

architecture (pp. 240–242) thereby providing many new and thought-provoking insights.

Ch. 6, Conclusions (pp. 254–259), gives an exhaustive summary of the results of the study, followed by a detailed catalogue (pp. 261–293) listing all architectural objects that can be attributed to the sanctuary of Athena at Sounion, thereby providing a most valuable base for any future study of it.

The brilliantly written and lavishly illustrated book of Barletta goes far beyond a collection, documentation and presentation of all relevant archaeological objects from the sanctuary. Special regard is paid to the temple of Athena Sounias concerning its date, style, reconstruction and afterlife, which are discussed thoroughly and in full detail. The width and depth of the study are impressive. It presents, therefore, the most complete and comprehensive publication of the sanctuary, thereby not limiting itself to questions of architectural history and to the study of the Ionic order, especially to its implementation in Attica in the Early Classical period, to which it contributes considerably. The present publication of the Sanctuary of Athena at Sounion remains a precious legacy of the much regretted author.

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Susan I. Rotroff. *The Athenian Agora XXXIII: Hellenistic Pottery, the Plain Wares*. pp. 480, with 98 ills and 90 plates. 2006. Princeton NJ: American School of Classical Studies at Athens. ISBN 978-0-87661-233-0, hardback \$150.

Rotroff's *Hellenistic Pottery, the Plain Wares* is one of the key Hellenistic Pottery publications available to specialists in the field. The publication, by now more than a decade old, is still a shining example of the ideal pottery publication. It combines a rigorous, exhaustive and authoritative presentation and discussion of ceramic data with substantial contextual analysis. The lavishly illustrated volume joins its sister volumes, *Agora XXIX* and *XXII*, in providing a complete picture of the Hellenistic period pottery attested at the Athenian Agora.

The volume is composed of four parts. Part I provides a general introduction and a summary

of key trends and observations visible in the data. Part II encompasses the core part of the book and discusses in turn household ware, vessels for oil and unguents, and finally cooking ware. Part III is formed by the pottery catalogue and part IV the deposit summaries. A series of appendices rounds off the book.

Part I is subdivided into 3 chapters. It is the most interpretative section of the book and required reading for all those interested in the Hellenistic pottery of Athens. Chapter 1 sets out the aims of the study, the type of material considered and discusses the limitations of the data under review (e.g. the fact that a large proportion of the plain ware pottery has been discarded). A key aim of Rotroff was to identify the various plain ware fabrics and forms and establish a chronological range for their occurrence at the Agora.

In Chapter 2, Rotroff focusses on the fabrics she has identified in the material under review. Helpful tables list the fabrics identified together with associated ceramic shapes. Each fabric is discussed in turn and accompanied by an illustration of the plain ware shapes attested in this ware. This visual overview is very helpful for the reader in considering the relationship between the various shapes and fabrics. At the end of this chapter is included a large table which lists all the fabrics identified and includes a line drawing for each of the shapes identified. It instantly provides an overview of which shapes occur in which fabric and as such helpfully summarizes the preceding information.

Chapter 3, the last chapter of part I, is titled descriptive overview and conclusions. It focuses in turn on decoration, potting techniques, function, relationship between local and imported material and finally general observations. This chapter, of interest to both the specialist and general reader, aptly summarizes all the key trends visible within the material. Of particular interest is the section on the provenance of the plain ware. We learn, e.g., that one third of the cooking ware and a quarter of the house ware was imported.

The final section of this chapter draws everything together; outlining that despite similarities in shape with vessels recovered at other sites the Athenian assemblage yields few external parallels and is distinct in nature and character. Very importantly, Rotroff ends this chapter with a warning to survey archaeologists. Substantial Roman influence on the Attic plain ware repertoire is visible only during the third decade of the 1st century CE. Rotroff warns, therefore, that archaeologists heavily reliant upon

ceramics for construction of their chronological frameworks need to be mindful that the 'periodicity that emerges from the ceramic record may not coincide with that of the historical one.' Wise words indeed!

Part II of the book, beginning with chapter 4, is devoted to the shape studies. Rotroff rigorously examines each shape identified in the material under consideration. She discusses its chronology and makes observations about the possible function of the vessels in question. Each shape entry follows a similar format and provides at a glance key information like dating and comparanda elsewhere. What is very helpful also is that each shape is illustrated by a representative line drawing. One, therefore, does not have to go back and forth to the pottery drawings at the end of the book to get a sense of what a particular shape looked like. Bar charts outlining the frequency of occurrence of the various shapes are also a helpful addition to this chapter.

It cannot be emphasised enough what a visually pleasing book this is. The illustrations, tables and bar charts really enhance the contents of the book and its accessibility to the reader. The shape studies, for example, are followed by a graphic and visual summary of the vessels discussed and their chronological range, very helpful indeed for specialists working in the field and something which more publications of ceramics should consider if practicable.

In sum, Rotroff's *Hellenistic Pottery, the Plain Wares* is another excellent publication from one of the greats in the field. The book not only focusses on presentation of the ceramic material but also presents a significant amount of contextualisation and discussion. Like its predecessor *Agora XXIX* and despite the primarily local/regional character of the Athenian material, the book is surely already handbook for pottery specialists working on Hellenistic Greece and beyond.

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H. Reinder Reinders et al. *The City of New Halos and its Southeast Gate*. pp. 205, with col. ills. 2014. Groningen: Barkhuis (Groningen Archaeological Studies Vol. 27). ISBN 978-9-49143-168-5, hardcover €70.

The existence of openings in the city wall determines the very essence of the city: gates are both the weakest and the strongest spots of a town, and they form the connection with the outside world, affecting the character of the inner space. In this volume, the description itself of the city of New Halos, the examination of its urban layout and its surroundings, moves towards, and at the same time culminates in, the detailed description of one of its gates, the Southeast Gate, systematically excavated during the period 1995–2006.

Gates, as H. R. Reinders, the main author of this volume, correctly states (p.12), are not only part of the circuit wall and the defence system, but they also give access to the city and relate to the circulation lines within the built-up area. It is therefore an interesting idea to describe the city, while keeping the walls and its gates as a common thread. Following this thread, we can trace the biography of the city itself, explicated through its archaeological remains rather than explicitly narrated.

New Halos is located 'in a narrow strip of level ground between the foot of the Othris mountains and a salt marsh along the shore of the Pagasitic Gulf', straddling the passage between the Almiros and Sourpi plains (p.15). The town was protected by natural barriers on three sides and it was founded around 300BC as a new foundation of the Classical city of Halos, located in the backswamp located northeast of New Halos, on an old beach ridge near the present shoreline (p.14, fig.1.2), at the site of Plataniotiki Magoula (recent excavations on the site are being carried out by the University of Amsterdam and the local Ephorate – Stissi et al. 2015 and 2018). As described by the author, the walled town of New Halos comprised a lower town in a plain and an upper town between two walls running uphill, with a battery at the apex (p.42). The city was abandoned around 265 BC, due to an earthquake. New Halos belongs therefore to the new foundations of the Hellenistic period which can be found over the whole Greek area, along with the structured expansion of existing cities.

The long term landscape research and archaeological surface survey carried out by Dutch research teams in collaboration with the local