

that choice of image. Can we get away with merely categorizing it as part of 'stock' funerary repertoire?

I enter such cavils only for the sake of defining the volume under review. As an empirical project, it fulfills its purpose perfectly; and the illustrations (as we expect from the series) are first-rate.

Bergemann, J. 1997. *Demos und Thanatos. Untersuchungen zum Wertsystem der Polis im Spiegel der attischen Grabreliefs des 4. Jahrhunderts v. Chr. und zur Funktion der gleichzeitigen Grabbauten*. Munich: Biering & Brinkmann.

Davies, G. 2003. Roman Funerary Symbolism in the Early Empire, in J.B. Wilkins and E. Herring (eds) *Inhabiting Symbols: Symbol and Image in the Ancient Mediterranean*: 211-227. London: Accordia.

Harrison, E.B. 1965. *The Athenian Agora: Archaic and archaistic sculpture, Volume 11*. Athens: American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Himmelmann, N. 1999. *Attische Grabreliefs*. (Nordrhein-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Geisteswissenschaften Vorträge G 357). Wiesbaden: Opladen.

NIGEL SPIVEY
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
njs11@cam.ac.uk

Michalis Karambinis. *The island of Skyros from Late Roman to Early Modern times*. pp. 476, colour illustrations. 2016. Leiden: Leiden University Press. ISBN 978-9-08728-234-9 paperback €59.50.

The island of Skyros presents the results of a PhD research project conducted at Leiden University by M. Karambinis, a native of Skyros, who worked for the Archaeological Ephorate of Euboea from 2007 to 2015. It offers a comprehensive overview of the history and archaeology of Skyros from Late Roman to early modern time. The work integrates data retrieved from past archaeological works, new intensive and extensive surveys of the island and historical sources. This all-encompassing approach to the archaeological and historical record of the island means that more unusual materials for the archaeologist, such as Ottoman costumes and furniture, are also included in Karambinis' analysis.

The book is divided into four Parts: 1. Background and historical data, 2. The archaeological survey: methodology and comparisons, 3. The archaeological survey: the sites, and 4. Interpretational synthesis. It also includes four appendices, namely: A. Gazetteer of archaeological sites, B. Catalogue of pottery, C. Catalogue of churches (Chora and suburbs), D. The synoptic Ottoman tax register (*icmal*) of the year 1670/1 for Skyros. It concludes with a bibliography, a summary in Dutch and notes about the authors. In total, this rather voluminous book includes 13 chapters and an introduction.

Part 1 introduces the reader to the island of Skyros. The geographical setting is discussed briefly in one chapter (Ch. 1), which describes the island as divided into three natural macro-areas (north, middle and south) and its geology. The climate of the island is examined, albeit very rapidly, at the end of the chapter. An historical outline (Ch. 2) provides the reader with an account of the island through the lens of the written sources, but does not consider the archaeological evidence much at this point as it is discussed separately and in more detail later. This narrative approach, which tends to keep the written and archaeological evidence separate, but which is justified by the focus of the volume, sometimes inconveniently forces the reader to go back and forth between the two sections to integrate the two. Historical sources for Ottoman Skyros are discussed in chapter 3. This provides a concise but useful discussion of the different sources that can be used to examine the Ottoman history of the island, namely travellers' accounts, local historical archives and *defters* (Ottoman tax registers), and the valuable information that can be extrapolated from them, specifically on administration, population, and economy and production. Karambinis rightly warns us of the biased nature of some of these sources, particularly travellers' reports, which are often misleading informants of the history of the island. The population estimate of Skyros in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, to cite an example, is often reported as low by the travellers' records, and yet, *defters* provide clues on the matter suggesting a steady increase of Skyros' population from the mid-15th to the late 16th century. The section ends with a chapter on previous archaeological and historical research on the island that examines what has been done between the end of the 19th century and the current day.

Part 2 provides crucial information on the survey methodology used by the writer and paves the road for understanding the data presented in subsequent chapters. The Skyros survey is a site-based intensive and extensive survey project which has been conducted over three year (2010-

2013). Karambinis is a professional archaeologist, his methodology benefits from a long tradition of surveys that are gradually increasing in Greece and the eastern Mediterranean more broadly, but his advanced approach is derived essentially from his experience as staff member on the Boeotia Project with his PhD supervisor John Bintliff.⁵ For the scope of this research project, Skyros was extensively surveyed and 16 sites were specifically chosen for intensive analyses (Ch. 6). These sites were chosen to represent the varied geographical zones of the island (coastal, inland, north and south). They were then divided by Units and pottery was collected in each Unit to define the 'halo effect' and the spatial development of each site through time. Measures were taken to reduce possible errors in collecting the data – e.g. the initial count of pottery has been multiplied by a relative factor increase to correct visibility values. Finally, 64 sites were chosen for extensive surveys (Ch. 7).

Part 3 is a catalogue of the 16 intensively surveyed sites. For each site, data such as location, artefact trends and the structure of the site, finds statistics and functional analysis of pottery are given (Ch. 8). Each site entry is supplemented by a photograph and distribution maps of the pottery collected. Karambinis justifies the position of this catalogue at the centre of the volume at the beginning of Part 3: 'the intensive survey of the sixteen rural sites was one of the main subjects of this primarily survey-based archaeological research. The detailed presentation of the sixteen sites [in this volume] is solely a result of this study, contributing significantly to Skyrian archaeology, and hopefully to survey archaeology too. It was considered essential to present the results of the fieldwork undertaken in the context of the survey research' (p. 77). An entire chapter (Ch. 9) is then dedicated to Chora, the island's main settlement; the chapter follows the diachronic evolution of the site from prehistory up until modern times and includes a detailed description of the remarkable defensive system of its citadel.

The interpretational synthesis of the data is presented in Part 4, which is divided into three chapters dedicated to Greco-Roman (Ch. 10), late antique and medieval (Ch. 11) and Ottoman and early modern Skyros (Ch. 12); a conclusion (Ch. 13) is also given at the end of this Part. The focus of the work is the post-classical history of the island, but it is praiseworthy that a good section, albeit fragmentary, is also dedicated to the exploration of the Greco-Roman phase of Skyros. The settlement

pattern of Skyros in the Classical period shows a main site (Chora) with an urban territory of some 2-2.5 km and rural sites, up to 4 ha in size scattered in the countryside. Most of these rural sites (hamlets or small farms) have a territory radius of some 500 m. Exceptions are larger villages, with catchments of 800 m or even more, and sites located in the less fertile southern part of the island, which are interpreted by Karambinis, not without reason, as pastoral herder sites. In chapter 10, two representative windows on the archaeology of Graeco-Roman Skyros help shed more light on some aspects of the economy of the island. Specifically, Karambinis examines the towers of Skyros, which have a rather vague chronology spanning from the Archaic to the Hellenistic period, thus providing the reader with a useful digest of information from previous works, but also new data, updated plans and new interpretations of their function. Also important is the discussion on the Roman marble quarries. In the Roman period, Skyros was a manufacturer of white marble, Breccia di Settebasi and Semesanto. Most of the marble quarries appear to be either in the central and western part of the island, or in the islets located to the west of Skyros. The settlement pattern of the island was affected by the marble economy by the creation of new seasonal and permanent villages to host the workers.

Skyros in the late antique period and early middle ages is characterised by dramatic changes in terms of settlement pattern. Only two settlements seem to have been built anew in the late Roman period; the remaining sites are situated in pre-existing settlements. Karambinis registered an important drop in settlement numbers compared to previous centuries. This reduction, which is paralleled in other Aegean island such as Keos, Methana and Antikythera, is mostly visible in the southern and less fertile part of the island and primarily concerns the 8th and 9th centuries. This occupational trend, rather familiar to any archaeologist working in the area, might well have to do with our poor understanding of the pottery, rather than an alleged period of decline in the 'dark centuries'. In terms of economic links, Skyros shows a predictable connection with the Aegean world, with a relatively high presence of Phocaeen Red Slip Ware/Late Roman C, but also with the Black Sea, Eastern Mediterranean and Africa.

The settlement pattern seems to have experienced a significant change in the mid- to late Byzantine period. A further drop in site numbers, from 34 to 11, has been detected; this data seems to adhere well with travellers accounts, which report the island not to be highly populated at the time. Karambinis' interpretation of his surveys' result seems to

⁵ See e.g. Cherry 2003, 2004; Bintliff, Howard and Snodgrass 2007.

be, we believe, rather convincing: at the time, Skyros was characterized by a highly nucleated settlement (Chora) and only a sparsely inhabited countryside. Besides pottery, which remains the main archaeological feature to assess the settlement pattern in the phase under discussion, Karambinis relies also on architectural evidence and church building, which abound for this period.

The occupational trend visible in the mid- to late Byzantine period cements in the later Ottoman-early modern phase, when the population appears to be concentrated in the main urban centre of the island (Chora) and the countryside is devoid of permanent settlements. The chapter on the Ottoman and early modern history of Skyros is the one that benefits most from Karambinis' comprehensive approach to the archaeological and historical sources. It does not only limit itself to a description of the settlement pattern of Skyros based on the results of the pottery surface collection, but it also nicely integrates discussions on vernacular and ecclesiastical architecture, domestic material culture (including metal ware, glass, pottery, furniture and clothing) and pottery production processes. The model of settlement pattern fluctuation identified by Karambinis – one nucleated settlement and sparsely inhabited countryside in Late Antiquity gradually replaced by the 'one-town island' model of later times – is considered to be not the result of a gradual decline of the countryside due to external threats, e.g. piracy, but as a change in land administration. Small landholders were gradually replaced by large institutions, like the Church. Small farms disappeared and a process of nucleation of plots of lands was encouraged; farmers started living in the city or smaller semi-permanent settlements, commuting every day to work in the fields. This is something that, as noted by Karambinis, has already been noted elsewhere in the Aegean.⁶

Appendix A provides a detailed catalogue of all the 96 sites mentioned in the text. Each site entry includes details on location, size, description, interpretation and references, if any available. Appendix B is the introduction to the catalogue of pottery collected during the intensive and extensive surveys. Because of its size, the catalogue itself is available online. Appendix C, a catalogue of churches. It is a useful and concise description of the 49 churches in Chora and its suburbs, with information on architecture, wall paintings, inscriptions, chronology, historical evidence and references. It also provides a useful typology of the churches based on their plans. Finally, Appendix D provides the translation of an Ottoman tax register dated 1670/1; the *icmal*

was recovered by Machiel Kiel and translated into English and Greek by Fokion Kotzageorgis.

In conclusion, *The Island of Skyros* is an important contribution that adds much to our understanding of Aegean post-classical archaeology and sets a sound methodology for any future surveys conducted in the archipelago. Karambinis' work has to be commended for having contributed greatly to the understanding of an historical period of which little is known. Archaeological research in the Aegean islands has so far mostly focused on the study of the prehistoric and Greco-Roman periods, with the consequence that anything post-classical, from Late Antiquity to modern times, has comparatively been given little attention.⁷ This book is, therefore, a welcomed contribution to the topic. A further strength of the volume is Karambinis' meticulous methodological approach to survey work. Particularly remarkable is that data collection and interpretation are the results of a one-man effort. Despite the consensus among modern scholars that single-person surveys are generally less systematic and more prone to interpretative biases and mistakes than team-based projects,⁸ Karambinis' work has been carried out by scrupulously putting in place measures to correct any potential human error in data collecting and processing.

The work might look fragmentary in its account of the different periods of history of Skyros. However, there is admittedly little space for criticism: *The Island of Skyros* covers a remarkably long time span, and cuts are, therefore, fully justified. As a matter of fact, each chapter of Part 4 ('interpretational synthesis') could well be developed into a volume on its own. The writer, therefore, has to be given the merit to have presented a rich amount of data in a concise but at the same time effective way. The illustrative apparatus is very rich. Maps and drawings of pottery are clear (see e.g. the excellent plan of Chora, fig. 9.2), but some illustrations, especially those showing structural remains are too small. This is a result, we believe, primarily of the two-column format of the book and the fact that space for illustrations is, consequently, limited. This is a must-have read for scholars interested in Aegean archaeology, and Greek archaeology in general – *inter alia* because of the excellent discussions on the broader historical local and regional contexts in which Skyros is set. Historians focusing on broader topics, such as the relationship between cities and countryside, and rural settlement patterns and

⁶ Cherry, Davis and Mantzourani 1991, 466–467.

⁷ Exceptions to this trend, however, exist. See e.g. the works conducted at Keos and Antikithera; Cherry, Davis and Mantzourani 1991; Bevan and Connolly 2013.

⁸ Bevan and Connolly 2013: 13.

island economies, would find this volume equally interesting. The clear and effective way in which the material and methodology is presented also makes this a good read for students in archaeology.

- Bevan, A. and J. Connolly 2013. *Mediterranean Islands, Fragile Communities and Persistent Landscapes: Antikythera in Long-term Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bintliff, J. L., P. Howard *et al* (eds) 2007. *Testing the hinterland: The work of the Boeotia Survey (1989-1991) in the southern approaches to the city of Thespiai*. (MacDonald Institute Monographs) Cambridge: University of Cambridge.
- Cherry, J.F. 2003. Archaeology beyond the site: regional survey and its future, in J.K. Papadopoulos and R.M. Leventhal (eds) *Theory and Practice in Mediterranean Archaeology: Old World and New World Perspectives*: 137-159. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California.
- 2004. Cyprus, the Mediterranean, and Survey, current issues and future trends, in M. Iacovu (ed.) *Archaeological Field Survey in Cyprus. Past History, Future Potentials*: 23-35. London: British School at Athens Studies.
- Cherry, J., J.L. Davis and E. Mantzourani (eds) 1991. *Landscape Archaeology as Long-term History: Northern Keos in the Cycladic Islands from Earliest Settlement until Modern Times*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

EMANUELE E. INTAGLIATA
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
SCHOOL OF HISTORY, CLASSICS AND ARCHAEOLOGY
e.intagliata@ed.ac.uk

A Guide to the Archaeological Museum of the Athenian Agora

Laura Gawlinski. *The Athenian Agora Museum Guide*. pp. 200, b/w photographs by Craig A. Mauzy. 2014. Princeton (NJ): The American School of Classical Studies at Athens. ISBN 978-0-87661-658-1 paperback \$19.95; e-publication \$10.00.

Between 1953 and 1956 the Hellenistic Stoa of Attalos was converted into a museum. It currently houses the finds from excavations carried out by the American School of Classical Studies in the Athenian agora since 1931. Laura Gawlinski's *The Athenian*

Agora Museum Guide is a well-written guidebook to this unique museum. The aim of this book is to provide the reader with supplementary historical, archaeological, and cultural information not only about the artefacts displayed in the museum, but also about the building itself. Indeed, Gawlinski makes a commendable effort to emphasise the distinct vantage point, that the visitor has to experience finds from the agora in a restored building from the ancient site.

The Athenian Agora Museum Guide is organized into three main sections: 'History and Timeline', 'History of the Museum', and 'Tour of the Museum.' There is also a list of abbreviations as well as a list of publications and *Hesperia* supplements associated with the American School of Classical Studies' agora material.

The book begins with 'History and Timeline', which provides the dates for the historical epochs represented in the museum – Prehistory and Protohistory, Archaic period, Classical period, Hellenistic period, Roman period, and Late Roman and Byzantine period. Above the timeline of ancient eras are a few selections of artefacts found in the museum that belong to each period. While below the dates of significant historical events of each period are recorded, such as the Persian Wars, death of Alexander the Great and so on. This section is helpful to readers unfamiliar with the ancient world and broadens the audience of this guide to non-academics because it provides historical information succinctly and clearly. Moreover, two photographs, one of a vessel and another of a sculpture, from the museum collection are situated above each time period. This visual aid demonstrates the changes in artistic styles across the many centuries of the agora's occupation and encourages the reader to consider how the artefacts they encounter transformed with the development of new techniques and interest in artistic themes.

The 'History of the Museum' section concisely explains how the history of the Agora Museum is linked with the reconstruction of the Stoa of Attalos. Gawlinski provides background information on the stoa itself as the result of the building program of King Attalos II of Pergamon and explains the function of the stoa as a shopping center as well as space for public gatherings. This section also outlines the restoration process of the stoa as a museum. Plans for a building to house objects from the agora were drafted before WWII began, but in 1946 it was decided an ancient structure – the Stoa of Attalos – should be reconstructed to house the objects. Thus, the transformation of the stoa into a museum was completed with the financial backing