



The Triumph of Dionysos: Convivial processions, from antiquity to the present day

By John Boardman

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Dionysos carried the blessing of wine to the whole world, and his triumphant return from India became a popular subject for the arts of Greece and Rome in many media. It became associated with Alexander the Great's comparable victories and later served as a message of immortality for any mortal prince. The iconography survived the ancient world into Renaissance and neo-Classical arts, and may even have contributed to the practices of modern circus parades with their wild animals, maenad-snake-charmers and clown-satyrs: an unusual, indeed unique, survival.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Sir John Boardman is one of the foremost experts on ancient Greek art. Having served as Assistant Director of the British School at Athens between 1952 and 1955, he was Assistant Keeper at the Ashmolean Museum and later Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art at the University of Oxford between 1978 and his retirement in 1994. His many publications include the volumes on Greek Sculpture and Athenian Black and Red Figure vases for Thames and Hudson's World of Art series. He continues his research at the Beazley Archive, concentrating on the history of gem collections.

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