

Reviews

New Book Chronicle

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With the change of Reviews Editor, it is entirely appropriate to express thanks—both personal and on behalf of the readers of *Antiquity*—to my predecessor, Madeleine Hummler. As well as commissioning around 500 book reviews and review articles, Madeleine personally cast her discerning eye over around 300 books, fieldwork reports, conference proceedings and museum catalogues, summarising her thoughts in the pages of the New Book Chronicle (NBC). We are enormously grateful for the insights she has provided on a diverse range of material covering more or less every continent in every period. We wish Madeleine well with her new post-*Antiquity* life!

The current organisation of the NBC is very much Madeleine's work and it is a format with which we intend to continue. The change of stewardship, however, provides an opportunity to remind readers of the purpose of the NBC and to reflect briefly on some of the challenges ahead. Each year, *Antiquity* receives more than 300 publications for review. Space permits commissioned reviews of around 80 of these publications. Many of the remaining books, however, are fully deserving of review and the aim of the NBC is to provide brief consideration of and comment on some of these volumes. Rather than providing descriptive abstracts of individual publications (nowadays easily accessible online), the aim is to identify some common or emergent themes from a selection of new books which readers may find interesting, or even useful.

The rapidly changing world of academic publishing makes this a particularly interesting time to take on the role of Reviews Editor. Chris Scarre's March issue Editorial flagged some of the challenges for scholarly publications arising from the Open Access agenda; whilst we await the decisions of governments and funding bodies on that score, we can ponder some other (perhaps more universal) developments, such as e-publication. The pros and cons of electronic publication have been chewed over for several years. The rise of tablet computers has, perhaps, addressed concern about the difficulties of reading e-books in the bath, but other questions remain—

uncertain long-term preservation, lack of browse-ability, difficulty of citation, *inter alia*. From a reviews perspective, one might be concerned about the decreasing attraction of book reviewing. For some, at least, receipt of yet another login/password, and the prospect of another few hours in front of the computer screen may lack the appeal of a 'real' book, which is easy to browse and looks handsome on the shelf. As a halfway house, Springer has launched a new service—prospective reviewers are given digital access to books, only receiving a hard copy if and when a review is published. Will other publishers follow suit or perhaps develop other hybrid solutions?

Enough of the future; back to the present. This quarter we head to the ancient Mediterranean to examine new books on urban landscapes. We then take a stroll out into the countryside to think about how the other half (or, more likely, 80 per cent) lived.

Mediterranean cityscapes

SØREN DIETZ & MARIA STAVROPOULOU-GATSI. *Kalydon in Aitolia I. Danish and Greek field work 2001–2005. Reports and studies* (Monograph of the Danish Institute at Athens volume 12.1) and *Catalogues* (volume 12.2). 641 pages, 356 colour and b&w illustrations, 8 tables. 2011. Copenhagen: Danish Institute at Athens & National Museum of Denmark; 978-87-7288-628-2 hardback DKK599.95.

DONALD WHITE with JOYCE REYNOLDS. *The extramural sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone at Cyrene, Libya: the sanctuary's imperial architectural development, conflict with Christianity, and final days. Final report volume VIII* (University Museum Monograph 134). xxvi+218 pages, 67 illustrations, 43 plates. 2012. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; 978-1-934536-46-9 paperback \$65.95 & £45.50.

FRANK VERMEULEN, GERT-JAN BURGERS, SIMON KEAY & CRISTINA CORSI (ed.). *Urban landscape survey in Italy and the Mediterranean*. xii+239 pages, numerous colour and b&w illustrations. 2012.

Oxford & Oakville (CT): Oxbow; 978-1-84217-486-9 hardback £48.

NEIL CHRISTIE & ANDREA AUGENTI (ed.). *Vrbes extinctae. Archaeologies of abandoned classical towns*. xx+372 pages, 32 colour and 106 b&w illustrations. 2012. Farnham & Burlington (VT): Ashgate; 978-0-7546-6562-5 hardback £70.

We start our Mediterranean tour with the two-volume report by DIETZ & STAVROPOULOU-GATSI on the Danish-Greek fieldwork at the city of *Kalydon in Aitolia*. If you don't know where Calydon is, you'll be none the wiser for reading this beautifully-produced report. I searched in vain for a location map before resorting to the internet (for the uninitiated, Calydon lies on the north side of the Gulf of Patras, c.150km west of Athens).

The city spreads across steep and undulating ground set back from the coast. Like any self-respecting Greek city, it receives due mention by Homer, although fieldwalking across the site has recovered only a few sherds of pottery from the late second and early first millennium BC. The city really gets going in the mid first millennium, with abundant surface material of classical, Hellenistic and early Roman date. Although there is a concentration of Byzantine material, activity at the site had already declined dramatically during the Roman imperial period. The reader, however, will not find any mention of the possible cause(s) for the site's decline (one explanation might be the foundation of the Roman colony of Nicopolis by the soon-to-be-emperor Augustus in honour of his victory at the Battle of Actium; the inhabitants of a number of surrounding cities were forcibly relocated to the new colony; more on abandoned cities anon).

The project's extensive geophysical survey demonstrates how Calydon's street layout was adapted to the site's steep and uneven topography, with some streets in regular grids and others following the terraced slopes. Magnetic survey identified extensive blocks of monumental and residential buildings, with select geophysical anomalies targeted for excavation, revealing pottery/tile kilns and metalworking activity within the urban core. Larger trenches were then excavated at key points across the city, perhaps the most interesting of which revealed part of a colonnaded courtyard (peristyle) structure built at the very end of the third century BC. One of the rooms housed a cult which continued down to the mid first century AD when the roof collapsed, sealing a rich assemblage of altars, sculpture, incense burners (*thymiateria*) and other liturgical

paraphernalia. Here we have evidence for the veneration of a 2m-high statue (the excavators suggest the presence of a marble lion indicates the statue to be the goddess Cybele) with a variety of other cults added over time. Beyond the attention given to the individual 'museum pieces' recovered, this deposit calls out for—but does not really receive—a sustained contextual analysis of cult practice cut short by an 'act of God' or, at least, the collapse of the old and heavy tile roof. Indeed, the report's style of objective description, and lack of context and synthesis, rather undersells the potential of the material reported in general. The volume does, nonetheless, provide the details with which such future analysis might be undertaken, including specialist studies on select categories of material and extensive catalogues.

Readers unfamiliar with the world of Greek archaeology will need to work hard if they are to understand the significance of what is presented here. It is a volume which makes no concession to those who do not know their *stylobate* from their *euthyteria*. Indeed, there is a strong assumption that the reader will be fully acquainted with earlier archaeological work on the site (especially at the sanctuary of Artemis Laphira). Perhaps for specialist fieldwork reports, this is a safe assumption (though the 'packaging' of the report with bright impressionistic watercolours of the Greek landscape does not suggest that it perceives itself as a form of 'grey literature'). Processes of urbanisation, the structure and use of urban space, and the practices of civic religion are hardly peripheral issues of interest only to classical archaeologists. *Kalydon in Aitolia* presents important discoveries from extensive fieldwork, but I was left with the impression that these results will not become much more widely known as a result of this report.

From Greece to Libya, and WHITE's *Extramural sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone at Cyrene*. The eighth in the series, this volume documents excavations at an enormous terraced sanctuary outside the Greek colony of Cyrene. This instalment tackles the final phases of the site: the reorganisation of the Roman imperial period and the sanctuary's eventual abandonment with the rise of Christianity. On the assumption that the reader has read the previous seven volumes, we are denied a map to show the spatial relationship of the sanctuary to the city (despite the centrality of this relationship to the discussion), but we are indulged with rather more contextual information about the site and previous work than found in *Kalydon in Aitolia*.

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The sanctuary started life in the late seventh century BC, undergoing continuous development into the Roman imperial period, the point at which the current volume takes up the story. During the first century AD, the complex expanded to its greatest extent, spilling down the steep hillside on a series of monumental terraces, and embellished with increasing numbers of marble statues. Perhaps the most intriguing developments concern events framed by major earthquakes in AD 262 and 365; by the early third century, activity at the sanctuary had already decreased and pavements had been removed (robbed? under repair?) before the 262 quake caused structures to collapse down the hillside. At some point before the second quake brought activity at the site to an end a century later, broken architectural and sculptural pieces were piled up in a mound 23m long and up to 8m wide, carefully contained within a wall. The wall itself made use of a number of life-sized, headless female statues leading White (p. 134) to comment on the “unsettling impression” of human figures trapped under the wall’s stone blocks. The precise date and significance of the mound is unclear, with consideration given to pagan mothballing of the site, Christian decommissioning (including intentional damage of statues), and the possibility of “magical entrapment” (p. 141).

The excavation of this site, and the publication of the results, have been punctuated by the unpredictable climate of Libyan politics over the last 40 years, a situation which has sadly become even less predictable since the volume went to press. Reflecting on the wider changes in archaeological questions and methods which have occurred during this period, White (p. 3) observes that, in some quarters, such detailed and long-running investigations of large and complex monumental Mediterranean sites are now viewed as “obsolete”. Perhaps conscious of the challenges experienced with this project, he reserves judgement on this viewpoint, though surely the results reported in this volume, and the seven previous volumes, speak for themselves.

If large-scale, long-term excavation is out of fashion, what is the alternative? The answer appears to be the high-tech, non-intrusive investigation of entire cities. *Urban landscape survey in Italy and the Mediterranean* brings together 23 papers, the majority of which (Part 1) focus on the application of extensive geophysical, topographical and fieldwalking survey techniques to urban sites across the Mediterranean and Western Europe; the shorter and more disparate Part 2

deals with inter-urban relations. Many of the case studies concern classic sites (e.g. Paestum, Pompeii); some projects will be well-known to Mediterranean archaeologists (e.g. Falerii Novi, Boeotia), others, such as Aquinum, Ammaia, and Burnum, will be less familiar. The volume could, of course, have been further expanded with any number of similar projects from other urban sites; for example, the chapter on the geophysical survey in the *Kalydon in Aitolia* volume would have been quite at home here. This wide pool of possible case studies draws attention to the lack of any stated or discernible rationale for the selection of projects in this volume. In practice, a volume derived from a workshop (or, in this case, two workshops) is rarely as balanced and coherent as the editors might intend, though their brief introduction could have pulled out a few more unifying threads.

Individual papers present varying blends of method, results, the occasional dash of historical context, and even interpretation. The most interesting and effective contributions provide all of these components, making it possible to evaluate their significance. Heinzlmann & Jordan’s paper draws attention to the variability of urban form through the example of Amiternum, a small Sabine town in the Apennine mountains. Geophysical survey and excavation demonstrates that Amiternum developed rapidly in the late republican and early imperial periods with the standard suite of monumental and commercial buildings. However, with the exception of some wealthy private houses (*domus*), the overall extent of residential structures is very limited. In marked contrast to the extensive, gridded and densely-populated cities surveyed at Ephesus, Hierapolis and Calydon, at Amiternum we have a collection of substantial public buildings strung out along a road (the *Via Caecilia*), acting as a place of temporary population aggregation for politics, religion, exchange and entertainment (the latter at the impressive extant amphitheatre).

An interesting aspect highlighted by the juxtaposition of the different projects is the diversity of challenges posed by individual sites and the need for appropriately varied methods: aerial photography works at some sites (e.g. Suasa) but not others (e.g. Amiternum); ground-penetrating radar is needed to tackle the deep volcanic overburden at Herculaneum. At some sites, terrain and modern land-use permit extensive and contiguous blocks of geophysics which translate into seamless city plans (e.g. Sagalassos, Tanagra), while our ability to grasp the urban

integrity of other sites is less straightforward (e.g. Pisa, Teano).

Nearly all the papers assume the ‘city’ is defined by the physical extent of its streets and buildings. Bintliff’s paper on Thespiæ is one of the few which dares to ponder the question of exactly what is being surveyed, encouraging us to recognise the city as a dynamic social concept, a fact which needs to be considered integral to survey methodology, and which confounds attempts to fix these sites at any specific moment in time or space.

An equally pertinent, but unaddressed, issue which lurks behind this collection concerns the reason or reasons that many of these towns are both available for, and amenable to, extensive non-invasive survey techniques in the first place; as already observed, Calydon may have been depopulated as a result of a newly-founded colony, and the demise of the sanctuary at Cyrene may have been a result of Christian destruction. In one of two short *Concluding Notes* to the collection, Christie touches on this theme, but this brief contribution is simply an advert for his much more substantial introductory chapter to the next volume under consideration: *Urbes extinctae. Archaeologies of abandoned classical towns*, edited by CHRISTIE & AUGENTI.

To what degree can the ‘failed’, ‘lost’ or ‘extinct’ urban sites which litter Western Europe and the Mediterranean be taken as typical? Their truncated sequences make them convenient laboratories for archaeological research, but are they representative of wider urban historical development? Christie’s introduction clearly defines and examines this problem. Inevitably, he concludes that much depends on the research questions we seek to address: for example, such sites are likely to be more suited to consideration of domestic rather than monumental spaces. Christie also tackles the “contexts of loss” including warfare, earthquake and institutional redundancy, before sensibly dodging decline, and articulating “revised archaeologies of ‘ends’”.

With Christie’s caveats, but also reassurances, in mind, we move on to the 11 case studies, which include cities from the four corners of the classical world: Spain to Syria, and from Britain to Libya (Sears *et al.*’s paper on Cyrene conveniently provided a city plan indicating the location of the sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone, above). Most of these sites are well-known (e.g. Butrint, Classe, Cosa, Dura-Europos, Knossos, Silchester), but their juxtaposition within the strong thematic context of this volume

invites fresh comparisons and contrasts. Overall, the volume has a much stronger sense of purpose than the *Urban landscape survey in Italy and the Mediterranean* collection; the individual papers are also rather more substantial contributions.

At some point or other, most of the papers touch on two particular challenges: the problems caused by antiquarian and early archaeological investigation, and the difficulties presented by periods of limited identifiable/datable material culture. Each case study communicates different experiences; for example, Fulford reports on recent fieldwork at Silchester, demonstrating that rather more late- and post-Roman stratigraphy survives than we might have expected at this extensively studied site; however, the well-known disappearance of coins, pottery and most other indicators of activity in early fifth-century Britain obscures the identification and characterisation of the sub-Roman phases. Each of the cities reveals a different story—some were large and vibrant communities (e.g. Dura-Europos), whilst others seemed destined to fail from the start (e.g. Cosa); some demonstrate complete and permanent abandonment (Cosa again), while others retrenched or relocated (e.g. Butrint). But few, if any, of the cities were ever truly ‘lost’. Some were reduced to isolated monuments, such as the churches at Classe, or city walls enclosing fields. In relation to the latter, Christie suggests the reason for the excellent preservation of the city wall at Falerii Novi, in contrast with the complete disappearance of houses and monuments within, may have resulted from the foundation of an abbey which reused the wall to define a religious precinct (p. 24); Fulford makes a similar suggestion in connection with Silchester (p. 345).

In aggregate, these papers communicate rich and, in many cases, recently acquired material, encompassing the long and neglected post-classical lives of these classical towns. They reveal fascinating and inevitable diversity but also unexpected similarities, such as the suggestion that both Cosa and Silchester failed to re-emerge because of their location on newly-established cultural and political frontiers, or the appropriation of cities as religious precincts.

In their paper, Cirelli & Fentress (p. 108) observe that the “end of the ancient city... continues to strike us as bizarre and somehow unnatural”. Archaeologists and historians of late antiquity and the early medieval period have always been interested in the fate of classical urbanism, but the half-abandoned urban landscapes of boom-and-bust Detroit, the

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ghost-towns built by speculators in Europe and China, and ‘poisoned’ cities such as Chernobyl perhaps suggest a new and broader fascination with what happens after historic/contemporary urban heydays. These case studies also give pause for thought in relation to the extensive and non-intrusive methods reported in the *Urban landscape survey* volume. The strong ‘imprint’ of classical urbanism is particularly susceptible to geophysical survey, but this urban heyday is usually only one episode within much longer and richer biographies. The complex post-classical histories of the sites revealed in the *Vrbes extinctae* volume are highlighted as critical both in their own right and for understanding exactly what non-intrusive survey is recording. In this context, reflecting on their achievements at Butrint, Bowden & Hodges not only stress that their most important discoveries resulted from long-term, large-scale excavation (“costly and unfashionable” p. 237, cf. “obsolete”, above), but they also attribute a significant role to serendipity (surely correct, but surely not what funding bodies want to hear!). In sum, a well-produced and thought-provoking volume; I particularly liked the neat solution used to integrate the colour plates, reproduced separately, into their respective articles using black and white thumbnail images in the text.

Beyond the city wall

JEFFREY A. BECKER & N. TERRENATO (ed.). *Roman republican villas: architecture, context, and ideology*. vi+146 pages, 34 illustrations, 1 table. 2012. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press; 978-0-472-11770-3 hardback \$60.

ERMINIA LAPADULA, edited by JOSEPH COLEMAN CARTER. *The chora of Metaponto 4: the Late Roman farmhouse at San Biagio*. x+264 pages, numerous colour and b&w illustrations & tables. 2012. Austin: University of Texas Press; 978-0-292-72877-6 hardback \$75 & £52.

EMMANUELE VACCARO (ed.). *Sites and pots: settlement and economy in southern Tuscany (AD 300–900)* (British Archaeological Reports international series 2191). vi+411 pages, numerous illustrations & tables. 2011. Oxford: Archaeopress; 978-1-4073-0746-6 paperback £65.

Sir Moses Finley famously declared the Greco-Roman world to have been “a world of cities”. Certainly, marble-columned urban sites such as Calydon and Cyrene have dominated the attention

of Mediterranean archaeologists and tourists alike. But what about the world beyond the acropolis? After cities, Roman villas are perhaps the category of ancient Mediterranean site which has received the most archaeological attention. The papers in *Roman republican villas: architecture, context, and ideology* individually and collectively argue that much of what we think we know about these elite rural estates is wrong, not least as a result of the imposition of models based on uncritical readings of ancient authors such as Cato and Varro.

In their introduction, editors BECKER & TERRENATO outline the much-discussed problem of the archaeological application of the term ‘villa’, concluding “our best chance consists in reworking the semantics of *villa* from inside this baggage-burdened term, rather than ditching it altogether” (p. 2). The papers then home in on the specific problem of the origins and development of villas during the republican period and the appropriate interpretation and use of ancient texts. For non-villa aficionados, it is worth stressing that these republican villas are not to be confused with the marble-clad and frescoed villas of the subsequent imperial period which enthral both tourists and art historians. These earlier villas, whatever they may have been, were altogether more modest—and more controversial.

Terrenato takes a two-pronged approach to the demolition of the ‘Catonian villa’, i.e. a large-scale, slave-based agricultural enterprise focused on a central architectural complex for residence, production and storage. First, he argues that none of the archaeologically-known rural sites of late third/early second-century BC date matches the large physical dimensions of the complexes described by Cato. Second, he draws attention to the “inexplicable combination of outdated folklore and agricultural science fiction” (p. 87) which is Cato’s text, noting that the author’s obsession with recipes for cabbage soup and the uses of olive oil sludge (*amurca*) has more to do with aristocratic self-fashioning than agricultural reality. Liberated from the texts, Terrenato focuses on the wine amphorae (famously ignored by Cato) which increase in number dramatically at this time, connecting them to small farms, arguing that they represent the efforts of “local, medium-sized farmers” rather than “greedy Roman entrepreneurs” (p. 83) to grow and market crops on a new scale.

One important villa, mentioned in several of the chapters, is the so-called Villa of the Auditorium. This site in the northern suburbs of Rome was

excavated during the 1990s and published by Carandini *et al.* in 2006. In her paper, Volpe (p. 95) reminds us that this site is largely responsible for the current spike of interest in republican villas. However, the interpretation of this site is the subject of both direct and passing critique by a number of the contributors, most particularly for its allegedly uncritical use of the historical texts for the interpretation of the archaeological structures. Regardless of where one might stand on the issue, reading through the papers in this volume, the absence of comment or response from Carandini or his collaborators became an increasingly obvious absence; some ‘right-to-reply’ would have added a more explicit element of debate.

A number of the key arguments advanced in these papers have been rehearsed elsewhere, in part as a result of the delay between the original conference and the final publication. Nonetheless, their availability within a single volume serves a useful purpose by demonstrating the range of scholars lining up to serve death-blows to any consensus model of villa origins or organisation. There is, however, rather less unity about how to move forward, other than a need for less reliance on Cato, and more new fieldwork.

If (republican) villas are a well-studied, if poorly-understood, component of the ancient settlement hierarchy, sites such as farms and villages have received much less attention. Nonetheless, over the past 50 years survey archaeologists have scoured the coastal plains, hills and, occasionally, the uplands of the Mediterranean, documenting dense networks of small rural sites. Most often these are represented by scatters of pottery and tile on the surfaces of ploughed fields. The relationship—if any—between these surface materials and *in situ* buried archaeology is much debated. Arguably, the significance of this issue is in reverse proportion to the number of such surface scatters subject to excavation. *The Late Roman farmhouse at San Biagio* is a welcome attempt both to address the issue of ‘what lies beneath’ and to excavate a site at the more modest end of the rural settlement hierarchy.

This beautifully-produced volume forms part of the rapidly expanding series of publications resulting from the long-term fieldwork directed by Joseph Coleman Carter across the hinterland (*chora*) of the Greek colony of Metaponto, on the instep of the Italian boot. This instalment, under the authorship of ERMINIA LAPADULA, reports on the excavation during the “distant summer of 1980” (p. xiv) of a small, typical Roman rural site (one of several investigated

by the project, with further reports in the pipeline). Before launching into the detail, an historical regional overview (by Giardino) provides the geographical and chronological framework needed to contextualise the site; on the theme of *Vrbes extinctae*, Giardino outlines the dramatic decline of the city of Metaponto, reduced by Roman times to a defended *castrum* of 14ha, a fraction of the size of its earlier Greek incarnation; Roman burials cut into the former *agora* further underline the dramatic change in the urban fabric.

What was happening in the countryside during this time of urban retrenchment? The site of San Biagio lies c. 6km from (what remained of) Metaponto. The site was initially identified as a surface scatter and one of a number selected for complete excavation. The farmhouse, or *villula*, comprised ten rooms measuring c. 19.5m × 14m (270m²); there was no internal courtyard, but an external covered porch. The site was laid out in a single event during the first half of the second century AD, with stone foundations supporting mud-brick walls. The incorporation of architectural material salvaged from the nearby sanctuary of Artemis suggests that Metaponto’s civic religion had declined along with the city (though might the apparent display, in the one of the farm’s rooms, of a 500-year-old antefix, presumably from the sanctuary, indicate some religious continuity?).

Whatever changes were affecting the urban and religious landscape, the farm’s structure and contents show that the owner enjoyed a comfortable life: a small heated bath, mosaic floors, painted plaster walls, and a wide variety of imported glass vessels, finewares and amphorae (and their contents). The artefacts are reported by class in a sequence of excellent chapters, many individual finds illustrated both with colour photographs and crisp line drawings (though a few of the photos of the tiles demonstrate why pen and ink can sometimes communicate more effectively than a camera). The farmhouse structure itself is brought to life through a sequence of photo-realistic computer reconstructions; comparison with an earlier hand-drawn reconstruction of 1985, fig. 2.30, is as fascinating for the change in medium as for the revised interpretation of the structure. Some of the computer images are so realistic (e.g. fig. 2.39) that we might expect the farm door to open and the owner to step out on to the porch. . .but who exactly lived in a house like this? Here we inevitably move on to less certain ground: possibilities which Lapadula entertains include a peasant, the tenant of a *dominus*, or a bailiff, but certainly not a *pauperculus* (p. 221).

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Thinking, as we are, about the ‘archaeology of ends’, we should note that the farmhouse underwent some modification during the third century AD, before being completely abandoned during the first half of the fourth century for reasons unknown (though fire and earthquake are excluded). In summary, this is an exemplary report: well-contextualised, neatly summarised, beautifully-illustrated (especially the maps), and well worth the wait.

The final volume under review, *Sites and pots: settlement and economy in southern Tuscany* draws together several of the themes already considered, including the fate of post-classical cities and the characterisation of rural settlement (both farms and villas). Our attention shifts from southern Italy to the *provincia* of Grosseto, on the Tyrrhenian coast north of Rome. In Chapter 1, EMMANUELE VACCARO outlines the origins of the volume, part-research project and part-reconnaissance prior to motorway construction. The resulting report documents the demise of a Roman landscape based on towns, villas and farms and the emergence, by the end of the millennium, of a very different medieval landscape. The hybrid origins of the project may explain the structure of the volume with chapters organised by overlapping periods and themes which do not always make it easy to grasp the evolving significance of the exhaustive (and sometimes exhausting) detail presented. The author, however, could not be accused of myopia; across his six-century arc, Vaccaro deploys analysis of urban excavations (from Roselle—yet another ‘extinct’ city), rural survey, wrecks (including those which foundered off the island of Giglio, the scene of the more recent Costa Concordia sinking), archaeometry, medieval texts and environmental data. Similarly, the concluding chapter does not settle for a simple summary of results, but rather puts this ‘micro-region’ into context with an ambitious and wide-ranging overview of events and trends spanning from Britain to North Africa, and from the fall of Rome to the rise of Venice.

Through his combination of urban, rural and maritime evidence, Vaccaro traces the way in which North African finewares and foodstuffs continued to be imported via coastal ports and redistributed through towns out into the countryside during the fourth and fifth centuries; trade tailed off rapidly at the end of the fifth century, in the context of the Ostrogothic invasion, the subsequent Byzantine war of reconquest and, finally, the arrival of the Lombards. By the seventh century, connections with

the wider Mediterranean economy had ceased (even though they continued further south along the coast at Rome) and were replaced with local ceramic production. Vaccaro blames this failure as much on the decreasing economic and political power of local elites as on the wider shifts in Mediterranean geopolitics and economy. While commercial contact between the Frankish and Byzantine worlds, mediated by Commachio and Venice, kick-started the Adriatic economy during the eighth and ninth centuries, it was not until the rise of Pisa in the tenth century that the Tyrrhenian coast reconnected with extra-regional networks, signalled by the arrival in the Grosseto area of Sparse Glaze ware from Rome.

In places, the text of this volume is rather too discursive, but it has been very carefully translated throughout. It is extensively illustrated, though some of the images are rather small and have not reproduced clearly in grayscale. It is, nonetheless, a notable volume which pulls out the fullest significance of the rich data it presents.

In summary, what have we learnt from this quarter’s miscellany? The results of geophysical survey are providing the evidence with which to re-read the spatial organisation of complete Greek and Roman cities, whilst excavation is providing the details, often unexpected, and transformational of our understanding of the post-classical phases of these sites. At least two of the contributions independently observe that large-scale, long-term excavation projects on major urban sites are now seen in some quarters as costly, complex and unnecessary. In aggregate, surely the volumes under consideration here demonstrate that it is the combination of methods, and their application to a range of sites from cities and sanctuaries to villas and farms, which is needed. And some basic location maps.

Books received

The list includes all books received between 1 December 2012 and 1 March 2013. Those featuring at the beginning of New Book Chronicle have, however, not been duplicated in this list. The listing of a book in this chronicle does not preclude its subsequent review in *Antiquity*.

General

SUSAN E. ALCOCK, JOHN BODEL & RICHARD J.A. TALBERT (ed.). *Highways, byways, and road systems*

in the pre-modern world. xx+289 pages, 68 b&w illustrations, 7 tables. 2012. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell; 978-0-470-67425-3 hardback £85.

ING-MARIE BACK DANIELSSON, FREDRIK FAHLANDER & YLVA SJÖSTRAND (ed.). *Encountering imagery: materialities, perceptions, relations* (Stockholm Studies in Archaeology 57). 277 pages, numerous colour and b&w illustrations. 2012. Stockholm: Stockholm University; 978-91-978257-9-5 paperback.

ELIZABETH WAYLAND BARBER. *The dancing goddesses: folklore, archaeology, and the origins of European dance*. xiv+407 pages, numerous b&w illustrations. 2013. New York & London: W.W. Norton; 978-0-393-06536-7 paperback £25 & \$35.

DIANE BOLGER (ed.). *A companion to gender prehistory* (Blackwell Companions to Anthropology). 642 pages, 39 illustrations, 5 tables. 2012. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell; 978-0-470-65536-8 hardback £130.

NANOUSCHKA M. BURSTRÖM & FREDRIK FAHLANDER (ed.). *Matters of scale: processes and courses of events in the past and the present* (Stockholm Studies in Archaeology 56). 199 pages, 35 colour and b&w illustrations. 2012. Stockholm: Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Stockholm University & Postdoctoral Archaeology Group; 978-91-978257-8-8 paperback.

DAVID M. CARBALLO (ed.). *Cooperation and collective action: archaeological perspectives*. x+319 pages, 29 b&w illustrations, 15 tables. 2013. Boulder: University of Colorado Press; 978-1-60732-197-2 hardback \$75.

JOSHUA ENGLEHARDT (ed.). *Agency in ancient writing*. 299 pages, 81 b&w photos and illustrations, 7 tables. 2013. Boulder: University of Colorado Press; 978-1-60732-199-6 hardback \$75.

LIN FOXHALL & GABRIELE NEHER (ed.). *Gender and the city before modernity*. x+256 pages, 38 b&w illustrations, originally published as volume 23, issue 3 of *Gender & History*. 2013. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell; 978-1-118-23443-3 paperback £19.99.

W. CHARLES HARTLEY, G. BIKE YAZICIOĞLU & ADAM T. SMITH (ed.). *The archaeology of power and politics in Eurasia: regimes and revolutions*. xviii+470 pages, 62 b&w illustrations, 12 tables. 2012. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 978-1-107-01652-1 hardback £65 & \$99.

RICHARD JONES (ed.). *Manure matters: historical, archaeological and ethnographic perspectives*. xi+249 pages, 18 illustrations, 8 tables. 2012. Farnham

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