

# Review of: "Shrewdness, coup d'œil, and genius: the cognitive attributes of the consummate general (Greek antiquity, Byzantine era, modern times)"

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The paper is very well articulated and provides an accurate and philologically in-depth analysis of the term ἀγχινοῖα in ancient sources, not only in relation to the view of leaders who excelled in the military and strategic field. As for the ancient authors, the remarks on Aristotle's definition are important, which deviates from the partial definitions of other authors and connects rapidity and ductility of thought to the timeliness of action execution: the well-known example of the ἀγχινοῖα referred to the midwife is crucial, an apparently very technical and specific visualisation but which in reality assumes the value of a universal paradigm of the exercise of ἀγχινοῖα connected to the ability to seize the opportune moment (καίρως).

Also very interesting is the second part of the essay, which concerns the reception of the concept, rather than the term, in the treatise on military 'virtues' that revived in Europe as early as the Renaissance (a chapter on Machiavelli would have been interesting too!) and developed in the transition between the 17th and 18th centuries. Important are the considerations on the semantic variations in the passage between the various European languages: the French 'coup d'oeil', assumed as a military term by Folard, more or less closely links virtue to the sense of sight. But it is with von Clausewitz and his theorisation on war, and with the transition to the complicated, and fascinating, concept of 'Takt seines Urteils', a sort of conceptual synaesthesia between sight and touch is achieved, which actually emancipates the concept from the physical-sensory sphere and revives the idea of an Aristotelian ἀγχινοῖα as effective mental ductility. So, we return to the multifaceted idea of μῆτις as it has been illuminatingly outlined by Marcel Detienne and Jean-Pierre Vernant.