THE NORTH-EAST PELOPONNESE

J. M. Fossey (ed.): *Argolo-Korinthiaka I: Proceedings of the First Montreal Conference on the Archaeology and History of the North East Peloponnesos, McGill University, 27 November 1993*. (Monographies en archéologie et histoire classiques de l'Université McGill, 20.) Pp. xi + 91 + 3, ills, pls. Amsterdam: Gieben, 1997. Paper, Hfl. 90. ISBN: 90-5063-458-3.

This slim volume (sent for review in 1999) contains material of interest to historians of Argos and Sparta, topographers of the Peloponnese, and students of modern Greek culture. There are four papers in French and three in English (those by Foley, Baronowski, and Greenfield). The layout is spartan (A4 camera-ready copy), but the photographs are clear and there are few typographic errors. (Syracuse appears, oddly, as 'Syrakosion' several times in Foley's paper; on p. 51 *ὀχυπότητα* should read *ὀχυρότητα*. Several of Fossey's references to Livy xxxix should be to Livy xxxiv.) Even such a short work would have benefited from an index.

There are two contributions to Argolic topography. Ginette Gauvin and Jacques Morin (pp. 1–13) publish three sites from the margins of inland plains. Lophos Kokkinou, in Kleonaian territory, has Early Bronze Age sherds and a late classical circuit wall. Spathovouni, also Kleonaian, has terrace walls and Bronze Age, Geometric, and black-glazed sherds with a gap in LH III. (See, however, G. A. Pikoulas, *῾Οδικὸ δίκτυο καὶ ἄμυνα* [Athens, 1995], p. 163: the precise locality is Kotroni, and the walls include remains of a rectangular signalling tower.) Both occupy strategic locations. In the territory of Phleious, an Early and Late Bronze Age site west of Agios Charalambos may have had an agricultural function. More sites may await discovery on the margins of the plains, as the plains themselves are largely covered by post-classical colluvium.

Gauvin (pp. 29–43) separately publishes new information about a classical or Hellenistic tower south of Mt Polyphengos, which is south-east of Phleious. (Pikoulas, op. cit. pp. 237–9, states that Pyrgos or Paliopyrgos is the correct toponym, not Polyphengos.) It was visible from other towers and controlled an important route; but its military function did not involve signalling, as it did not occupy the available summit. In Roman times, when, like other Argolic towers, it had a *trapetum*, it had a primarily agricultural rôle.

Four papers cover ancient history. Anne M. Foley (pp. 15–28) takes a fresh look at Pheidon of Argos, showing that scholars have massaged the flimsy sources to make him fit different contexts. Nothing explicitly links him to the battle of Hysiai. No evidence justifies the emendation of Pausanias by which his takeover of Olympia is moved from the eighth to the twenty-eighth Olympiad. Archaeological evidence makes Argive supremacy in the early seventh century unlikely, but fits much better an extension of power towards Elis and interference in Corinth in the period 750–700.

Philip J. Smith (pp. 45–53) examines the fragmentary sources for Argive history between 200 and 146 B.C. Flamininus omitted it from his list of free cities because he regarded it as being under Nabis' authority. Aitolian discontent, and the need to keep the Achaeans on-side, forced him into a U-turn later. After 192 there is little to say; Argos remained in the Achaean league until 146, when it may have obtained provincial status.

Fossey (pp. 55–63) analyses Nabis' dealings with Argolic towns. The ancient sources'

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depiction of Nabis as a tyrant may simply reflect his treatment of anti-Spartan Argive aristocrats. (Relevant epigraphic texts are printed in appendixes but have lost their square brackets; F. correctly states that reconstructions of *IG* iv.497 = *SEG* iii.313 are unreliable, but in the appendix he fails to indicate the substantial lacunae.) Since archaic times, Sparta had encouraged small Argolic towns to be independent of Argos (also granting new homelands to people expelled by the Argives). When Nabis encouraged Mycenae and other towns to claim *polis* status, he was following Spartan precedent.

Donald Walter Baronowski (pp. 65–72) denies that Polybios bought Roman values wholesale. Polybios admires imperialism, but condemns misbehaviour and unjustified aggression. He castigates Greek leaders who knuckle under without protest or pointlessly resist. Wise politicians sought amelioration of Roman terms first, and only then complied if necessary. Polybios saw conservative regimes as most likely to take this middle way, so his 'democracy' is oligarchic.

In an innovative study, Richard P. H. Greenfield (pp. 73–91) studies modern wayside shrines, largely neglected in studies of modern Greece. He establishes a typology and shows that form, quality, and durability are subordinate to meaning. Shrines not only indicate sites of accidents or danger, but may mark turns, junctions, and boundaries, and turn aside evil spirits. Links with classical and medieval religion are tantalizingly left for future study.

The volume concludes with abstracts of papers delivered but not published: Foley on geometric pottery from Asine, Anton Jansen on the Mycenae Survey, Vakhtang Licheli on ancient contacts between Argos and Georgia, Martin C. J. Miller on late Hellenistic and Roman coinage of Argos, and Eléni P. Zoïtopoúlou on Roman lamps from Argos.

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CYPRUS AND THE WEST

L. Bonfante, V. Karageorghis (edd.): *Italy and Cyprus in Antiquity: 1500–450 B.C. Proceedings of an International Symposium held at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University, November 16–18 2000*. Pp. xv + 393, ills. Nicosia: The Costakis and Leto Severi's Foundation, 2001. Paper, Cy£35. ISBN: 9963-8102-3-3.

Around 1300 B.C., a Levantine merchantman left one of the primary Aegean ports; it sank near Uluburun in Turkey. It was made of cedarwood and oak, and had a carrying capacity of about 20 tons. Its cargo represented goods from nine or ten ancient cultures, and included 10 tons of copper ingots and a ton of tin ingots, glass ingots, terebinth resin in Canaanite jars, hippotamus teeth, an elephant tusk, ostrich eggshells, ebony logs, Cypriot pottery in *pithoi*, copper vessels, faience drinking cups, ivory cosmetic containers, wooden containers, glass and faience beads, seashell rings, and probably textiles, as well as various personal effects. In addition, two Mycenaeans were travelling on board, with swords, pectorals of blue glass relief pendant beads, and seals; they were accompanied by an individual from the Balkans carrying a sword, a ceremonial sceptre and mace, and a globe-headed pin. Another sword of Canaanite origin, with an intact ebony- and ivory-inlaid hilt, and a dagger to match,

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