

were on a more equal footing with their non-Greek neighbours. Heracles always was the Greek hero who travelled most and here he appears a metaphor for Greek influence, appearing in various guises as far afield as Persia, India and China.

Boardman, J. 1964. *The Greeks Overseas: Their Early Colonies and Trade*. London: Thames & Hudson.
— 1994. *The Diffusion of Classical Art in Antiquity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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Chavdar Tzochiev. *The Athenian Agora Volume XXXVII. Amphora Stamps from Thasos*. pp. 264, 34 b/w figs, 3 tables, more than 600 cat figs. 2016. New Jersey: The American School of Classical Studies at Athens. ISBN 978-0-87661-237-8 hardback £95.

Chavdar Tzochiev's *Amphora Stamps from Thasos* is an excellent addition to the Athenian Agora Series and an exhaustive study of an important material category, so abundantly attested at the Agora. T's book not only consists of a detailed discussion of the typology and chronology of Thasian amphora stamps but also is an attempt to interpret the distribution of the stamps within a wider socio-economic context. Clearly laid out and expertly presented, the book equally serves as an excellent introduction to amphora stamps from Thasos more generally. The book as such is not only of interest to the amphora stamp specialist but would also appeal to a more general audience interested in the wider socio-economic importance of Thasian amphorae and the practices associated with stamping. T., therefore, succeeds marvellously in presenting and discussing a highly specialist data-set in such a way as to be of interest to specialists and more general readers alike.

Agora XXXVII is composed of six chapters. Chapter 1: *Introduction*; Chapter 2: *The Thasian Stamping System: Overview and Controversies*; Chapter 3: *Study of Engravers' Hands*; Chapter 4: *Chronology*; Chapter 5: *The Thasian Wine Trade and the Athenian Agora: a Quantitative Study*; and Chapter 6: *Catalogue*. The chapters are followed by deposit summaries, concordance of inventory and catalogue numbers and indexes.

Chapter 1 *Introduction* sets out the scope and aims of the work and addresses previous scholarship. T. attempts in this volume to present stamped amphorae fragments from Thasos attested at the Athenian Agora within a wider context, addressing a variety of aspects including chronology, manufacture and economy. A major component of the work consists of refining the dating of the officials named on the stamps. The work is based on a data-set of 723 Thasian stamps attested at Athens (most of which at the Agora). In terms of chronology this collection primarily ranges from the early 4th century BC to the second half of the second century BC. In terms of previous scholarship, T. provides a quick run through of the most important scholarship (of course mentioning the pioneering work by Virginia Grace)¹ and highlights its developmental trajectory. The chapter concludes with a useful overview of the terminology utilised.

In chapter 2, *The Thasian Stamping System: Overview and Controversies*, the stamping system is introduced in considerable detail. This chapter is of particular interest to the non-expert as it serves as a good introduction to stamping practices at Thasos. The nature and background behind the stamping of amphorae is discussed and terms like eponym and fabricant thoroughly explained. The devices or symbols used on the stamps also receive attention. We thus learn that one of the two persons named on Thasian stamps acted as the dating official, the name of the magistrate used to date the batch of products, although the exact nature of its role and involvement in the economic activity of the city remains unclear and open to interpretation. The term fabricant is also meticulously discussed and interpreted as a person involved in the production of amphorae although again its exact nature and role remain speculative. Potential fabricant roles are that of workshop manager, supervisor or master potter. T. considers it unlikely, however, that fabricant denotes workshop owner. Next up are the devices identified on stamps. All manners of pictorial signs are incorporated under this heading ranging from animals to plants to musical instruments and celestial symbols. Our understanding of the rationale behind these devices is again fairly limited but potentially related to religious, political or identity motivations. In the final section of chapter 2 T. addresses the shift from early to late Thasian stamping practice which has traditionally been interpreted as the result of administrative reform, possibly associated with the Macedonian conquest of the city in 340 BC. T. considers the available information and considers that there is no evidence

¹ Grace 1934, 1949

to suggest that changes in stamping practice are indeed related to administrative changes.

In Chapter 3, *Study of Engravers' Hands*, T. focusses on the engravers of the dies which were used to stamp the amphorae. Such dies were changed every year with the coming into office of a new annual official. Careful analysis of the stamps has allowed for the identification of individual styles. T.'s approach in this respect focusses particularly on the lettering used by the engraver, whereas previously attention was paid primarily to stamp layout and pictorial devices. T. sets out in detail in this chapter his methodology and presents his results and their chronological importance. The work of seven engravers, dated to ca. 275-175 BC was identified by T, each one of these engravers, his style and chronological profile, is discussed in detail. In his conclusions T. sums up the importance of engraver's hands for a better chronological understanding of Thasian amphorae. The engraving of dies was a centralised practice on Thasos and often the work of a single engraver. It is therefore evident that if annual officials occurring on the stamps can be associated with the same engraver, they must have held office within a relatively short period of time.

In Chapter 4, *Chronology*, T. sets out the dating of Thasian amphorae stamps in considerable detail. In so doing he provides both a review of the latest evidence and developments, and an introduction to the basics for the uninitiated. T. addresses such issues as the duration of officials terms, completeness of the officials list, and the associations between officials, fabricants and engravers. The bulk of the chapter, however, is formed by a thorough discussion of the archaeological deposits of importance for the Thasian amphorae chronology. A section on homonyms, officials with the same name, is also included. Being able to separate officials with the same name from one another is of obvious importance in a chronological study of amphorae stamps. The chapter concludes, based on the evidence presented in this and preceding chapters, with a revised chronology of the officials attested on Thasian amphorae stamps. 13 different chronological periods are identified and a handy takeout table summarizes the data.

The last chapter before the catalogue, chapter 5, *The Thasian Wine Trade and the Athenian Agora: a Quantitative Study*, is perhaps the chapter most of interest to the general reader. It is a reconstruction of the wine trade between Thasos and Athens and as such an extremely interesting and revealing interpretation of the evidence gathered and analysed by T. in this volume. We learn, for

example, that although Athens was clearly a favoured destination of Thasian wine amphorae, most of this trade was oriented towards the north, the Black sea area (receiving about 90% of Thasian exports during the 1st half of the 4th century BC). Athens, however, was the most significant southern client. A highly useful distribution map (map 1) clearly illustrates the distribution of Thasian amphorae stamps. Interestingly, it is observed that while during the course of the 3rd century BC Thasian exports to the Black Sea area decrease, at Athens Thasian wine amphorae begin to play a more prominent role. T. suggests that Athens, after the collapse of the Black Sea market, had become the primary market for Thasian wine amphorae, a market which collapsed, however, during the course of the 2nd century BC. Chapter 5, therefore, is a highly informative read for both specialist and general reader alike and is a very successful attempt to put the material presented in this context within a wider socio-economic context.

Finally, Chapter 6, *Catalogue*, presents the amphorae stamp catalogue. Stamps are catalogued individually, per period and with key contextual information. The images of the stamps are detailed and clearly legible. The volume finishes with detailed archaeological deposit summaries from the Agora contexts of relevance and a concordance of inventory and catalogue numbers.

In summary, Agora XXXVII is an excellent addition to the field of Amphorae (stamp) studies and greatly expands our knowledge of a widely attested material category. The book is expertly written but highly accessible and as such of interest to not only the amphorae specialist but also the more general reader. Indeed, in the opinion of the reviewer, it is this accessibility which gives the book added value and will hopefully result in a wider appreciation of the value and importance of amphorae (stamp) studies amongst students of the socio-economic and geo-political trajectories of the Greco-Roman world. Chapter 5 in particular should be an interesting and stimulating read for anyone interested in Greek and Roman economies, and of value to both archaeologists and historians alike. As previously stated, the more technical chapters on the stamps themselves are written with non-specialist readers in mind and as such very accessible. The general reader will take away from this book not only a better understanding of the distribution pattern of Thasian amphorae stamps but also an introduction into the practices of stamping, engraving and the organization behind it. Throughout, the stamps are not disconnected from their archaeological contexts, which enables the interested reader to

appreciate the importance of the Thasian amphorae stamp chronology for Athenian deposits and vice versa. The book will of course be an equally valuable tool for amphorae and pottery specialists actively engaged in the study of comparative material and greatly assist the identification and interpretation of Thasian amphorae stamps attested elsewhere. The chronology presented by T. will no doubt equally impact local site chronologies. T.'s book, therefore, is an excellent addition to the Athenian Agora Series and a prime example of how highly specialist scholarship can be presented in a way which is easily accessible to a wide variety of readers.

Grace, V. R. 1934. Stamped amphora handles found in 1931-1932. *Hesperia* 3: 197-310.

— Standard pottery containers of the ancient Greek world, in *Commemorative Studies in Honor of Theodore Leslie Shear* (Hesperia Suppl. 8): 175-189. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

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Pierre Leriche (ed). *Art & Civilisations de l'Orient Hellénisé: rencontres et échanges culturels d'Alexandre aux Sassanides*. pp. 328, colour and b/w illustrations. 2014. Paris: Picard. ISBN 978-2-7084-0983-5 hardcover €65.

The growing interest in the eastern part of the Hellenistic world has resulted in a number of recent papers, conferences, and books discussing the ebb and flow of cultural contact in previously under-explored regions. Developed from an international colloquium held in September 2009, this edited volume attempts to give an overview of as well as introduce new approaches to understanding the cultural engagement in the Hellenistic East 'from Alexander to the Sassanids'. No mean feat, the book covers a variety of topics in 30 short chapters in both French and English, giving a true impression of the internationality of this work. Covering such a broad range of themes and regions, an extensive treatment such as this would be intimidating for any cover-to-cover reader, but the volume is helpfully separated into three sections: from confrontation to koine, serving primarily as an introduction to the various regions, cultures, and archaeology; from the Hellenistic East to the Hellenized East, taking

a closer look at well-known 'fusion' case-studies; and a postlude, which looks further afield, both geographically and thematically.

The book opens with a brief introduction from the editor, Pierre Leriche, detailing the current situation, advances, and problems in the study of the Hellenistic East. Here, Leriche addresses the mine-field of terminology and the ever-evolving nature of labelling a culture or artefact as 'Hellenized', before 30 pages of colour images immediately immerse the reader in the diverse material culture of the vast region. This segues rather neatly into the first section which introduces the main proponents, and components, of the Hellenistic East starting with a quick yet thorough introduction to the Persian Empire by Amelie Kuhrt. As the first considerable power the Macedonians encountered in the east, this chapter seeks to set the scene for a pre-Alexander region by covering the intricate workings of the Persian culture and governance with many references to primary sources for evidence, which are given at the end along with a king list. Moving from where the Macedonians would settle to how, Leriche reappears to deliberate whether the transformation of the landscape and its cultures was through urbanization or colonisation. Ranging from the more well-known Antioch and Dura-Europos to Ibn Hani and Dilbergine Tepe, Leriche analyses the archaeological evidence alongside its setting and potential purpose. He suggests that while certain cities developed organically and persisted through the centuries attesting to their cross-cultural significance, others appear to have served more to blanket the territory, becoming beacons of occupation rather than necessary settlements. One such town is perhaps Ibn Hani, the occupation of which only lasted about 50 years before being abandoned once power was lost. Leriche also details the reasons behind certain settlements such as military outposts on naturally defensible outcrops and how occupation and power was passed down once the next stage of transformation began.

The next chapter by Mona Haggag shifts geographically but stays in the general region of occupation and cooperation with a brief look at the royal portraiture of Ptolemaic Alexandria. Handling a topic rather large for its seven pages, Haggag attempts and, to a relatively good degree achieves in, detailing not only how the Ptolemies engaged with Egyptian art but why. As an inherently Greek city, the visual vocabulary of Alexandria needed to remain accessible to Greeks while at the same time satisfying the indigenous idea of kingship and its projection.