

essential to the archaeological record and to tell us (p. 139) what ostracism is; but more technical architectural terms, such as 'anta', '*in antis*', and 'metope', are nowhere commented upon (though 'prostyle' is explained on p. 202), and a fairly detailed knowledge of the Doric and Ionic orders is assumed throughout. A similar pattern is found in the notes: the great majority of the time, ancient sources mentioned in the text are meticulously referenced in the notes, but there are, for example, no references for the mentions of Vitruvius on pp. 169, 203, and 216, nor for the 'line in Aristophanes' on p. 217.

There is, perhaps inevitably, quite a bit of repetition or recapitulation; even the discussion of whether the Parthenon can actually be termed a temple in the strict sense of the word (pp. 161–5) is anticipated on p. 27. Once or twice H. slips up, as when Octavian is called Caesar's stepson on p. 263; and one or two of his opinions are at least questionable, as when he categorically states that the inner colonnades of the Parthenon were not load-bearing (p. 169—Coulton certainly does not say this). In some respects the book does not make easy reading: the Americanisms will occasionally grate upon the British reader, the frequent use of sometimes lengthy brackets can prove distracting, and some of the lists of offerings are extremely long. The spelling of Greek words (mostly strict transliterations, but e.g. 'acropolis' and 'Attica' throughout) is defended in an *apologia* in the Introduction; but that does not explain 'Panathenaia' four times and 'Panathenaea' twice on p. 116.

The book, then, can be criticized, and very occasionally faulted, on points of detail both of style and content. But this should not obscure the extent of H.'s achievement. We have here about as much detail on almost all aspects of the acropolis as we can reasonably expect to find within a single volume.

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## MIDEA

G. WALBERG (ed.): *Excavations on the Acropolis of Midea. Results of the Greek–Swedish Excavations. Vols 1:1 Text, 1:2: The Excavations on the Lower Terraces 1985–1991*. (Skrifter Utgivna av Svenska Institutet i Athen 40, XLIX:I:1, 2.) Pp. 364, 152 pls. Stockholm: Swedish Institute in Athens, 1998. Cased. ISBN: 91-7916-039-5.

The first volume of the recent excavations in the citadel of Midea presents the finds from the 1985–91 excavations on the Lower Terraces, which were supervised by G. Walberg (University of Cincinnati). This was part of a wider project of investigations in the citadel of Midea, undertaken by a Greek–Swedish team. The area around the West Gate of the citadel was dug by K. Demakopoulou and N. Divari-Valakou (Greek Archaeological Service), while the East Gate area was dug by P. Åström (University of Göteborg). This first volume will be followed by accounts of the excavations in these other parts of the citadel.

The volume opens with some basic information on the site. This is followed by a large chapter on the stratigraphy of the Lower Terraces, which are located on the more gentle northern slope and had deeper accumulations than the rest of the largely eroded citadel area. This chapter provides detailed documentation for each stratum in each trench. The assemblage from each stratum is described briefly, percentages of pottery from the main phases are given, and the catalogued objects are listed; at the end the

stratigraphic sequence of each trench is presented in a brief and useful summary. The finds are placed more firmly in their spatial context in a separate chapter, where both the architecture and the finds of each room used during the main periods of occupation (mostly late Mycenaean and Roman) are described. More detailed observations on the extant architecture can be found in a special chapter.

The next chapter presents the ceramic finds by period. The assemblage as a whole does not hide any surprises, but it allows useful comparison with other major sites, especially for the less well understood Middle and early Late Bronze Age. Unfortunately the pottery from the pre-LHIIIB period is found in mixed layers. The large amounts of Pictorial pottery is particularly noteworthy. Some interesting observations are made on the well-documented LHIIIB material: the division of the period into two sub-phases (LHIIIB1–B2) which has been observed in Mycenae does not seem to hold in Midea. Of course, by now the results of the Tiryns excavations have alerted us to the fact that the sequence in one site might not fully correspond to that at another in the same region. However, synchronisms are still fraught with difficulties: if the Midea material shares more similarities with that from the Tiryns LHIIIB middle phase (p. 131 n. 267), it becomes difficult to treat the destructions in the two places as contemporary, and in Midea we would be dealing with a longer gap in occupation until the LHIIIC early (but not earliest) period. Establishing more precise synchronisms between the various phases of the Mycenaean palatial centres and their final destruction remains a desideratum of Mycenaean archaeology.

The history of occupation is presented in a useful summary at the end of the book. There is perhaps evidence for limited occupation in the NL and EH periods, while the settlement must have grown in the MH period, especially during its later stages—but any inferences on these periods are tentative.

The LHIIIB phase is clearly the most important period in the history of Midea. The citadel wall (built in LHIIIB middle) encloses an area of 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> (i.e. bigger than Mycenae at 38,500 and Tiryns at 20,000 m<sup>2</sup>). Remains of houses and part of a large megaron complex are found in the Lower Terraces. (The megaron complex will be fully discussed in a second volume.) The evidence for important economic, administrative, military, and ritual activities taking place in the excavated area gives us a good indication of the status of the site as a whole. There is evidence for organized storage, probably of agricultural produce, as well as for craft production: possible remains of jewelry workshops have been discovered in the West Gate area. There are imported raw materials (e.g. glass ingots, rock crystal, serpentine, andesite). Military activity or presence is indicated by fragments of body armour and weapons, while a cultic function has been suggested for a room with a rich assemblage, including fragments of one large female and one large bovine figurine. The evidence for administration is not rich, but an inscribed and sealed nodulus and an inscribed stirrup jar have been found. Fragments of frescoes and a worked block further attest to the importance of the site. The evidence, fragmentary as it might be, clearly hints at the importance and wealth of the site. According to Walberg, Midea might be the eastern link of a defence system, with Mycenae in the north, Argos in the west, and Tiryns and Asine in the south. This suggestion, however, glosses over the problem of the political organization of the Mycenaean Argolid: are we dealing with a unified system with one dominant centre, or with peer and autonomous palace states?

The citadel was destroyed in, or just after, the middle of LHIIIB by a devastating earthquake, as indicated by fallen blocks and tilted walls. The new investigations have revealed that occupation during LHIIIC was more extensive and prosperous than hitherto thought. Damage to earlier layers indicates extensive rebuilding, and the

evidence for architectural continuity across the transition implies cultural continuity. The citadel then lay more or less abandoned for over 1,000 years—therefore Pausanias' description of Midea as abandoned ruins is confirmed. The site was reoccupied in the Roman period, perhaps already in the third, but mostly the late fourth century, abandoned again in the late sixth century A.D. (perhaps because of the Slavic invasion of the 580s?), and, finally, occupied briefly in the Middle Byzantine period (late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries).

The volume concludes with appendices on the lead finds and the faunal remains followed by a study of Bronze Age organic remains and subsistence. The presentation of the data in this volume is very systematic and detailed. The meticulous account of finds from all periods is particularly to be lauded. There are some repetitions and overlaps which could perhaps be avoided with more careful editing—but overall this is a very useful volume that enriches our understanding of this important site.

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### BOARDMAN'S HAT TRICK

G. R. TSETSKHLADZE, A. J. N. W. PRAG, A. M. SNODGRASS (edd.): *Periplous: Papers on Classical Art and Archaeology Presented to Sir John Boardman*. Pp. 416, ill. London: Thames & Hudson, 2000. Cased, £38. ISBN: 0-500-05097-X.

*Periplous* is indeed, as its name suggests, a work which invites one to travel the length and breadth of the Classical World, incorporating areas as remote as the Black Sea and Britain, though largely concentrating on the area around the Mediterranean. Its contributors too consist of a host of international scholars, many renowned within their fields and all linked by their connections with Professor Boardman, though excluding his Greek colleagues, whose contributions formed the content of a previous collection (p. 11; O. Palagia [ed.], *Greek Offerings. Essays in Honour of John Boardman* [Oxford, 1997]). It is a mark of his importance and prestige within the field of Classical Archaeology that this is indeed the third such work to have been presented to him (after G. Tsetskhladze, F. De Angelis [edd.], *The Archaeology of Greek Colonisation. Essays Dedicated to Sir John Boardman* [Oxford, 1994 and Palagia, 1997]).

The work consists of forty-seven papers, arranged alphabetically by author. Naturally, most of these are fairly short, about 3500 words in length, and they can be typified as either presentations of individual objects or groups of objects, often published here for the first time as the result of excavations or new acquisitions by museums (e.g. Arafat and Morgan; Burn; Cartledge; Williams) or short discussions of a particular topic (e.g. Dasen; Jenkins), though a few take on wider topics, such as the uniqueness of Cypriot art (Tatton-Brown) or the influence of Greek art on that of Roman Britain (Henig). Henig's paper is one of only four which discuss Roman material (Henig; Small; R. R. R. Smith; Touchette). The volume as a whole, as follows from Boardman's own interests, is very clearly concentrated on the field of Greek art and archaeology, though with a vast range of topics, periods, and areas included within it.

While the papers themselves are not grouped according to any particular theme, they do in fact present a number of contributions to those fields in which Boardman