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Cover illustration from Robin Rönnlund in this volume, p. 123, fig. 6. Photograph by Robin Rönnlund. Courtesy of Ministry of Culture and Sports—Directorate for the Administration of the National Archive of Monuments—Department for the Administration of the Historical Archive of Antiquities and Restorations.

general overview of the Parthenon's extensive sculptural decoration. The text focuses on the east pediment and emphasizes the narrative unity of the birth of Athena alongside the individuality inherent in the representations of the gods. She perceives the concepts of *repose*, *trust*, and *unanimity* in the better preserved corner figures (L/M, E/F, and D). However, given the complete loss of the central divinities, the east pediment remains challenging for an overall interpretation. The next topic is a series of five Roman apotheosis reliefs—considered in reverse chronological order beginning with the Antoninus Pius and Faustina column base in the Vatican and ending with the Grand Camée de France. In terms of format and imagery the Parthenon and Antoninus' memorial are very different and it is hard to see how they fit into the same chapter.

The book's last case study is a short overview of Greek and Roman coinage. Beginning with the silver "turtles" of Aegina, it presents the major mints (Athens, Syracuse, Macedonia, Egypt, and Imperial Rome) with a brief foray into Islamic and Chinese coinage. It is here in the last chapter that a close connection, rather than treating them as distinct entities, is made between Greek and Roman imagery in the form of the ruler portrait. While Roman frescoes also notably borrow their imagery from lost Greek panel paintings, other connections could be explored. For instance, could the ass and lion painting in Pompeii be referencing one of the most famous courtesans in ancient Greece who was named Leaina or "lioness," as mentioned by Plutarch and Pausanias? The death of Phaeton sarcophagi are said to depict the grieving *paidigogos* for the first time, but he already appears in Greek vase painting, mourning the deaths of Medea's sons. Might the eagle bearing Roman emperors to heaven not be somewhat indebted to the imagery of Ganymede's abduction by Zeus in the form of the raptor?

This reviewer found it convenient to read the conclusion first and to become familiar with the recurrent terms used throughout the text. What is stressed in each chapter are artistic materials, modes of production, format of the imagery, archaeological context, and meaning in ancient society. There is less consideration of iconography per se, and often figures are left only vaguely identified. The one major drawback of this book are the illustrations; they are plentiful but none is in colour which is unfortunate for Greek vases and Roman wall paintings, and they are way too small to discern any of the details mentioned in the text. Priced at US\$170 for the hardback this seems highly unfair for libraries which traditionally want durable books; fortunately others can buy the paperback for one-sixth the price.

Scholars are known to republish journal articles in volumes of their collected works; thus, at least before the internet, making it easier to access them. In this instance Rystedt has revised and expanded some of her previously published articles, several of which were written in Swedish. Hence it is useful to find the material revisited here in greater depth and

in more widely accessible English. With its broad compass from large-scale sculpture to small-scale coins and its chronological range, this book will serve students who can thereby gain a deep understanding of many forms of classical art, their complex imagery, and their meaning in ancient society. It is much more than the sum of its seemingly disparate parts and as such should prove enlightening to scholars at all levels.

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V. Evangelidis, *The archaeology of Roman Macedonia. Urban and rural environments*, Oxbow Books: Oxford & Philadelphia 2022, 223 pp., ISBN 978-1-78925-801-1
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The archaeology of Roman Macedonia aims, in the author's words, "to provide a synthetic look at the built environment of Roman Macedonia" (p. xi); more specifically, this book attempts to gather and synthetically discuss the archaeological work that has thus far been undertaken in the region that nowadays covers northern Greece and the modern state of Northern Macedonia. The literature used to achieve this goal consists of excavation reports in the *Archaeologikon Deltion* and the *AEMTh* (*Το Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στη Μακεδονία και τη Θράκη*), but also individual articles and monographs that have been produced over the last decades, as well as (unpublished) postgraduate theses of the students of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The thematic focus of the work is clearly on built landscapes and how architecture fits and interacts with them.

The book starts with a Foreword (pp. xi–xii) by the author, shortly explaining his desired goals and his bibliographical sources. An 'Introduction' (pp. xv–xvi) follows, written by Dimitris Grigoropoulos as a short review of the book and its significance in modern scholarship.

The main body of the book is divided into three parts. Part I ('Roman Macedonia: history, people, cities and resources'), consisting of four chapters, sets the historical context of Roman Macedonia. Chapter 1 (pp. 3–12) briefly outlines some major historical events and their impact on the province during the Late Hellenistic period, the Principate and Late Antiquity; a sub-chapter acts as a note on the human geography of the province. Chapter 2 (pp. 13–24) stresses the importance of the physical geography and the natural resources of the province for the development of its micro-regions and local

cultures. Chapter 3 (pp. 25–32) treats aspects of decline and continuity in urban and rural life under Roman rule; here, the observed “stagnation” of urban life is disconnected from specific events (e.g., the Roman Civil Wars or natural disasters) and it is rather seen as the result of longer processes, such as the restructuring of urban hierarchies and the shift of economic interests in new zones along the *Via Egnatia*, which led to the broader transformation of the political landscape of Macedonia (e.g., the rise of new pro-Roman centres). *Via Egnatia* is treated separately in Chapter 4 (pp. 33–37) because of its crucial role in all the aforementioned developments.

Part II (‘Built environment: the archaeological evidence’) includes the majority of the book’s chapters (5–16) and it provides an overview of the known archaeological landscapes and buildings in Roman Macedonia. Chapter 5 (pp. 41–43) stands as an introduction, embracing a short history of research on the archaeology of Roman Macedonia, which is then presented in more detail thematically in the next chapters. The built environment is perceived as reflecting both collective and individual identities, the needs and aspirations of the society that created it, as well as changes to it in the face of new social and cultural conditions; the chapters that follow are meant to discuss different kinds of urban and rural landscapes and building types within this frame. Starting with the public urban space, Chapter 6 (pp. 44–54) discusses *agorai* and *fora*; Chapter 7 (pp. 55–68) focuses on administrative and other public buildings; Chapter 8 (pp. 69–74) moves on to ‘Buildings of commerce and industry’; Chapter 9 (pp. 75–92) investigates sanctuaries and temples; Chapter 10 (pp. 93–103) presents the theatres and other buildings where public spectacles took place; and finally, Chapter 11 (pp. 104–119) tackles the architecture of water infrastructure. With Chapter 12 (pp. 120–128), the reader is transferred through the creation of a monumental cityscape with colonnaded streets, arches, and gates, to the more domestic sphere: Chapter 13 (pp. 129–141) examines houses in urban and peri-urban contexts. Chapter 14 (pp. 142–148) comments on the (re)fortification of cities in Macedonia under Roman rule, while Chapter 15 (pp. 149–159) moves from the world of the living to that of the dead with urban and rural deathscapes. The rural landscapes are discussed last, in Chapter 16 (pp. 160–170), closing this part.

Part III (‘Urban and rural environments in Roman Macedonia’) comprises the last four main chapters of the book, and it is basically the author’s synthetic commentary on the archaeological material presented in Part II. Starting with some remarks on the building methods and techniques in Chapter 17 (pp. 173–175), the assessment of the material begins in Chapter 18 (pp. 176–186) with the urban landscapes, conducted first through a time perspective, in two chronological phases (Late Hellenistic to Early Roman, and mid-2nd century AD to early 4th century AD); and then, through a typological division into old urban landscapes, with long

pre-existing cities (e.g., Thasos, Abdera, Maronea) preserving their main planning and infrastructure with the addition of some new architectural elements, and radically new urban landscapes, based on strong axiality, Roman-style buildings, and conformity to strict layouts (Philippi, Dion, Thessaloniki, Beroia, Stobi, Heraclea Lyncestis, Styberra). Those new features were not applied in order to promote a certain Roman character, but rather they were related to a new concept of life that was supported by a certain infrastructure. Chapter 19 (pp. 187–192) suggests a new understanding of the rural landscapes, beyond the villa economy model; the rural landscape, being part of individual and collective identities, should also be considered as a scene for ritual or symbolic activities, as a socially constructed environment that expresses cultural distinctiveness, continuity, and memory. Finally, in Chapter 20 (pp. 193–195) *provincia Macedonia* is put into a wider perspective through comparison and contrast with the province of Achaëa in the south. In this frame, the extent of building/rebuilding undertaken between the 2nd–4th centuries AD is much greater in Macedonia than in Achaëa, while the former also conforms more closely to empire-wide architectural types and trends. Evangelidis links these particularities of the Macedonian province to the lack of previous tradition in extensive monumental architecture, to low levels of urbanization before the Roman period, to the province’s strategic importance for the Romans because of its geographical location within the Empire, and to the initiatives of the local élites as the new sponsors of large projects after the disappearance of the royal court.

Evangelidis’ book opens up a promising field of research for Roman Macedonia. As Grigoropoulos states in his review of the qualities of the work in the ‘Introduction,’ this study forms the initial impetus in finally putting Macedonia into discourses that have been long thriving in the case of Achaëa but which are long overdue when it comes to the former Macedonian kingdom. The built urban and rural landscapes of Roman Macedonia are presented and then discussed within current theoretical and methodological trends in research, an approach that is mostly used in the case of the rural environments.

Part II might initially appear as a rather tedious read, since it is essentially an overview of the known built landscapes and architectural elements of Roman Macedonia, but it actually forms a remarkable effort to gather all these elements together—otherwise scattered into hundreds of excavation reports, mostly in Greek—and to discuss them within a firm landscape perspective, be it urban or rural. The only information that appeared somewhat redundant within the scope of the study was a presentation of some purely architectural details of the form, size, and orientation of various monuments; this level of detail of information is suitable for excavation reports, but in this case it interrupts the flow of reading and does not really contribute to the conclusions of the book.

Furthermore, the geographical and chronological framework of the study seems somewhat arbitrary and lacks a rationale. The Roman province of Macedonia encompassed many more regions than the ones covered here (modern northern Greece and Northern Macedonia), especially during such a long time-span that this book intends to cover; a rationale for the reasons why this particular area was chosen to be studied was surely needed. The time frame would also need better argumentation, because Late Antiquity is basically reduced to an extensive treatment of the palatial complex of Galerius in Thessaloniki (pp. 63–68), which stands alone without further context or parallels from elsewhere. Finally, the contextualization of the province itself could be certainly strengthened by closer comparisons with the province of Achaëa, using specific examples to illustrate the various points made.

All things considered, *The archaeology of Roman Macedonia* is a most welcome addition to the future study of the first Roman province in the eastern Mediterranean. The author himself describes clearly the value of his work in the 'Epilogue' (p. 196): the book stands as a synthetic look at the existing archaeological evidence, with the hope that the evidence presented in the different chapters will prove helpful as a starting point for those who wish to dig deeper into more specialized matters regarding Roman Macedonia. The material presented might not be new, but the way it is gathered and handled seems promising for new province-wide approaches in the Roman world, especially for the case of *provincia Macedonia* which still remains under-represented in studies of the Roman provinces of the eastern Mediterranean.

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S. Minna, ed., *Challenges, strategies and high-tech applications for saving the cultural heritage of Syria. Proceedings of the workshop held at the 10th ICAANE in Vienna, April 2016* (Oriental and European Archaeology, 21), Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences 2022, 247 pp. ISBN: 978-3-7001-8374-7

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A workshop held in Vienna in April 2016 as part of the 10th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) is the subject of the current edition of the Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) series.

Minna Silver convened the workshop with the intention of discussing previous and current initiatives to protect Syrian cultural heritage and obstacles related to this objective; she edited the 15 contributions from the workshop that make up this publication. The volume is divided into five sections: 'Some Syrian views on saving cultural heritage' (Articles 1 and 2), 'Past documentation projects in Syria' (Articles 3–5), 'European and American initiatives' (Articles 6–8), 'Technical examples and solutions' (Articles 9–12), and 'Documentation, databases, and reaching people' (Articles 13–15).

Ammar Abdulrahman in the first article, 'Archaeology in the shadow of the crisis in Syria', discusses the harm done to archaeology as a discipline as a result of the suspension of the archaeological expeditions conducted in Syria, and the consequences of the war on the professors of archaeology who were unable to teach their students what they had learned. Likewise, international archaeological institutes such as the DAI (German Archaeological Institute), IFBO (the French Institute for the Near East), and American, Danish, and Dutch institutes that helped students learn and train, as well as producing important publications, were also shut down.

The most pressing difficulties in the reconstruction of Syrian heritage were covered in the second article by Nibal Muhesen: 'Reconstruction Syrian cultural heritage: Mapping challenges and impacts'. Based on their shared memories and common past, opposing groups can come together thanks to cultural legacy and pave the route for reconciliation. There have been several documentation efforts and damage assessment activities, but there has been a conspicuous lack of focus on the important issue of reconstruction and post-war strategies to rehabilitate the destroyed heritage, both socially and physically. The process of reconstruction should take into account a number of factors, such as collective memory, national identity/identities, colonial and post-colonial past, authenticity, sustainability and tourism revival, as well as a variety of conflicting narratives, local opinion and interests, refugees and displaced persons, justice, and education. The paper concludes with suggestions for the best tactics to use when plans are made for the reconstruction of Syrian heritage, based on literature and observation of reconstruction examples from Aleppo and Homs.

The third article by Johannes Koder, Marcell Restle, and Peter Waldhäusl, titled 'Late Antique and Early Byzantine architectural monuments in the Hauran: Results of two expeditions to Syria 1978–1980', is concerned with the harm done to Syrian cultural heritage during the Arab-Israeli conflict between the Independence War of 1948 and the October War of 1973. The ancient Roman and Byzantine ruins in the Hauran provided the well-shaped basalt stones that were used by displaced people who had arrived in Syria and urgently needed to build themselves new dwellings. The authors, on behalf of the Technical University of Vienna, performed photogrammet-