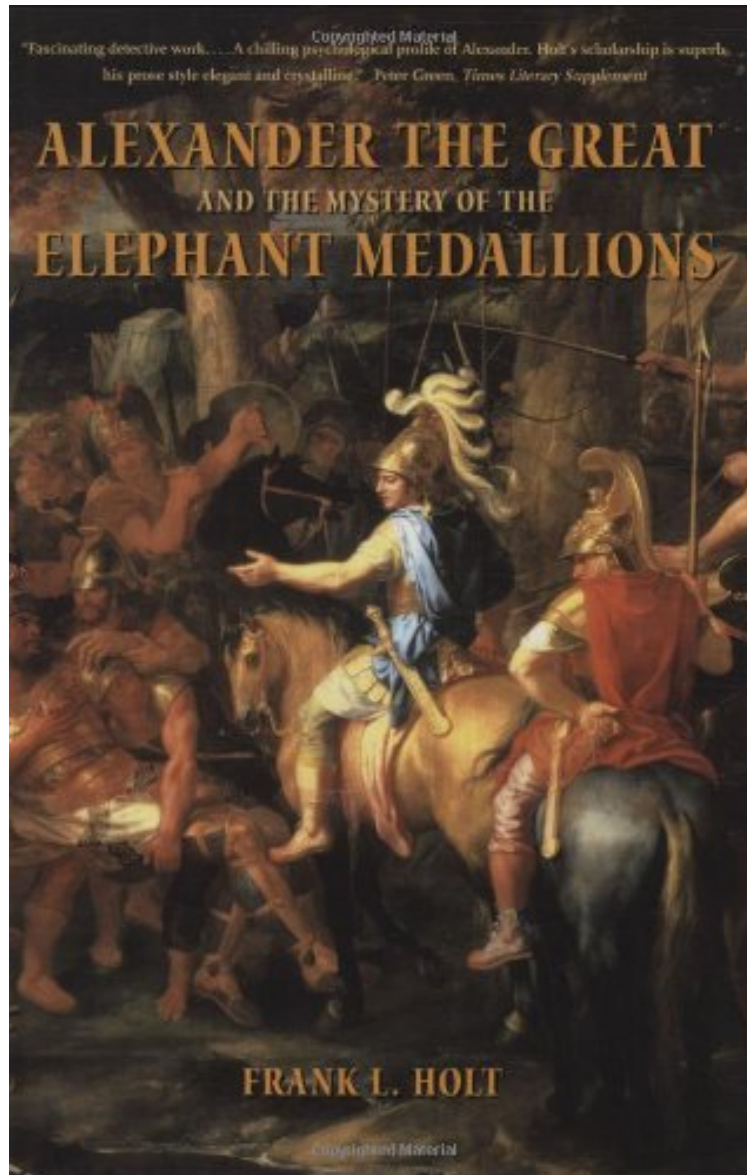


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Alexander the Great and the Mystery of the Elephant Medallions (Hellenistic Culture and Society)

Frank L. Holt

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Frank L. Holt : Alexander the Great and the Mystery of the Elephant Medallions (Hellenistic Culture and Society) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alexander the Great and the Mystery of the Elephant Medallions (Hellenistic Culture and Society):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Simply BrilliantBy Jeffrey A. JonasThis small book and fast read is

a wonderful companion volume to thicker biographies about Alexander. You won't get a full accounting of Alexander's campaigns here- that's not the point, but you will get a concise account about how these objects that we use to reconstruct what history might have looked like are found, dated, and then mulled over by experts. This book is more about the essence of Alexander, and what was important to him and the men who followed him, than the nuts and bolts of his overall story.... I thought it was very entertaining. JJ2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Coins, coins, coins By StillReadingBob Unless you collect ancient coins you will not enjoy the book. It really isn't about Alexander the Great, so much as it is about the coins that were struck during his reign, and an oddity that is not conclusively solved. Even though Holt tries to end the book with what he thinks is a logical explanation for the Medallions, I think their existence is still a mystery. Good descriptions of ancient coin striking and the complexities of the art work created for the coins and Medallions. Felt like I had walked into an Art Appreciation class by mistake. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Earlier then said By Louis Just as promised

To all those who witnessed his extraordinary conquests, from Albania to India, Alexander the Great appeared invincible. How Alexander himself promoted this appearance; how he abetted the belief that he enjoyed divine favor and commanded even the forces of nature against his enemies; is the subject of Frank L. Holt's absorbing book. Solid evidence for the "supernaturalized" Alexander lies in a rare series of medallions that depict the triumphant young king at war against the elephants, archers, and chariots of Rajah Porus of India at the Battle of the Hydaspes River. Recovered from Afghanistan and Iraq in sensational and sometimes perilous circumstances, these ancient artifacts have long animated the modern historical debate about Alexander. Holt's book, the first devoted to the mystery of these ancient medallions, takes us into the history of their discovery and interpretation, into the knowable facts of their manufacture and meaning, and, ultimately, into the king's own psyche and his frightening theology of war. The result is a valuable analysis of Alexander history and myth, a vivid account of numismatics, and a spellbinding look into the age-old mechanics of megalomania.