references which P. cites. Another surprising omission is a more systematic consideration of the identifications of species of fish. It would be a thankless task to attempt to complete revamp the material available in the works of D'Arcy Thompson[2] and E. de St Denis.[3] As much of the identification of species mentioned by Greek authors in use by researchers draws on these works, it seems unfortunate that P. has not availed himself of the opportunity in what is, apparently, the early stage of a larger research project to examine the ways in which both authors have discussed the species which are covered in his research in a systematic way.

P. has, then, provided us with an interesting and useful resource which handles the mentions of fish in Latin literature and what this can tell us about the use of fish in the ancient world from a variety of angles. The systematic approach taken to the source material and the range of approaches that are taken to it ensures that it will be a useful and interesting resource for those working with the poets of the Republican and early Augustan period. The limitations in his work arise, for the most part, from trying to embrace a wide range of topics, any one of which would have made a worthwhile target for attention in themselves in a series of comparatively brief volumes.

University College, Cork ADAM BARTLEY
doi:10.1093/clrevj/bni309

FROM PALACE TO POLIS

C. G. Thomas, C. Conant: *Citadel to City-State. The Transformation of Greece, 1200–700 B.C.E.* Pp. xxxiv + 199, maps, ills. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1999. Paper, £15.95. ISBN: 0-253-21602-8 (0-253-33496-9 hbk).

This is a welcome study of one of the most complex periods of ancient Greece. The period starts with the fall of the Mycenaean palace system at the end of the thirteenth century, and ends with the rise of the city-states at the end of the eighth. In six chapters, six sites are examined. According to the authors these sites played an important rôle during different stages of the period.

Mycenae is explored first, since it offers the opportunity to discuss the Mycenaean palace system and how it operated. It also invites a general discussion of the theories of the causes of the destruction of the palace system. Nichoria in Messenia is examined as a typical site which perhaps had a semi-autonomous status and served as a miniature redistribution centre under the palatial system. After the collapse, however, it offers 'a good validation of the Homeric picture' (p. 57) and can be also better comprehended by the application of models from social anthropology. The eleventh century there is regarded as a possible seat of a 'Big Man', while it is argued that the construction of structures in the mid-tenth century reveals a more complex society which is compared with that reflected in Homer. Athens is seen as the site which attracted refugees in the eleventh century; this is based mostly on later traditions and little on the archaeology. Lefkandi and its building played an important rôle in the tenth century, and especially for opening up communication with the East. Corinth's growth in the eight century led eventually to its early political

[2]D'Arcy Thompson's *Book of Greek Fish* (London, 1947).
[3]E. de St Denis, *Le vocabulaire des animaux marins en Latin classique* (Paris, 1947).

The Classical Review vol. 55 no. 2 © The Classical Association 2005; all rights reserved

https://doi.org/10.1093/clrevj/bni310 Published online by Cambridge University Press

developments and colonization. The significance of these changes at home and abroad is taken into account together with the outcome of contacts between Greeks and 'Others'. Finally, Ascra is regarded as a community 'midway between the simplicity of a Dark Age settlement and the complexity of the Archaic polis' (p. 148). It also provides the opportunity to include Hesiod in the discussion.

This book is clearly written by historians and not by archaeologists. Perhaps for this reason I feel that there are some misunderstandings in the way the archaeology of the period is treated. For example, it is not clear what the evidence suggesting Athens was in control of the whole of Attica might be or how we explain changes in burial customs at the beginning of the Sub-Mycenaean period, when, according to tradition, refugees arrived. The tradition of the Ionian migration is also taken as fitting the archaeological evidence but with new discoveries on the west coast of Asia Minor the whole issue has become more complex. But even if the tradition is right about the arrival of refugees, why did they not explore the rest of Attica rather than endanger themselves in a long trip to found settlements at the other end of the Aegean? At Lefkandi, Xeropolis was certainly not abandoned after the end of the Late Bronze Age to the Late Geometric period; even the early excavations produced tenth and ninth centuries material there. The theory that after the collapse Greece turned to nomadic life has been challenged and does not explain how these nomads at Lefkandi turned into seafarers. At Mycenae, as in the rest of the Argolid, we have a strong local Protogeometric style with only a few influences from Athens. The survey in the area of Ascra cannot reveal much about the settlement contemporary with Hesiod. Finally, the Late Helladic IIIC period, covering the twelfth period, deserves a more full account from occasional references but such appreciation can only come from archaeology.

Thus, the book brings into light the period previously known as a Dark Age and proves that it is indeed a crucial period not only because it helps to understand the following Archaic period but in its own right. However, it is also clear that this period deserves a better understanding of its complex archaeology.

Oxford IRENE S. LEMOS
doi:10.1093/clrevj/bni310

ERETRIA

K. G. WALKER: *Archaic Eretria. A Political and Social History from the Earliest Times to 490 BC*. Pp. xviii + 348, maps, ills. London and New York: Routledge, 2004. Cased, £65. ISBN: 0-415-28552-6.

This is the first monograph published on Eretria; it might be possible to justify an account of the city's history as a whole, but to end at 490 creates serious difficulties: much evidence from after 490 is adduced, but not discussed for its own sake. A stated—and achieved—objective is (p. xiii) 'to [make available in English] . . . material . . . that has appeared in other languages . . . over the last half century'. The author admits (p. xvi) to 'a propensity for wandering down minor research byways'; he rarely writes few words where many will do, and much of the book presents at length his views on non-Euboean matters. Had these tendencies been curbed, it would have been possible to progress beyond 490 and fulfil the original intention (p. xiii) to 'include chapters on dialect, demes, the arts and architecture, coinage and . . .

The Classical Review vol. 55 no. 2 © The Classical Association 2005; all rights reserved

https://doi.org/10.1093/clrevj/bni310 Published online by Cambridge University Press