Abstract: The ‘migration texts’ are products in themselves inseparable from the ‘migration contexts’. The concept that the Greeks expressed in the definition of ἡ τῶν ᾿Ιωνίων ἀποικία is the result of a long process of elaboration of accounts – first city traditions, then Panonian adaptation and uniformation – in which the ethnic representation played a not indifferent role. It is this process that created the concept of a single τῶν ᾿Ιωνίων ἀποικία: initially there existed only many foundation stories of individual cities, independent of each other, which mentioned different origins, founders, times, events; later these foundation accounts were uniformed and integrated, in the form of different stages, in this one story which became the history of the τῶν ᾿Ιωνίων ἀποικία. These dynamics are at the base of our concept of ‘Ionian migration’.

Keywords: Migration, Texts, Contexts, Ionians, Historiography.