

Many of these papers draw on larger projects under way or coming to fruition. Together they give a sense not only of the impressive amount of work currently being done on the Roman period but also of the distinctive local character of the communities of Roman Greece. All this lays the groundwork for a history of Roman Greece which is still to be written.

ANDREW ERSKINE
SCHOOL OF HISTORY, CLASSICS AND ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
andrew.erskine@ed.ac.uk

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Multiperiod

Nikolas Dimakis and Tamara M. Dijkstra (eds) *Mortuary Variability and Social Diversity in Ancient Greece: Studies on ancient Greek death and burial*. pp. ii + 195. 104 figures. Oxford: Archaeopress. 2020. ISBN 978-1-78969-442-0 paperback £35.00; ISBN 978-1-78969-443-7 e-Pdf

Our archaeological knowledge of burial practices is richer than our archaeological knowledge of any other aspect of ancient Greek life, and yet we still have very little understanding of what determined how the dead were disposed of, what accompanied them to the grave, or how the grave was marked. Some Greek cities at some periods have very uniform burial patterns, others display wide variety even in the same time and place. Worse than that, we know that in most Greek cities at most periods only a minority of the dead were buried in such a way as to enable their archaeological recovery, but we have little sense of how the invisible dead were disposed of, or the criteria that determined methods of disposal.

Ironically, the very wealth of our evidence has come to preclude rather than assist our understanding. Tens of thousands of burials have been excavated across ancient Greek cities, but most have received at best cursory publication. Not only can grave markers rarely be ascribed to a particular grave, but many grave goods have lost documentation for their funerary origin, let alone for the particular burial they came from. Anyone trying to get anything like a full picture faces massive problems even collecting the evidence, even from a single city. It is not surprising that if one wants an account of Greek burial customs one has to go back to the book by Donna Kurtz and John Boardman published more than 50 years ago, still cited here.

Any publication offering full publication of particular burials or analysis of burial practice in a particular time or place is therefore welcome. Unfortunately this volume, while illustrative of mortuary variability, offers only cursory publication of material from particular graves, and narrowly limited analyses, and so frustrates rather than rewards those who make their way through the poorly edited, apparently never copy-edited, and inadequately proof-read text that does no credit to authors, editors or publisher (has it never occurred to scholars that native English speakers working in

the same field – and particularly those publishing in the same volume – will be only too happy to iron out problems with English for them so as to make their meaning comprehensible?)

What we are offered here is a miscellany of papers that range over 13 or so centuries of time (from Protogeometric to the third century A.D.) and over various different Greek cities or regions (Thessaly, Knossos, Argos, Thera, Lindos, the Peloponnese, Sparta and Kos (2 papers) as well as Athens and Attica (4 papers)). They variously concern scientific analysis to determine the different geographical origins of those buried in the same place (protogeometric Pharsala), scientific analysis to determine health (in Roman Knossos), the range of burial practices in a particular local area (around Marathon and in the southern Mesogaia in Attica, in Roman Sparta), particular burial practices in a single period (eighth-century cremations in Attica, pot burials in archaic Thera, columbaria monuments in the Roman Peloponnese), particular objects from burials that might indicate social identity (lebes gamikoi and terracotta statuettes), the burial treatment of a particular group over a more or less long period in the same place (child burial in archaic Thera and in Classical and Hellenistic Attica), the range of ways in which graves were marked in a particular place (Hellenistic and Roman Kos), the publication of a particular cemetery (Psalidi, Kos) and the analysis of a single memorial monument (at Lindos).

Those with particular interest in these places will want to consult these papers, many of which publish material that has never been published or never illustrated as well, but the papers do not address mortuary variability or social diversity (never mind the links between the two) as their problem, and do not constitute a volume with any significant thematic coherence. A paper that reveals an extraordinary variety of mortuary practice in rural Attica sits next to a paper that reveals an extraordinary uniformity of mortuary practice in Argos without either author drawing attention to the contrast, let alone attempting to establish the factors that made for diversity or uniformity. Two papers on child burials, one of them by one of the editors, sit next to each other but make no reference to each other and no attempt has been made to organise the papers in parallel ways to enable comparison. The absence of an index adds to the reader's frustration. It is very unclear what the editors thought the job of an editor was.

ROBIN OSBORNE
FACULTY OF CLASSICS
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
ro225@cam.ac.uk

John W. Hayes and Kathleen Warner Slane, *Late Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman Pottery* (Isthmia XI). pp. xxxii + 266, 7 plans (1 colour), 93 figures, 37 plates. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 2022. ISBN 978-0-87661-916-2, hardback £130.

On the first day of the *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautores*' 32nd Congress, which was held in Athens from 25 to 30 September 2022, Philip Kenrick – long-standing member and former treasurer of the *Fautores* – shared with the audience a personal account of John Hayes' declining health. This very much emphasised the fundamental role that Hayes has played in the field of Hellenistic to Late Antique pottery studies in particular across the Mediterranean and Pontic areas for more than five decades.

Development and summary of the book

The monograph under review here captures Hayes' lengthy – a prerequisite for thoroughly understanding the pottery from a site or region – involvement studying the Late Classical to Late Antique pottery from the American excavations at the sanctuaries at Isthmia, first those led by Oscar Broneer, later – after a considerable hiatus – those under the directorship of Elizabeth Gebhard. As the crow flies, the complex of sanctuaries at Isthmia is located some ten kilometres east of ancient Corinth and about four kilometres north of Kenchreai, Corinth's eastern harbour on the Saronic Gulf. The book consists of multiple shorter and longer chapters, appendices and other parts; Chapters 2 to 4 form the core of the book, and respectively discuss pottery finds of Late Classical-Hellenistic date and of Roman-Late Antique date from the Sanctuary of Poseidon, and those from the Palaimonion (the Sanctuary of Palaimon). Whereas the manuscript is the result of Hayes' study, another eminent pottery specialist, Kathleen Slane, was invited to edit and amend it for publication. The book still very much embodies Hayes' work, respectfully shown for example by the fact that the bibliography was only minimally updated with references which appeared after Hayes last worked on the text in 2006.¹ While some of Slane's interventions and additions can be easily spotted, Hayes' admirably concise and consistent writing style can be seen and enjoyed

¹ Further (key) publications concerning Isthmia which appeared after 2006 could nonetheless have been included in a bibliographic addendum, e.g. Lindros Wohl 2017 and Frey and Gregory 2016.