

REVIEWS

tektonischen Analysen liefern einen guten Einblick in die Varianz der neuen Forschungen vor allem in Athen und Attika.

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Rosa Maria Motta. *Material culture and cultural identity: a study of Greek and Roman coins from Dora*. pp. xiv+103, b/w illustrations. 2015. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1-78491-092-1 paperback £25; e-publication £19.

This book studies the coinage of Dora, an ancient port city on the coast of Israel about 14 miles south of Haifa. As its title (*Material Culture and Cultural Identity*) suggests, the book concentrates on ‘all possible interpretations that contribute to the Dora narrative’ (p. 30). In fact, the book is heavy on theory, but it is a serious drawback that it does not provide the fundamental numismatic basis of a thoroughly revised, accurate and well-illustrated catalogue of the coins. The numismatic material in the book relies on an article by Meshorer, but we need a new catalogue both for its own sake and to justify elements in the discussion, for example, remarks about the commonness of various issues which occur from time to time, or the overall output of the mint. The latter issue is handled (Ch. 3) only in very general terms. On the one hand we are told that the coins of Dora were ‘minted in large numbers’ (p. 36), and reference is made to ‘the large coin issues of the Severi’ (p. 63); on the other hand ‘Dora’s mint was a small one’ (p. 40). Furthermore it is misleading to talk of ‘the four hundred year span in which the mint operated in Dora’ (p. 68). Coinage during that long period was not continuous but sporadic, peaking under the Flavians, Trajan-Hadrian and the Severi. This has a bearing not only on broader questions to do with the reasons for minting, but also on specific questions such as the location of a possible mint-building (mentioned on p. 33). Was there ever such a dedicated building at Dora?

Chapter 4 offers a survey of the iconography of Dora’s coins. There is sometimes a danger of circularity, as when the author claims that ‘the image of Augustus which is paired with that of Tyche fits within the social and cultural life of Dora’ (p. 46). But isn’t the imagery being used to try to construct that social and cultural milieu? The section on Zeus Doros, which the author defines as ‘Zeus of Doros’ is a welcome attempt to discuss the topic of the identity of the male figure who appears on many of

the coins. But it perhaps gives up too easily. If the head is sometimes accompanied by a trident, then it does not seem inappropriate to identify it as Dorus, a son of Poseidon.

Chapter 5 is devoted to the inscriptions and epigraphy on Dora’s coins and includes discussion of indications of the dating of the coins, city names and titles and imperial titulature and language. Unfortunately it is full of errors in the transcription of letters and inscriptions, and some interesting points, for example the change or alternation between the genitive plural DWRTWN and the nominative singular DWRA are not discussed or even remarked on—a gift for theoretical discussion and one which may reflect a contrast between Greek and Roman usage.

A final sixth Chapter offers a brief comparison between the coinage of one of Dora’s neighbours, Caesarea Maritima, and that of Dora itself. That is a start, but the book would have benefited from a much wider and more detailed study and appreciation of other provincial coins, even just from the same region.

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Zetta Theodoropoulou Polychroniadis and Doniert Evelyn (eds). *AEGIS. Essays in Mediterranean archaeology presented to Matti Egon by the scholars of The Greek Archaeological Committee UK*. vi+242 pages, 49 b/w illustrations, 1 table, 24 colour plates and figures. 2015. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1-78491-200-0 paperback £45; ISBN 978-1-78491-201-7 e-publication £19.

As its title makes clear, this is a collection of 23 papers presented as a festschrift to Matti Egon, the founder of The Greek Archaeological Committee UK, by a selection of past holders of scholarships granted by the Committee (some were unable to contribute for lack of time available). As such, it offers a good idea of the laudably wide range of topics that the Committee has been willing to support but, inevitably, it has no common theme. Although the majority of papers are concerned in some way with the Greek world, five lack any substantial ‘Hellenic’ link, two relating to Cyprus, one to Troy, one to the Phoenicians of southern Spain, and one to Mount Sinai.

Those that relate to the Greek world are themselves very varied in nature: some are studies of a particular