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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

group of material, some of the material from a region or site belonging to a particular period, some of very specific topics. They also range very widely in date, although there are some related groups: three have relevance to the final period of the Bronze Age, four are concerned in one way or another with Hellenistic themes, and two relate to the Byzantine world in different ways. But there is not much relating to the bulk of prehistory, the development and height of Greek civilisation, or the Roman period. This is meant as an observation, not a criticism—researchers of the past are fully entitled to study whatever period or theme interests them—but it may reflect trends in research. A more significant limitation is inherent in the nature of *festschriften*: a word or page limit, usually rather low, has to be set on the length of papers, and the results are therefore likely to be interesting in themselves, but not far-ranging in coverage. More often than not, if cited at all, such papers will be recognised as having helped to move study of a topic forward to some extent, but not as major contributions. There are of course exceptions, that may produce exciting new data or ideas, or throw light on an area hitherto obscure, but these are most often to be found in *festschriften* where some common theme such as the research interests of the honorand has affected the choice of contributions.

The generally wide range in topic and date of a *festschrift* also means that a reviewer is unlikely to have the breadth of knowledge to recognise originality and significance in every contribution. I will admit that after the Classical period my knowledge of Greek archaeology and its relationship to historical and social development becomes increasingly thin and patchy; this will be reflected in my comments, which for want of an obviously better method treat the papers more or less in the order in which they appear in the book.

The collection opens with an interesting paper by Papadopoulos, C. on using digital methods to record and reconstruct three-dimensionally, with examples from Koutroulou Magoula, a MN site in Thessaly of objects and building remains; the latter are particularly striking. This is followed by a study by Tzevelekidi that is in my view ground-breaking, of the animal bone deposits in a multitude of LN pits and ditches at Toumba Kremastis-Koiladas near Kozani. This paper is a striking demonstration of the value of studying such material with really close attention to every detail. The deposits were concentrated in a flat area off the tell, which was apparently not used for habitation. Analysis of the bone deposits demonstrated that while many consisted of 'ordinary' settlement rubbish, some were deliberately deposited parts of, or even whole, animals, following apparent rules that varied for different types of animal. Sometimes

the use of pits and trenches might cycle between such deliberate deposition and dumping of rubbish. The deliberate deposits surely represent some form of ritual activity, which offers an interesting insight into a whole area of Neolithic community life about which we know very little (leaving aside fantasies about 'mother goddess' worship and the like). There is reference to comparable examples of deliberate deposition of various kinds, not simply animal bones, in flat off-tell areas at other sites; a whole new area of research is clearly available for development.

The next paper, by Menelaou, a thin-section analysis of 44 samples of late EBA pottery from the Heraion site on Samos, while identifying various fabrics, mostly compatible with Samian geology, can only serve as a foundation for further work on pottery production in the region, as admitted by the author. There is then a heavily theoretical paper by Vavouranakis on concepts of time and their significance in the development of Minoan civilisation, in which, notoriously, various sites both natural and constructed were clearly focuses for ceremonial and ritual activity over very long periods. The author's emphasis on a change in the late Prepalatial period from communal tombs to the later palace sites as the primary focuses for such activity is called into question by the increasingly plausible case (most recently presented in Tomkins, unpublished) for seeing the 'central courts' of the palaces as major if not principal focuses for communal activity at Knossos and Phaistos from the end of the Neolithic onwards, with potential parallels on a smaller scale elsewhere.

The Bronze Age is otherwise represented by a series of regional studies and one discussion of the evidence for child burials in LH IIIC, which makes use of representations (Gallou-Minopetrou); this gathers a lot of useful evidence, but uses illustrations from two Tanagra larnakes which have not, as far as I know, been dated so late. Georgiou studies the LB development of Palaepaphos (Kouklia), which became the major centre of west Cyprus in the last stages of the Bronze Age and has produced much important information, including the interesting indication that it consisted of a group of communities on separate if closely placed sites, rather than a single built-up area. Commendably, the author will have nothing to do with legends of foundation by Homeric heroes and makes no reference to potential Greek or Aegean settlers, but should this justify omitting all mention of the famous obelos inscribed with a Greek name in the Cypriot script from a Cypro-Geometric tomb? Georgiadis gives an account of the histories of Karpathos and Kythera as known from the archaeology, which is reasonable enough but seems rather to downplay the evidence that the Kythera Island Project has produced for the size and implicitly importance of Kastri on Kythera, also indicated by

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the remarkable finds from the neighbouring peak sanctuary at Ayios Yeoryios sto Vouno, which are mentioned. Two studies concern the final phases of the Bronze Age and the transition to the Iron Age in regions which do not always attract attention, Karouzou on coastal Thessaly and Livieratou on east Phocis. Both gather much useful information together, with helpful maps of site distribution in different periods, but they are more concerned with internal development than links to other regions, though these do get some mention. Also concerned with Thessalian material is Orfanou's report of the analytical study of a large group of probably 8th century BC bronze votives from the sanctuary of Enodia at Pherae; this could be very interesting, but its conclusions are presented so generally as not to be particularly informative, perhaps because detailed comments are being reserved for a major study.

The next paper concerns the eschatological beliefs of Phoenician colonists in southern Spain. In it, Pappa develops an argument for the adaptation of a belief in a journey of the soul of the dead to the underworld from Egyptian beliefs, citing evidence for contact with Egypt. The topic is clearly a controversial one, and the often fascinating data used vary considerably in date (from Bronze Age to 4th century BC at least) and source. It is interesting to note that Phoenician colonies, like Greek, can develop away from their mother country. Errors in the caption of Fig. 4 should be noted: the wall paintings shown as A are from a 4th, not 8th, century tomb (see p. 126), and B. is misplaced and should precede the word 'Ostrich eggshell'.

This is followed by a rather combative discussion by Fragkopoulou of the likelihood that the port of Piraeus had a substantial pre-Classical history, as archaeological evidence going back at least to the Geometric period suggests, but that this has been ignored in accounts in favour of the belief, based on taking ancient literary evidence literally, that its history effectively began with Themistocles. All of which may be true, but the statement (p. 132) that 'All problems begin from the fact that extant historical work has never critically tested all the information provided by the written sources, accepting as the literal truth all that the sources record', is surely indefensible in its implicit criticism of all who have written on the development of early Greece, even if it is meant to apply only to the 'procedure of polis formation' and the history of towns—topics about which the ancient sources have very little to say, as far as I can remember.

Only two papers relate to the Classical period of Greek history. One is Dafas's study of the casting techniques used in producing the probably late fourth century BC

Antikythera bronze, which is certainly interesting, but can only advance the study of Classical bronze sculpture a little, for lack of comparable evidence from other ancient bronze statues (only one other original is referred to). The other is Papadopoulou's careful analysis of the roles played by the girls who participated in the Arkteia festival at Brauron, and how they fitted the social norms expected of females in Athenian society. Questions remain that are probably impossible to answer but worth thinking about: which Athenian girls of the relevant age-groups participated, and how were the 'bears' chosen? The shrine of Artemis at Brauron would surely not have needed very many female attendants, and the position of 'bear' is one of those that the female chorus in Aristophanes's *Lysistrata* boast of having held (ll. 644–54), in a list that otherwise includes ritual positions held only by a very few girls in any year.

A series of four Hellenistic studies varies from wide-ranging—the symbolism of lamps in burial and cult (Dimakis) and the evidence for garden-peristyles in palaces (Kopsacheili)—to narrow, the function of a group of cylindrical altars found mainly in the south-east Aegean in funerary contexts (Brouma), and the dating within the career of Damophon, a notable Hellenistic sculptor, of his repairs to the Phidian statue of Zeus at Olympia (Poimenidou). All seem careful and thorough studies of their subjects. The two Byzantine studies differ notably also. Makris's study of the nature of monks' cells in monasteries makes good use of accounts in saints' lives to illuminate the results of excavation and analysis within surviving buildings at several sites. Papadaki's study of Byzantine period settlement of the countryside in the Peloponnese makes good use of a series of archaeological surveys to draw its conclusions, but I was surprised to see no mention of the earliest survey, that undertaken by the University of Minnesota Messenia Expedition, which not only listed all sites where Byzantine material had been identified in its publication of the survey (McDonald and Rapp 1972), but excavated at Nichoria (McDonald, Coulson and Rosser 1983, Part II) buildings showing occupation in the 5th–6th centuries AD and again for a considerable part of the Middle Byzantine period, thus fitting patterns identified by Papadaki (p. 204).

There is much of interest in Manginis's paper. This starts from an elaborately carved and inscribed wooden item from the St. Catherine's Monastery site on Mount Sinai, that is identified as a *kursī*, a stand used to support a copy of the Quran, and proceeds to discuss the establishment of a mosque within the Monastery, the importance of Mount Sinai in Muslim tradition, and the patronage that the monastery received from the Fatimid rulers of Egypt. The *kursī* itself is argued to have been dedicated by a successful general in the 1020s AD.

Finally, Leriou studies the development of modern archaeology in Cyprus, and Kotsonas the mounting of exhibitions concerned with the archaeology of Troy. Both are primarily concerned with the interaction between archaeology and the socio-economic setting within which it takes place; Kotsonas is particularly concerned with the political agenda of the countries and institutions hosting the exhibitions, while Leriou is more interested in the development of a distinctively Cypriot archaeology that is not regarded as merely a sideline of Greek archaeology.

Both these last papers are well worth reading, and it will be clear from my comments that this is essentially true of all of them; even if their topics are quite limited, all nevertheless offer food for thought about wider aspects of Greek history and archaeology.

McDonald, W.A. and G.R., Jr. Rapp (eds) 1972. *The Minnesota Messenia Expedition. Reconstructing a Bronze Age Regional Environment*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

McDonald, W.A., W.D.E. Coulson, and J. Rosser (eds) 1983. *Excavations at Nichoria in Southwest Greece Volume III. Dark Age and Byzantine Occupation*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Tomkins, P., Unpublished. Paper given 20th January 2016, at the Mycenaean Seminar, Institute of Classical Studies, London.

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Apostolos Sarris (ed.). *Best practices of geoinformatic technologies for the mapping of archaeolandscape*. pp. iv+269, colour and b/w illustrations. 2015. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1-78491-162-1 paperback £44; e-publication £19.

This edited volume is a product of the POLITEIA project / Action KRIPIS funded by the Ministry of Education, Greece and the European Regional Development Fund / European Commission and contains 25 articles of varying length and scope. It is evident from the title of the volume that there is a theme running through the articles that draws on concepts relating to best practice in a variety of geoinformatic technologies. Furthermore, the imagery and case studies that populate the pages of

the volume are familiar to those with an interest in Greek archaeology, or the broader Mediterranean zone.

It is fair to say that the editor has been very ambitious in the aims and delivery of the volume. On first reading the titles of the articles one wonders where the real theme will be delivered. There are evident divisions in scale of investigation but also papers concerned with treatment of data in explicitly digital formats. These sit next to, seemingly, more tangential papers highlighting aspects of dating and provenance studies. Of course there is a clear thread through the book that relates to the description and understanding of landscapes of various archaeological types. The case studies that are offered, of which there are many, are based around common site-types and problems that are frequently discussed in journals, such as the *Journal of Greek Archaeology*. These highlight technologies that have become part of the tool-kit for all field archaeologists (eg. GPR, magnetometry) as well as introducing some that are increasingly of interest (eg. analysis of digital photogrammetry).

The volume itself can be divided crudely into three parts: prospecting for sites, analysis of digital data and other scientific techniques relating to landscapes. That final classification may seem rather vague but it is difficult to be more precise due to the dispersed nature of the content in the final few papers. It is a shame that the volume does not contain a final paper by the editor as the preface is more a statement of intent than a definitive assessment of the value of the volume.

A significant part of the volume is dedicated to the collection of data used for 'archaeological prospection' in its many forms. Ground based and remote / aerial components are well covered and the papers either focus on particular techniques or some specific archaeological problem that will be very familiar, such as the location of graves, exploring the interior of tumuli or discovering urban landscapes. The papers dealing with individual techniques are all good summaries of the present position with respect to each technique. Inevitably there are a few concepts that I would have dealt with differently, but not necessarily any better. I would however have preferred more depth in some of the technical explanations. The result is that there are some missed opportunities to convince potential users why best practice needs to be followed rather than just stating what the authors feel it should be. An example that can be used to illustrate this conundrum, and one that is often exposed in technical articles in edited volumes, is the short section on GPR processing which demonstrates types of data correction without providing substantive context. The case studies