

Summaries of articles

Greeks and « natives ». Transmission of ideologies among social élites in the seventh century

Bruno d'AGOSTINO

The necropolis of Pontecagnano in the province of Salerno in Campania is of exceptional interest. Because it contains an important number of burials, especially in the case of the first two groups (first Iron Age and period of Eastern influence) it is a rewarding site for the study of the phenomena of acculturation between Greeks and the indigenous population. A study of funeral rituals makes it possible to distinguish the presence of an "aristocratic" élite whose ideological models are closely patterned on the hero cults of Greece. By analysing the placement and contents of two "royal" cremation tombs, the author is able to discern two distinct groups of offerings, corresponding to the spheres of the "agalmata" and the "klémata" which are distinctly separate in the world of Homer. The author emphasizes especially the close connections to be found between this type of burial and similar groups at Cumae, Praeneste, Caere and Vetulonia as well as with hero tombs of Eritrea and Euboea. One can see, from the time of the aristocrats in eighth-century Greece, the progress of the ideology of a dominant social group which sees itself primarily as a warrior group.

Mètis : an archaeology

François HARTOG

What is Mètis? Cunning, shrewdness. J.-P. Vernant and M. Detienne have delimited a new field of inquiry for which the operative models are those of circling, doubling back and interconnecting. In order to reconstruct or construct the configuration of Mètis, it is necessary to traverse the cultural world of the Greeks in its entirety, to enter into a series of processes themselves full of Mètis: techniques of hunting and fishing, myths of kingship, orphic cosmogonies. Mètis has been the victim of a twofold silence: the Greeks themselves, or to be more exact, the Greek philosophers held this form of intelligence to be of less value than that which presented itself as veritable knowledge or a systematic search for truth; later, Hellenists, faced with the texts, preferred the reading "the Greek miracle" to "the cunning of Mètis".

Tyranny and forced marriage

David ASHERI

Forced marriage of emancipated slaves or serfs and the women of an exiled or executed aristocracy is a well-known commonplace of ancient rhetoric about Greek

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tyranny. *This paper presents an analysis of sources concerning five historical tyrants, whom an ancient hostile tradition has charged of this crime (Aristodemus of Cume, Dionysius the Elder, Clearchos of Heraclea, Chairon of Pellene, Nabis of Sparta). By comparing these cases to similar evidence concerning situations of emergency and decolonisation, the conclusion is reached that such forms of forced marriage are better explained against the background of the recurrent demographic and military crises of the Greek city-state.*

Paleodemography: What can we learn from Sudanese Nubia?

Jean-Pierre BOCQUET

Using a series of 328 skeletons exhumed from the Nubian cemetery of Meinarti (10th-14th centuries), anthropologists have constructed a table of mortality rates. According to this chart, the general characteristics for Meinarti seem to be: a very low rate of infantile mortality, an important percentage of deaths during childhood and adolescence, and finally a high rate of mortality from age 21 on. No one seems to have lived to be older than 55. This curve differs radically from all other curves of human mortality known to history. But in reality this construct is false. It is the product of methods which contain grave mistakes and systematic errors.

Another approach—Ledermann's model tables—also led to a dead end. The structures of post-industrial mortality which were introduced into the model tables made it impossible for the paleodemographer to use these tables to examine a cemetery with an archaic mortality structure of the Meinarti type. It has thus proved necessary to redefine not only the customary anthropological criteria used to estimate the age of adult skeletons at time of death, but the models which paleodemography is to use as a reference.

Russian urbanization at the end of the nineteenth century

Daniel BROWER

The rapid growth of Russian cities in the last years of the nineteenth century marked a new era in the development of Russian society. By 1897, the total population in cities of over 15,000 inhabitants numbered more than 8.5 million, of whom over one-half were urban migrants. Who were these migrants? Where did their migration take them? How did their presence alter the character of urban society? What social and economic forces explain this vast movement of the lower classes to the country's towns and cities? This article provides a statistical analysis of urbanization in those cities of European Russia with a population of over 15,000 (144 cities) and suggests a theory to explain the peculiar nature of Russian urban growth.

The data for this study come from the census of 1897. Twelve social and economic variables identified characteristics of each city's population; computer programs for factor and discriminant analysis permitted the isolation of a special type of city closely associated with a high proportion of migrants. These "migrant towns" represented a unique adaptation of Russian society to the forces of urbanization.

Visionary town planning in the Soviet "cultural revolution"

S. Frederick STARR

During the "Cultural Revolution" of 1928-1931, diverse strains of radical town planning blossomed in the U.S.S.R. This essay demonstrates that the two leading currents,

usually characterized as "urbanist" and "disurbanist", in fact shared an antipathy to the city as such, and to the concentration of political power and productive forces represented by the modern urban center. In their common hostility towards all forms of centralization, Russia's anti-urbanist planners stood squarely within the tradition of individualistic anarchism that had flourished in Russia during the nineteenth century and which existed as a submerged current even within Bolshevism. It is the more surprising, therefore, that these same anti-urbanists could have gained the support and patronage of many of the most powerful agencies within the Soviet government and, briefly, of the Communist Party itself. This occurred, it is argued, because the specific conditions existing in Russia at the time imparted to the anti-urbanists' program the appearance of realism and practicality. By 1930-1931, however, the political implications of the anti-urbanists' position had become clear, and the movement was quickly suppressed by the rising forces of political and economic centralization headed by J. V. Stalin.

Detroit in 1880: spatial clustering and segregation

Olivier ZUNZ

This study examines the population of neighborhoods sampled in Detroit in 1880. It determines the different forms of spatial clustering when Detroit was developing into a metropolis. Ethnic and social groups are identified in their physical environments; their characteristics and their distribution in the city are examined. The respective roles of ethnic and social factors as they contributed to the formation of clusters in the urban environment are measured. The data were collected from the first real estate atlas of the city of Detroit in 1885 and the census manuscript of 1880. A chi-squared statistic approach was developed for measuring and testing geographic clustering.