

were left understated. Tartessos nevertheless makes a cameo appearance in the lavish catalogue, and the brief but pointed comment that “ancient Tartessos [was] an economy based on the circulation of Near Eastern prestige goods in the lands of aristocratic elites” (Aubet 2014: 204) readily demonstrates how closely attuned archaeological interpretations of Tartessos have become to wider Mediterranean and international concepts and debates.

Celestino and López-Ruiz are well qualified to present the wide range of materials and evidence that have been amassed by scholars working on Tartessos; they are, respectively, an archaeologist with a long track record of fieldwork and study in southern Spain, and a classicist specialised in cultural history and philology, and well at home with the Levantine evidence too. Following the introduction, the book divides into two groups of chapters that discuss the philological and historical evidence (Chapters 2–4) and the archaeological material (Chapters 5–8). A brief ‘epilogue’ (Chapter 9) wraps up the volume by taking stock of these two lines of evidence, summarising key findings and insights, and highlighting the wider south-west Iberian, Phoenician and Mediterranean contexts and connections.

Overall, this is an excellent volume that assembles and organises a wide range of archaeological, philological, iconographic and other historical evidence for a region that despite its remoteness—from a central and eastern Mediterranean perspective—was well integrated in what Broodbank (2013) has famously termed the ‘Making of the Middle Sea’ in the earlier centuries of the first millennium BC. In doing so, the authors have also made it clear that this region deserves rather more attention than the occasional footnote that Tartessos has so far achieved in Anglophone scholarship—including in Broodbank’s (2013) discussion of Mediterranean connectivity.

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FRANCESCA SILVESTRELLI & INGRID E.M. EDLUND-BERRY. *The chora of Metaponto 6: a Greek settlement at Sant’Angelo Vecchio*. 2016. xviii+659 pages, 300 colour and 660 b&cw illustrations. Austin: University of Texas Press; 978-1-4773-0947-6 hardback \$75.



This sixth title in *The chora of Metaponto* series publishes the results of excavations at a Greek settlement in

the countryside of the ancient city of Metaponto, southern Italy. As with earlier volumes detailing the results of pedestrian field survey and the excavation of Greek necropoleis and farmhouses in the region, this report marks a major investment in fieldwork, analysis and publication by the staff of the Institute of Classical Archaeology at The University of Texas and their collaborators in Italy. This collective research has made the territory of Metaponto one of the best-investigated regions in the Western Mediterranean.

The site of Sant’Angelo Vecchio is located 8km west of Metaponto. Named after a twelfth-century chapel devoted to Michael the archangel, it has been occupied in recent times by a sizable farmstead. The cutting of a new road in 1979 revealed deposits of ceramic plaques and terracotta figurines that led to two brief seasons of salvage—albeit stratigraphic—excavations. An unpublished two-volume report by Ingrid Edlund-Berry in 1982 described the results of these investigations including the discovery of parts of a sanctuary and farmhouse of archaic date, tombs of the classical period, ceramic workshops of the Early Hellenistic age, a workshop and kiln complex of the Late Republican to Early Imperial periods, and a few fragments of prehistoric, later

Roman and Early Modern date. In 2007, a generous grant from the Packard Humanities Institute funded further study, research and excavation of two tombs by Italian archaeologists under the direction of Francesca Silvestrelli.

The volume resulting from this collective work is massive. Three dozen authors contributed 37 chapters and three appendices that comprise over 600 pages of glorious archaeological description and analysis. The book is divided into three parts of unequal length. The first part (150 pages) devotes three chapters to a succinct overview of the history of the site, archaeological investigations, phasing and stratigraphy, and architecture, plus three chapters on regional ceramic production, the classical and Hellenistic tombs, and the post-antique period. Part II (50 plus pages) considers environmental topics such as geology, sediment stratigraphy, plant and animal remains, mollusc shells and landscape transformations. The bulky final section (350 pages) dedicates 25 chapters to the description of the artefact classes—mostly ceramic—catalogued and presented in a fairly standardised manner. The three appendices include tables that: quantify artefact assemblages from the excavated pottery deposits, tile concentrations and kiln complexes; enumerate ceramic-production sites in the region; and tabulate microscopic analyses of pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs. The volume is rich in illustrations, including 50 plans, maps and aerial photographs; more than 100 tables, charts and Harris matrices; over 300 colour and black and white photographs; and more than 500 illustrations of ceramic vessels, profiles and objects.

This book will prove most valuable for archaeologists working on ancient rural environments and especially ceramicists of southern Italy. Ceramic objects dominate the volume for good reason. The workshops and kilns unearthed at the site produced much of the pottery under consideration and supplied the local population with ceramic objects from the classical to Early Imperial periods. As Silvestrelli's important synthesis (Chapter 5) of ceramic production in the Metapontine region notes, the workshops found at Sant'Angelo Vecchio and other regional sites belonged to a "wider network of production" (p. 141). It should be no surprise, then, that apart from some imported amphorae and tablewares, most of the objects under study reflect the potting traditions of the Metapontine region or southern Italy. In this respect, the fulsome descriptions, catalogues and occasional

quantification of black-gloss ware and lamps, grey wares, banded ware, plain and coarse wares, roof tiles and bricks, and cooking wares make real contributions to ceramic studies in Magna Graecia. Similarly, the chapters on architectural terracottas (Chapter 29), antefix moulds (Chapter 30) and kiln furniture (Chapter 33) shed light on the vestiges of regional ceramic production that are often underexplored in modern scholarship. Experts should also consult the shorter chapters as they sometimes include valuable observations. The small number of Late Hellenistic Red Wares, for example, seem to have been imported from the Greek East, but the authors could find no clear parallels among the sigillata types of the Eastern Mediterranean. The concentration of antefix moulds discovered at the site is also unusual in the ancient world (Chapters 29 and 30).

The valuable insights on architecture, artefact assemblages and environmental data within this volume are regrettably not integrated into a coherent picture of the 'Greek settlement' noted in the title. Poor archaeological preservation caused by intensive agriculture and erosion, as well as limited excavation (712m²), clearly posed problems for interpretation, but some attempt to draw together the pieces could have offered a more compelling occupational biography of the site that considered matters such as the size and boundaries of the settlement, and the relationships over time between workshops, habitations, sanctuary, natural springs, clay sources, communication routes and the shrubby pastureland documented in the pollen sequences. The authors usually show expert attention to formation processes, and are careful to add appropriate qualifications when discussing the settlement history, but the use of categorical terms such as 'abandonment' and 'reoccupation' to describe gaps in the archaeological record (e.g. later third to early second centuries BC) downplays the complex relationship between past population levels, depositional processes and the archaeological record, as well as the limits of investigation and contingencies of archaeological discovery. One only has to consider that the excavations turned up no objects of medieval date and only a single artefact of recent times (Chapter 37), despite the site's proximity to a chapel in use from at least the twelfth century and to a large farmstead occupied since the nineteenth century.

These concerns aside, this is an important volume for its rich and thorough archaeological detail of environments and assemblages, which, as Joseph

Carter notes in the preface, contribute an additional “tessera in the mosaic of the ancient countryside that is slowly, piece by piece, coming into view at Metaponto” (p. xviii).

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IAN A. TODD. *The field survey of the Vasilikos Valley: volume II. Artefacts recovered by the field survey* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 81:10). 2016. xxxvii+412 pages, numerous b&w illustrations. Uppsala: Åströms; 978-91-7081-209-5 hardback €88.



Since 1955 when Hector Catling launched the Cyprus Survey Project, numerous archaeologists have surveyed the island,

applying increasingly sophisticated methods. The field survey in the Vasilikos Valley, which was carried out between 1976 and 1989, is one of the most important of these projects. It is also among the best documented, thanks to the efforts of Ian A. Todd and his collaborators. Volume I (Todd 2004) of the final publication presents the survey methodology and a catalogue of the sites identified; volume III (Todd 2013) concerns ‘Human settlement in the Vasilikos Valley’. The book under review here, volume II, deals with the artefacts collected by the survey. Some of the contributors note that their chapters were submitted for publication a number of years ago, and this is reflected in the bibliography where, out of 439 titles, only 17 were published in 2013, 7 in 2014, and just 2 each in 2015 and 2016. Such a time lag, however, is almost inevitable in publications of this nature, co-written by several authors over an extended period of time.

The volume is divided into two parts. Section A deals with ceramics, presented and discussed by period (Neolithic–Chalcolithic, Joanne Clarke; Early Bronze Age/Middle Bronze Age, Mara T. Horowitz; Late Bronze Age, Alison South; Geometric–Archaic, Anna Georgiadou; Classical–Late Roman, Marcus Rautman; and Medieval–Colonial, Bethany Walker). Section B, which is more site-oriented, is concerned with non-ceramic artefacts (chipped stone industries, Carole McCartney; ground stone tools and a

summary of other artefacts, Todd). There are also three appendices concerning a stamp seal from Kalavassos-Arkangelos and a wall bracket fragment with a Cypro-Minoan sign from Kalavassos-Kaparovouno, both authored by Joanna S. Smith, and a catalogue of artefacts by Ian Todd, which is available for download at www.astromeditations.com.

The volume is, however, more than an artefact catalogue—although that would be no mean feat in itself. Many of the authors set their material in an archaeological and geographic context, and in so doing they make interesting observations that add considerably to our knowledge of the history of the survey area and, by implication, of Cyprus as a whole, from the earliest times through to the Colonial period. The presentation of the lithic finds is very thorough, but it would have been interesting to see a general discussion of how this material can contribute to our knowledge of the development of Neolithic Cyprus. It is gratifying, though, that the evidence from the Hellenistic period onwards has been analysed with the same attention to detail as that given to the earlier periods—in the past, the vast majority of scholars, Cypriot and foreign alike, have tended to focus their attention on the island’s prehistory.

We live in a time of increasing scholarly specialisation, and it is unlikely that many readers will find time or have the inclination to peruse the volume in its entirety. Most will presumably focus on the chapters within their own particular field of expertise, and they are therefore sure to find a great deal of interest. I was, for instance, struck by Anna Georgiadou’s conclusion (pp. 105–106) that the majority of the pottery in the Vasilikos survey from the Cypro-Geometric and Cypro-Archaic periods is stylistically similar to ceramics from the urban centre of Amathus, some 15km to the west of the survey area. This fits well with my own conclusions regarding the regionality of the island in the Hellenistic and Roman periods (Lund 2015). The same applies to the percentages of the predominant fine wares within the same time frame cited by Marcus Rautman in his useful discussion of “A living landscape” (pp. 136–40, tab. 5.3); his reference to Amathus as an “important Seleucid centre” (p. 132) must be a slip of the pen because Cyprus was unquestionably part of the Ptolemaic Empire in the Hellenistic Age.

The numerous distribution maps, tables and drawings of the individual finds make it relatively easy for the reader to navigate through the mass of