

into exploring the islands' role and identity within the Late Antique Mediterranean world. He demonstrates the involvement of the Dodecanese as stopping points on the *annona* system for the provisioning of the lower Danube. Taking into account the concept of insularity, he concludes that the economies of these islands are largely dependent on external parameters rather than internal, and thus they are more sensitive to socioeconomic and political changes in the wider Mediterranean world.

In correspondence with this approach, Chapter 7 is dedicated to the 7th c., a period of fundamental transformations at multiple levels. Based on different types of material culture and avoiding traditional views, the author offers a fresh approach to the effects of the Arab raids on the islanders' life, shedding more light on the complex sequence of changes between the 7th and the 9th c. He notes that, despite dramatic changes, the Islands managed to function effectively within the new circumstances pertaining to the Aegean and retained high levels of human activity. Chapter 8 summarizes the conclusions of this book. The final part of the book offers an extremely useful archaeological gazetteer of the Dodecanese, accompanied by plates and illustrations. It is a valuable tool for archaeologists studying a variety of issues, such as architecture, sculpture, built environment etc.

In sum, the importance and relevance of the book under review extend far beyond the Dodecanese and the Eastern Aegean Islands. It will be particularly valuable for scholars interested in the investigation of Mediterranean island communities during Late Antiquity. Deligiannakis offers a fresh approach to various aspects of insularity, connectivity, integration, built environment and material culture in the Late Antique Mediterranean islands. In this respect, it fulfils the aim to produce a partial historical narrative of this region and its environs during Late Antiquity. Despite serious limitation posed by the material and other restrictions, this book further expand the horizons of island archaeology and broadens our perspective and knowledge on Late Antique insularity. Given the fact that it is not possible to cover thoroughly all details, it provides a solid ground upon which future research on the Dodecanese and the Eastern Aegean Islands can be based. Finally, in terms of methodology, this book stresses the need to combine archaeological data and textual sources, which is (even today) not taken for granted in scholarly approaches of Late Antiquity.

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Medieval

Philipp Niewöhner (ed.). *The archaeology of Byzantine Anatolia. From the end of late antiquity until the coming of the Turks*. pp. 480, b/w and colour illustrations. 2017. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978–0–19061–046–3 hardback £100.

Until not long ago, the history and archaeology of Anatolia had traditionally been dominated by Roman-oriented studies. The surge of interest in Byzantine remains of the last decades has contributed considerably in shedding light on later phases, clarifying the development of important processes that had so far been understudied, like the evolution of urbanism. Invaluable review-like studies and groundbreaking discoveries such as those at Amorium, have helped re-draw a picture of Byzantine Anatolia that is not merely one of decline, collapse and urban shrinkage. All this has translated into a large corpus of secondary literature that is difficult to navigate by non-specialists that approach the topic for the first time.

The *Archaeology of Byzantine Anatolia* provides an overview of general trends in archaeological studies on Byzantine Asia Minor. The chronological focus of the volume is wide, covering the six centuries between the fall of Rome in the West and the arrival of the Turks (late 5th–late 11th centuries). The introduction by the editor sets the background by providing the reader with a short history of research, an overview of the main themes considered by the contributions, the geographical and chronological boundaries of the volume, the structure of the work as well as clarifications on spelling and specific terms. The decision to focus on the 5th–11th centuries is explained as being motivated by the desire to follow the development of Roman tradition in the Byzantine period, which is a recurring theme in all the chapters. The periodisation followed by the volume is unusual but justified clearly by the editor (Early Byzantine Period: 5th–7th centuries; Invasion Period: 8th century; Middle Byzantine Period: 9th–late 11th centuries).

The thirty-eight chapters that follow this introduction are collected in two separate sections, namely 'Syntheses' and 'Case Studies'. The former includes contributions dedicated to specific themes in Byzantine archaeology that, thanks to the extensive state of research and relatively rich archaeological record, allow for general

summaries: 'Historical Geography', 'Transport and Communication', 'Urbanism', 'Human Remains', 'Coins', 'Rural Settlements', 'Fortifications', 'Houses', 'Monasteries', 'Churches', 'Rock-cut Architecture', 'Funerary Archaeology', 'Ceramics' and 'Small Finds'. Notes on wider themes such as societal trends or trade are to be found scattered in the volume. The level of detail and, therefore, length of text, varies from chapter to chapter. This imbalance has to do with the availability of the evidence – unsurprisingly, the chapter on churches by Buchwald and Savage is one of the longest. Several of these contributions, such as the one on urbanism by Niewöhner, push the chronological boundaries of the work into the Roman and late Byzantine period; only a few, for example that on ceramics by Vroom, step out of Anatolia to contextualise the evidence.

The section on 'Case Studies' includes twenty-four chapters and is dedicated to the history and archaeology of a selection of relevant sites, most of which being urban settlements. The majority of contributions in this section present the most notable remains of each site from the oldest to the latest. The focus is mostly – but not solely – towards architecture, *in primis* churches, but also city walls and dwellings. The book concludes with a bibliography and two indices on sites and natural features mentioned in the text.

Overall, this is an invaluable contribution to the history of Anatolia and Byzantine archaeology. The book is written with an eye towards non-specialists, therefore unusual terms are followed by a full explanation and complex phenomena are described in a clear and concise way. Yet, the experienced archaeologist working in Asia Minor or adjacent regions will find this book an equally invaluable companion. The chapters are written by authoritative scholars in the field and also include data on recent or ongoing fieldworks as well as well-drawn plans and photographs of artefacts and excavations. Because of the diverse array of themes covered by the book and the wide use of written sources, historians will find this work equally useful.

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Sharon E. J. Gerstel (ed.). *Viewing Greece: Cultural and Political Agency in the Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean* (Studies in the Visual Cultures of the Middle Ages 11). pp. 364, colour illustrations. 2016. Turnhout: Brepols. ISBN 978-2503-56643-6 paperback €75.

The present volume is a collection of essays resulting from a number of events (conferences, classes, lectures) that took place in parallel to the exhibition *Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections* (2013–2015). The exhibition was first presented in Washington, DC, then in Los Angeles, and finally, a reduced version travelled to Chicago.

This publication contains thirteen substantive essays that explore a variety of subjects, focusing on the art, architecture, and topography of medieval and early modern Greece, through the use of an equally wide range of approaches. They offer a nuanced view of objects, some of which were also presented in the Washington/Getty exhibition, exploring the meaning of those objects to people and providing new approaches to the study of Byzantine Greece. The material studied in the essays ranges in date covering the whole period of Byzantine artistic production. Nevertheless, contrary to the exhibition itself, which moves between objects of religious and secular importance, there is an apparent predominance of articles in this book examining works of religious use. As such, objects of secular importance are poorly represented in this volume and the readers do not enter into the spaces of everyday life.

The introduction, written by the editor, Sharon E. J. Gerstel, provides the reader interesting keys to a better understanding of how this book related to the aims of the exhibition and how the essays derived from the events. It also offers an excellent summary of the articles. The thirteen contributions brought together for this volume, written by Greek and international authors, are separated into five clusters that revolve around a similar theme, echoing the volume's title.

The first chapter encompasses three essays offering important insights into the ideological roots of religious art through its interaction with hymnography and philosophical writings, as well as through the examination of aspects of materiality. Father Maximos Constas seeks to re-approach the theoretical meaning of the bilateral icon of the Man of Sorrows and Virgin Hodegetria, proposing a conceptual link between