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V. di Napoli, F. Camia, V. Evangelidis, D. Grigoropoulos, D. Rogers, S. Vlizos (eds.), *What's new in Roman Greece? Recent work on the Greek Mainland and the islands in the Roman period. Proceedings of a conference held in Athens, 8–10 October 2015* (MEΛETHMATA, 80), National Hellenic Research Foundation/Institute of Historical Research: Athens 2018. 646 pp., 16 pls. ISBN 978-960-9538-79-4

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The volume *What's new in Roman Greece?* presents the proceedings of the homonymous conference held in October 2015 in Athens, co-organized by the Roman Seminar and the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)/Institute of Historical Research-Section of Greek and Roman Antiquity.

The conference is presented as a result of the positive reception of the Roman Seminar lecture series by the archaeological research community in Greece and abroad. A short preface and a longer introduction written by the editors of the volume describe the scope of the conference and set the framework in which the conference and the proceedings volume were built, with commentary on the chosen research themes. The stated broader goals are to demarginalize Roman Greece in the scholarly research that traditionally focuses on more popular periods of Greek history, to indicate its potential and to put it forward as a research subject deserving of greater academic interest. The immediate purpose is “an overall appraisal of recent discoveries, current approaches and emerging trends” (p. xiii) in the Roman period landscapes of Greece. It is noted that in this case Roman Greece encompasses all the Roman provinces that fall into the modern Greek-state territory, covering the period from the late 2nd century BC to Late Antiquity. The theme areas are broad in order to illustrate the multifaceted dynamics of the material culture of the provinces and the reception of the cultural heritage of Roman Greece in modern times.

The volume consists of 43 papers written in either of two languages, Greek or English. After the introductory part, the book is arranged into six parts: 1. ‘Town and country’ (pp. 3–133); 2. ‘Economy and exchange’ (pp. 137–216); 3. ‘Urban spaces, infrastructures and the archaeology of buildings’ (pp. 219–356); 4. ‘Visual culture’ (pp. 359–450); 5. ‘Cults, sanctuaries and mortuary practices’ (pp. 453–553); 6. ‘The Roman past in the present’ (pp. 557–596). The arrangement is, therefore, thematic, with an observed geographical sub-arrangement from the north to the south within each theme. An Afterword, ‘*Graecia Capta* Unfettered’ (pp. 599–601), in the form of a concluding summary of the papers presented and a discussion of the possible research future of the field, closes the main text part, followed by the abstracts of the contributions (pp. 605–626), the name list of the contributors (pp. 627–629), and the colour plates (pp. 631–646) connected to one of the papers (Matthias Bruno and Massimo Vitti).

The main axis of the first theme, ‘Town and country’, is the need for more regional and micro-regional studies as illustrated by Emeri Farinetti stressing that “[...] local variation rather than general trends are able to throw light on the patterns of change of the Greek landscape during the Roman period within a comparative research framework” (p. 13). In his contribution, Farinetti sets the methodological and historical parameters of the archaeological visibility of the Roman period through surface surveys and excavations in Greece, while also stating the need for a GIS platform that will accommodate research information in a more systematized way, enabling a comparative and contextualized study of the gathered data. This approach is also put forward by Grigoris Grigorakakis and Andreas Tsatsaris in the The Southern Kynouria Archaeological Project, the preliminary results of which are presented in this volume, focused on the effort of constructing a diachronic interpretative model for this Peloponnesian region. The same diachronic aspect is emphasized in the contributions of George A. Zachos for Opuntian Locris and of Nadia Coutsinas for eastern Crete, both of which look at the settlement distribution patterns throughout Roman times in their respective regions. Athena I. Konstantaki for Nicopolis in Epirus and Maria Tsouli, Aphrodite Maltezou and Leonidas Souchleris for the Eurotas valley in Laconia adopt a more archaeological presentation of the sites excavated recently in the respective areas. The three remaining papers suggest a re-evaluation of some prevailing opinions regarding the urban and rural landscape in different regions. David Gilman Romano, in the frame of Roman colonization in the Peloponnese, examines the evolution of the legal status of *peregrini* and their possible role in the final colonization of Dyme and Corinth, putting forward the idea that those foreign populations were at first settled there in order “to increase production of the available and unutilized land” (p. 61), without the idea of colonization necessarily being in mind from the beginning. Conor Trainor, Dimitris Grigoropoulos, Elissavet Tzavella and Matthew Maher in their contribution for Roman Sicyon, using mostly pottery evidence, challenge the dominant view of a depopulated countryside at the expense of a few thriving urban centres in the Late Hellenistic/Early Imperial period. Finally, Enora Le Quéré builds a new dynamic urban image for Delos and its economy, which seems to deconstruct the literary *topos* of Delos *Adelos* of the ancient historians and modern scholars.

Athanasios D. Rizakis’ paper opens the ‘Economy and exchange’ section with his contribution on continuities and changes in the rural economy detected through the role and function of *villae rusticae* in connection with their predecessors in Classical and Hellenistic Greece, which still coexist with them during the Imperial period. Charikleia Papageorgiadou investigates the effects of Hadrian’s philhellenic attitude and presence in the East on the civic minting activity in

the province of Macedonia and Achaea, concluding that the impact in local coinage does not seem to correspond in scale to the vision and the intense activity of Hadrian in this part of the Empire. The rest of the contributions are devoted to the study and presentation of ceramic finds in various contexts: Apostolos Garyfalopoulos from the rescue excavations during the construction of an underground rapid transit rail system in Thessaloniki; Spyros Vasileiou from a rescue excavation in Cassandra in Chalkidiki; Konstantina Gerolymou for stamps on ceramic material from Nicopolis in Epirus; Paul Reynolds and Evangelos Pavlidis from a 4th-century AD deposit in a monumental public building in Nicopolis; Christoph Hinker from the so-called *Tycheion* in Aegeira.

In the 'Urban spaces, infrastructures and the archaeology of buildings' theme, half of the papers deal with water facilities. That of Evangelos Pavlidis and Thalia Kyrkou presents the different kinds of water-providing constructions in Nicopolis in Epirus (wells, cisterns, *impluvia*, different kinds of water pipes, the aqueduct) and the water supply system of the city. Three others treat different cases of bath complexes: Thierry Theurillat, Guy Ackermann and Simone Zurbriggen give an outline of the bath complexes in Eretria in Euboea and appreciate the development of their form and their cultural value in a broader sense within the context of "Romanization", while the authors also ponder on the concept of "Romanization" itself, remarking that "[...] if there is anything defective about Romanization, it is probably not the concept itself, but our understanding of how hegemony and acculturation operate." (p. 262, n. 37); Stylianos E. Katakis, Vangelis Nikolopoulos and Pelly Fotiadi present their new ongoing excavation project in the so-called Roman bath in the Athenian *demos* of Rappheia, providing evidence for a more public rather than private use of this architectural complex; finally, Dimitra Sarri gives a detailed excavation report for a Late Antique bath complex in Derveni in Corinthia. The rest of the contributions vary. Theodosia Stefanidou-Tiveriou constructs a new hypothesis regarding some topographical and architectural elements of the *forum* in Thessaloniki and their dating. Yannis Kourtzellis gives a preliminary architectural report of his project on the Hellenistic theatre of Mytilene in Lesbos and investigates if its two-storeyed scene lies in the transition from the typical Hellenistic scene construction to the multi-storeyed Roman *scaenae frons*. Stamatis A. Fritzilas presents an archaeological outline of the urban topography and the (mostly monumental, public) buildings in Megalopolis in Arcadia. Finally, two papers deal with the case of Athens: Bruno and Vitti describe Athenian marble floors from 13 selected monuments, demonstrating the "decorative" loans from Rome but also the local properties of Athens and its uniqueness in Late Antiquity; Ada Caruso follows the representatives of the Second Sophistic, through the testimony of literary sources, inscriptions and surviving buildings, in the possible places that hosted their

lectures in Athens, attesting a shift from public places to private rooms in the houses before the end of the movement and the transfer of most of the cultural activity to Constantinople.

The great majority of contributions in the 'Visual culture' section concern various forms of sculpture. Elena Kountouri, Nikolaos Petrochilos and Sophia Zoumbaki present the remains of one of the two trophies erected by Sulla on Greek soil (Plut. *Vit.Sull.* 19.5), that in Orchomenos in Boeotia. Catherine de Grazia Vanderpool follows the traces of the *Divus Iulius* cult (numismatic, epigraphic, sculptural) in Corinth, mostly during the Julio-Claudian period, focusing on a (re-)attribution of a portrait and of a colossal clothed torso to Caesar. Two papers draw on the archaeology of Athens, one by Sheila Dillon discussing the preliminary results of her larger project on portrait statuary in Athens with a focus on old and new excavation material from the Athenian *agora*, and a second one by Dimitris S. Sourlas focusing on the sculptural decoration of the Library of Hadrian. Petros Themelis gives some examples of reused Hellenistic (and early Imperial) spaces, buildings, sculptures and honorary statue bases, for similar or for new purposes, from Roman Imperial and Late Antique Messene. The theme closes with the contribution of Fotini Kokkini and her overview of the iconographic themes depicted on the floor mosaics that decorated the *triclinia* of the houses and villas in Greece during the Roman Imperial period, with specific examples from different cities and with comparisons with the more enriched repertoire of the mosaics in North Africa and the eastern provinces.

In 'Cults, sanctuaries and mortuary practices' the first half is focused on the sphere of the sacred while the latter is on the sphere of the dead, two cultural areas that, compared to the rural and urban landscapes, the buildings and the visual arts presented above, seem more resilient in time and more resistant to changes brought by Roman influences. Ismini Trianti and Giorgos Smyris offer an architectural analysis of the remains of the temple of Apollo Aktios in Actium and a presentation of some of the finds in the temple excavation. Fernando Lozano reconsiders the possibility of a supracivic imperial cult in the Roman province of Achaea based on old and new epigraphic evidence. Francesco Camia, Aldo Corcella and Maria Chiara Monaco cast new light on the numerous dedicatory statues for the emperor Hadrian in the Olympieion in Athens and they present a new suggestion for the interpretation of the ten "*apoikoi poleis*" mentioned by Pausanias (1.18.6); they consider those ten cities as Roman *coloniae* more privileged among the other because they possessed the *Ius italicum* and whose sculptural dedications were prominently displayed in front of the temple of Zeus. Finally, Nikolettta Saraga discusses a sculptural relief of the 4th century AD found in an opulent building in the south slopes of the Acropolis, depicting a Palmyrian trinity of gods and connected to the Neoplatonic philosophers and the syncretistic cultic trends present in Athens at that time. In the

mortuary sphere, Vasiliki Lambrou, Ourania Palli and Asterios Aidonis discuss the first results of the study of burial traditions in Thesprotia in Epirus during the Roman period, with observed continuities and changes over time. Eleni Trakosopoulou-Salakidou, Anna Pantl and Spyros Vasileiou give an archaeological presentation of the finds in the eastern cemetery of Thessaloniki, while Vassiliki Christopoulou, Nikolas Dimakis and Kiriakos Xanthopoulos present a Roman monumental burial edifice in Cos used continuously from the mid-1st up to the 3rd century AD.

The final theme, 'The Roman past in the present', consists of four contributions. Konstantinos L. Zachos presents the archaeological park of Nicopolis in Epirus, Athanasia Psalti, Eleni Spiliotopoulou and Styliani Ropaka choose two monuments from the archaeological site of Delphi (the *heroon* G. Blum and the Roman *agora*) to illustrate the preservation and enhancement of the Roman monuments of the site, while Dionysios Roubien tackles with the problem of the management of the Roman monuments of Patras within the modern urban environment. Polyxeni N. Barka's "alternative" approach to the history and monuments of Roman Nicopolis through the pages of a comic closes this section and the main body of the conference contributions.

The 'Afterword' by Susan E. Alcock acts as a short review of the research aspects presented in the volume "in order to illustrate the new range of attitudes and approaches, to celebrate 'What's new in Roman Greece'" (p. 600).

This conference on new archaeological discoveries and new research attitudes in the treatment of the Roman past and present in Greece is a most welcome contribution to the academic studies on Greek antiquity. The proceedings, following the different theme panels of the conference itself, embrace a wide variety of topics which are organized and presented in a concrete and well-structured manner. The diversity of places chosen and discussed is remarkable, with the spotlight carefully taken away from Athens and the other major urban centres without ignoring them. This regional mosaic of Roman landscapes, touching upon different manifestations of the material culture in Greece, reveals the potential of new (micro-) regional approaches in the attempt to put the Greek provinces into the cultural map of the Roman Empire. Special mention is due to the final theme of this conference, which highlights the need for and recent efforts in the management of the surviving remnants of Roman Greece within the modern Greek urban and social structure.

However, although this is evidently a significant effort to promote further research on Roman Greece, there are still a few shortcomings apparent when reading through the volume. To start with, the main chronological focus is on the Imperial period, with far fewer contributions reaching the two ends of the time spectrum in the Late Hellenistic era and in Late Antiquity, both of them marking transitional phases which can be

extremely interesting and revealing. Furthermore, regarding the geographical span, some lack of balance in the regions discussed is noticed. Central and southern Greece are clearly dominant, whereas Macedonia is significantly under-represented, with just Thessaloniki featured thrice and with one contribution about Chalkidiki. The islands are also not elaborately presented, focusing only on Delos, Lesbos and Cos, while Crete, although a very extensive and distinct region by itself, is seen in only a sole paper. Even within central and southern Greece, Thessaly is virtually absent, while Epirus, albeit seemingly well represented, is almost totally focused on Nicopolis which appears in six papers spread in different sections of the volume. Apropos the nature of the contributions, the overwhelming majority concern recent archaeological work in Greece and have therefore the form of detailed excavation reports, while other relevant research areas that have plentiful new findings to present, such as epigraphy, are scarcely taken into account. The biggest observed shortcoming regarding the types of evidence used in the exploration of one theme is found in the 'Economy and exchange' section where the emphasis is almost exclusively on pottery and other ceramic material, leaving other types of evidence for the ancient economy surprisingly absent, such as the numismatic material represented only by a sole contribution (Papageorgiadou).

Despite this, as already said and considering the fact that the Roman period in Greece, although brought to research light to a notable degree during the last decades, is still in need of (re)appraisal and further investigation, the conference volume *What's new in Roman Greece* is a vital boost in the attempt at demarginalizing and contextualizing the Roman presence in the Greek provinces within the broader frame of the history and the material culture of the region.

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L.M.Andersen Funder, T. Myrup Kristensen, & V. Nørskov,
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The thriving field of classical reception studies remains marginal in the Nordic countries. *Classical heritage and European identities* is a timely contribution since it may indicate a shift in attitude among Nordic classicists. *Classical heritage* is a very short and rough outline of how classical heritage has been negotiated in Denmark primarily during the 19th and 20th centuries.