

Sestieri—one that broke off from a more loosely defined group. Latium meanwhile appears as a peripheral zone “with no internally driven networks of its own” (pp. 178–79).

In the Marche, Umbria and the Apennines, there seems to have been a lack of regionalism during the Recent Bronze Age and Final Bronze Age. Possible explanations include transhumance practices that favoured supra-regional circuits, as well as the disruption caused by later migrations. In the southern sub-group, Blake identifies two alternative networks—a maritime circulation of Aegean pottery and a localised terrestrial circulation of rare metal objects (with partial overlap in Apulia)—but neither can be tied securely to any of the regional cultural groups. Generally, southern Italy shows weak regionalism during both the Recent Bronze Age and Final Bronze Age, which can only be partially explained by the presence of foreign groups and is best understood in terms of social relations.

In the final chapter, Blake considers the regionalism that can be detected in Italy during the Final Bronze Age 1–2. Where cohesive networks are observed, stronger ethnic groups will emerge during the Iron Age, such as in Veneto and Etruria. In the south, instead, where fragile networks are observed during the Bronze Age, ethnic groups of the first millennium BC are poorly defined. Meanwhile, in the Apennine region, a cohesive supra-regional network grouping northern Etruscans, Umbrians and Picenes, seems to resist the hypothesis of path dependence but can be explained in terms of the mobility and migration of cultural groups. Generally, Blake’s approach demonstrates a high degree of consistency between the archaeological data, network clusters and the ethnic groups of pre-Roman Italy. As she admits, network patterns or behaviours can sometimes be explained in multiple ways and therefore the overall consistency recognised here is significant.

While not the only approach to ethnicity—I have the impression that the instrumentalist approach of Barth, Patterson and others is dismissed a little too hastily (p. 70)—Blake’s work is innovative and establishes a convincing link between social practices and identity formation. The book provides a good example of the application of network analysis in archaeology—technically detailed but also simply and clearly explained. The theoretical framework builds on a detailed archaeological and historical foundation. It is not fully clear, however, why only imports (including the introduction of the donkey)

and specialised products (mainly metal objects) are considered, but common pottery is not. The observation that Final Bronze Age regional patterning in material culture does not appear to be reflected in the ethnic and cultural groups of subsequent periods is significant but insufficient in its own right and begs explanation. Generally, although the bibliography is wide ranging, some of the Italian scholarship is overlooked; for example, Renato Peroni identified a Mediterranean metallurgical *koiné* some years before Claudio Giardino.

By way of conclusion, Blake compares the regionalism of the Bronze and Iron Ages to the administrative regions into which the emperor Augustus divided Italy at the end of the first millennium BC, and, later still, to the regionalism of medieval and modern times. As far as the Augustan regions are concerned, Blake shows how in general “the stronger groups were respected while the weaker groups were not. Thus [...] we can detect, in a shadowy way, the impression they must have made to those who encountered them” (p. 251). In this respect, it ought to be noted that the use of the Augustan regions as a source for earlier regionalism in Italy is not completely new, and Pallottino—quoted by Blake in other passages—could have been mentioned here as well. In relation to medieval and modern Italy, Blake notes the strong unifying power of the institutional and especially linguistic centralisation imposed by Rome, under which regionalism certainly existed but did not endure or re-emerge in its original form—Italian regionalism before and after the Roman Empire were two different and separate cycles.

FRANCESCA FULMINANTE  
University Roma Tre, Italy  
(Email: [francesca.fulminante@uniroma3.it](mailto:francesca.fulminante@uniroma3.it))

RICHARD JONES, SARA T. LEVI, MARCO BETTELLI & LUCIA VAGNETTI. *Italo-Mycenaean pottery: the archaeological and archaeometric dimensions* (Incunabula Graeca 103). 2014. 588 pages, numerous colour and b&w illustrations, and tables. Rome: CNR–Istituto di Studi sul Mediterraneo Antico; 978-88-87345-20-9 paperback €85.

This volume represents the culmination of decades of work on Aegean-style pottery in Italy by researchers connected to what is now called the Istituto di Studi sul Mediterraneo Antico at the CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) in Italy. Each of the volume’s authors has written extensively on this



transforming our knowledge of Aegean materials in Italy and guiding how we think about their significance, so the book is much anticipated. The resulting work is remarkably coherent and unified in vision. In bringing together disparate information from sometimes difficult-to-find publications, as well as presenting new data and analyses—all in perfect English—the book will be a terrific resource to prehistorians of Italy and of interest to scholars of the Bronze Age Mediterranean and of ancient technologies more generally.

While some attention is given to local ceramic industries, the volume's value is as the most up-to-date comprehensive study of Aegean style pottery in Italy, including those pieces that were made in Greece and imported, and those made in the Aegean style, or using Aegean technologies, on Italian soil. The volume covers some seven centuries, corresponding to LH I–LH IIIC in the Aegean chronology and the Middle to Final Bronze Ages in the Italian chronology. Geographically, it encompasses the Italian peninsula and the islands. It comprises straightforward documentation of finds as well as consideration of what these finds tell us about contacts between the Aegean and Italy. The archaeometric analyses to determine the provenance of the sherds are central to the programme. In the decades since the project's inception characterisation studies have established not only which pots were imports or not, but also moved towards pinpointing their provenance in Italy by region and in some cases by individual sites. It is because of this work that we now understand just how region-specific the cultural contact experience must have been and, to some extent, the movements of goods within Italy. The researchers also have analysed the hybrid products emerging in southern Italy such as the Grey wares and large storage jars (*dolia*). Here we have all these analyses in one place, plus new work too.

topic from diverse angles in other publications, and here they pool their collective knowledge. More than anyone else, the main authors and other contributors to the volume are the people responsible for

After Chapter 1's introduction to the research programme and its evolution over several decades, Chapter 2 provides a gazetteer of sites yielding Aegean style pottery in Italy. This is not the first such list, but this one supersedes any earlier ones as it contains the most recent discoveries. Sites are listed by number on the accompanying map and alphabetically, making for easy cross-referencing. The reader can then locate these sites more precisely on the regional geological maps of Chapter 4. In the gazetteer entries, the actual numbers of sherds are provided when known. These sherd numbers would mean more if given in relation to the quantities of ceramics of other kinds in the same levels, but such ratios are still rare in excavation reports.

A key goal in the studies of Aegean pottery in Italy has been to sync the established Aegean chronology with the native Italian one. Chapter 3 brings this work up to date, comparing Italian pots with Aegean ones in stratigraphic context at the better-excavated sites in Italy and, in a few cases, the Aegean. What becomes clear from Bettelli and Alberti's careful work is the site-specific nature of the Italian craft industries, which renders this task extremely complex. The native pottery (and metalworking) industries have local variations and chronologies, meaning that precise crossdating is rarely, and may never be, possible.

At over 250 pages, Chapter 4 is the heart of the book, presenting the pottery characterisation studies that have largely driven the research. Unsurprising for such a long-term project, the methods have evolved due to circumstance and research agendas. Here, the results of the AAS, INAA and ICP-ES work are brought together and compared, with frank assessments of the drawbacks and advantages of each (the book's appendices provide the raw chemical-composition data). There is far more exciting information in this chapter than I can even begin to summarise here. One example of novel information concerns regional production centres. Besides the better-known case of southern Italy, chemical characterisation demonstrates that Latium, Marche and the Po were all producing their own Aegean-style pots, in the near absence of any actual imports. This is unexpected indeed.

Chapter 5 tackles another question regarding Aegean-style pots in Italy: how they were made, particularly throwing and firing technologies. Of interest is the interplay between indigenous and Aegean production techniques and what that reveals about communities of practice in Bronze Age Italy. The authors of this section distinguish between fully wheel-thrown

© Antiquity Publications Ltd, 2015

pots and wheel-shaped ones, which were hand-built and then finished on the wheel. The summary of the significance of the manufacturing techniques is brief, with fuller discussion reserved for the end of the volume. An expanded discussion here would have been useful, however, lest scholars interested in ceramic technology read only this chapter.

The results and significance of the research project are summed up in Chapter 6. In some cases, this constitutes a quantification of known trends, such as the progressive shift in proportions of imported to Italo-Mycenaean pots over time. It is helpful to have the actual numbers for that shift. In other cases, the conclusions reveal interesting new patterns, such as the high percentage of Mycenaean imports originating in the Peloponnese during all periods: fully 79 per cent of the imported Mycenaean pots whose origin is known come from that region. The differences in vessel function between imports and locally made Mycenaean pots are revealing too. While tablewares are common among imports and local products alike, the frequency of storage and transport vessels is higher among the imports than the Italo-Mycenaean wares. This would seem to confirm that the contents of the pots were central in these long-distance exchanges, not (or not only) the pots themselves. Also included in Chapter 6 is a typology of vessel form and decoration of the Italo-Mycenaean wares, which will be useful for excavators of Italian sites wishing to classify their finds according to local comparanda.

The 'Implications' section (6.3) presents the current narrative of Aegean-Italian interactions in the Bronze Age, for the most part without explicitly incorporating the findings presented earlier in the book; it would almost have served better as an historical background section in Chapter 1. It is a complex story to tell given the extreme regional variation: there are few generalisations one can make. One point that comes through, however, is that technology transfer is crucial to all assessments of the extent of the interactions between these groups. At some sites, such as Roca Vecchia, there must have been sustained interaction with Aegean potters to replicate the firing techniques so faithfully: the Italo-Mycenaean wares could not have been made from simply looking at an import. This convinces me that at that site the interactions went far beyond a quick exchange of goods and then back in the boat.

The authors have been so successful in their characterisation of a prodigious sample of the wares

on Italian soil, that in terms of future research (section 6.4), they note that what is really needed now is more precise chemical characterisation coming out of the Aegean itself. This would allow for the tracking of connections between individual Greek communities and their central Mediterranean counterparts: thus, which sites in the Peloponnese are the materials coming from? That level of geographical precision would transform our studies of Bronze Age exchange, elucidating further the role of the Mycenaean palaces and the structure and scale of these enterprises.

EMMA BLAKE  
School of Anthropology  
University of Arizona, USA  
(Email: [ecblake@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ecblake@email.arizona.edu))

JOSEPHINE CRAWLEY QUINN & NICHOLAS C. VELLA (ed.). *The Punic Mediterranean: identities and identification from Phoenician settlement to Roman rule*. 2014. xxvii+376 pages, 124 colour and b&w illustrations, and 4 tables. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 978-1-107-05527-8 hardback £80.



Research on 'Phoenicians' and 'Punics' has progressed tremendously over the last four decades; it has, however, been characterised by the use of highly ambiguous ethnic and cultural labels. The contributors to this volume have assumed the much needed task of updating knowledge on the

Phoenician-Punic world, addressing questions such as: what does 'Punic' actually mean? How does it relate to 'Phoenician'? How has Punic identity been constructed by both ancients and moderns? Was there a 'Punic world'? And how coherent was Punic culture? Such questions were the starting point for the conference 'Identifying the Punic Mediterranean', held at the British School of Rome in 2008, from which the papers in this volume—with some additional contributions—derive. The collection,