

the importance of adapting museum exhibitions to the aesthetic requirements, educational needs and aspirations of the modern visitor; interesting is the combination of experiencing the ancient world through modern art reproductions (pp. 1051-1061). As shown by Equizzi's case study from Palermo in Sicily, similar traits were already identified during the 18th and 19th centuries (pp. 1075-1080). Costa's heritage project involving a census of Sardinian antiquities that reached the UK's main museums between the 1800s and 1900s and the setting up of a travelling exhibition based on the findings, promotes academic research on Sardinian antiquity and disseminates knowledge in plain language (pp. 1063-1073). Digital Humanities has opened the way to collaboration between archaeologists and visualisation specialists and Denker and Oniz's 3D project on the Holy Sanctuary on Mount Nemrud has allowed for an accurate and detailed reconstruction of the complex as it stood 2000 years ago, thus disseminating complex information about the monument, reconstructing it for educational and outreach purposes and digitally preserving it for the future generations (pp. 1081-1087). Another way for securing the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage is the establishment of archaeological parks as in the case of the Eskikizilelma village in Turkey (Deveci, pp. 1089-1093).

Overall, bringing 134 essays into publication is a substantial project, and both the editors and the publishers are to be congratulated for this task. The published essays employ an excellent range of topics and methodological approaches. There are, however, two major weaknesses in both volumes. First, the organisation of the essays within the volumes makes no sense at places. Several essays could have fitted better in other sections than the one to which they were assigned; an obvious example is Eren's study of the 7th century BC Ionian sanctuaries. Although the arrangement of the volumes might have been convenient for editorial purposes, a thematic approach - as in Volume 2 Part III - would have been more effective and would have allowed comparative perspectives to the various topics discussed. Second, the presentation and production of the volumes is far from satisfactory. Both volumes are marred by an astonishing number of typos and the quality of several of the images is disappointing. Also, there is no consistency in the length of the papers (it may be that the shorter papers are the published versions of the conference poster presentations, but this is not made clear in the *Preface*), and in the referencing format used. Further, in a number of essays the voice of the researchers is not heard and several papers lack a proper *Conclusions* section.

These weaknesses notwithstanding, these two volumes celebrate the research undertaken by younger researchers in 2011 and give hope for the future of Mediterranean archaeology in the 21st century. The majority of the papers are original and make an enjoyable and informative read; they definitely deserved a more unified arrangement, and careful editing, to fully do them justice.

- Beldiman, C. *et al.* 2014. Bone Artefacts from Histria. *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 10: 221-241.
- Çınardalı-Karaaslan, N.A.Z.L.I. 2012. The East Mediterranean Late Bronze Age Glass Trade within the Context of the Panaztepe Finds. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 31.2: 121-141.
- Landskron, A. 2016. *Das Heroon von Trysa: Ein Denkmal in Lykien zwischen Ost und West : Untersuchungen zu Bildschmuck, Bauform und Grabinhaber*. Vienna: Holzhausen.
- Mancuso, St. 2012. *Studi su Kyme Eolica V: Il teatro, attività delle campagne di scavo 2006-2011*. Soveria Mannelli: Rubbettino.
- Philippa-Touchais, A. *et al.* 2010. Mesohelladika: La Grèce continentale au Bronze Moyen. Actes du colloque international organisé par l'École française d'Athènes, en collaboration avec l'American School of Classical Studies at Athens et le Netherlands Institute in Athens, Athènes, 8-12 mars 2006. *Bulletin de correspondance hellénique. Supplément* 52. Athens: l'École française d'Athènes.
- Şare, T. 2013. The sculpture of the Heroon of Perikle at Limyra: the making of a Lycian king. *Anatolian Studies* 63: 55-74.
- Shalev-Hurvitz, V. 2015. *Holy Sites Encircled: The Early Byzantine Concentric Churches of Jerusalem*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

CHRYSANTHI GALLOU  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM  
Chrysanthi.Gallou@nottingham.ac.uk

**David Abulafia (ed.) *The Mediterranean in History*. pp. 320, 308 Ills. 2016. London: Thames and Hudson. ISBN 978-0-50029-217-4 paperback £16.95.**

David Abulafia is a very familiar figure in the Medieval history of the Mediterranean, and this popular synthesis of the story of the region since Prehistory takes us up to 2000. Generally the

chapters are well-written, especially those parts in his own fluent hand, and being a Thames and Hudson large format book, it is (as usual) splendidly illustrated, especially in colour.

If you are not too familiar with the Mediterranean story from pre-Classical times onwards this is an excellent introduction to its history, apart from Chapter 2. This covers the immense span of prehistory to around 1000 BC, but the author is embarrassingly out-of-date. A bibliography including Childe 1943 and Trump 1981 says it all. Before that a typically magisterial treatment of environmental history by the late Oliver Rackham is a fine compensation, and from 1000 BC on with Torelli onwards things move very well.

There are some obvious criticisms however. The book first appeared in 2003 and is now reissued as a very good value paperback in 2016 without any updates. Perhaps in some periods not so much has changed in this interval (surely unlikely), but at the very least the bibliography could easily have been improved and some recognition of recent research incorporated into the narrative. A second point is the type of book we are offered. In his Introduction Abulafia states that the common theme of most of the chapters is Trade and Politics. Clearly for the most part everyday archaeology is not being treated, but surprisingly for a historian who cites Braudel constantly we might have expected a history which looks at all levels of society. It was after all one of the stimuli to the rise of the Annales School, whose chief exponent remains Braudel, to challenge traditional histories with their focus on 'battles and famous men', but this volume is rather too orientated to history at the top and would have benefitted from specific treatment of peasants, the poor, gender history, demography and some quantified economics.

One dark little spot deserves a comment. In his final chapter on the period 1900-2000 AD the editor allows his prejudices to intrude, when he clearly has little sympathy or neutral historical balance in treating the Palestinian issue, and the same occurs with his swift and far from fair description of the division of Cyprus in the 1970s.

Nonetheless for the general reader this is a very attractive and well-composed volume for anyone who wishes to enjoy a masterful overview of Mediterranean history from 1000 AD till the end of the last millennium.

JOHN BINTLIFF

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY/ EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY  
johnlbintliff@gmail.com

**David K. Pettegrew. *The Isthmus of Corinth. Crossroads of the Mediterranean world*. pp. xiii+290, 25 halftones, 22 figures, 6 tables. 2016. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. ISBN 978-0-472-11984-4 hardcover \$85.00; e-publication \$68.95.**

David Pettegrew's book *The Isthmus of Corinth. Crossroads of the Mediterranean world* is an admirable synthesis on the landscape of the Isthmus, its urban and rural habitation and the socio-economic and political development of the area from the period of first Roman involvement in the region up till the early fifth century CE. The main aim of the book is to provide a new contextualised vision of the Isthmus, reacting against the timeless, static, and in some sense simplistic, view of a natural landscape that *always* functioned as a prosperous node of high socio-economic connectivity in the Mediterranean. This image was sketched by Strabo around the turn of the Common Era and was further expanded during the 18th and 19th century by travellers, and since then has continued to colour the archaeological and historical discourse on this region. By bundling and critically evaluating an impressive richness of archaeological, historical and epigraphic sources from the Early Iron Age till Late Antiquity, including the evidence gathered by the *Eastern Korinthia Archaeological Survey (EKAS)* from 1997 till 2003, Pettegrew continues lines of thought that have been published elsewhere.<sup>1</sup> He manages to substitute the traditional view with a dynamic image of a landscape that indeed had its geographical advantages, though which needed input and organisation of energy to function and flourish. In this light, the man-built infrastructures, geographies and past trajectories that were influencing action and processes over time shaped a world that was in many respects different from its natural setting.

*The Isthmus of Corinth* is structured around a total of nine chapters (including an introduction and conclusion), or 'interpretative essays' as characterised by the author himself,<sup>2</sup> which are in turn subdivided in individual sections. The titles of the chapters give the idea that the book is arranged thematically, with names like 'The Gate' (chapter 3), 'The Bridge' (chapter 6), and 'The District' (chapter 8). Rather than singling out the 'bridge-like' functions that were facilitated by the man-made and natural landscape over time or focusing only on the rural landscapes of the Isthmus in a single

<sup>1</sup> E.g. Pettegrew 2007, 2010, 2011, and 2015 for some seminal contributions.

<sup>2</sup> Pettegrew 2016: xi.