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Cover: see Fischer in this volume, p. 323, *Fig. 22b*.

E. Farinetti, *Boeotian Landscapes. A GIS-based study for the reconstruction and interpretation of the archaeological datasets of ancient Boeotia* (BAR-IS, 2195), Oxford: Archaeopress 2011. xiv + 425 pp. + 1 CD. ISBN 978-1-4073-0750-3.

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) has had a major impact on Greek landscape archaeology. It has successfully been used for the treatment of survey data as well as forming part of broader field methods both in regards to survey and excavation. Studies dealing explicitly with GIS analyses of previously published material and regional datasets have, however, not been as plentiful. Emir Farinetti's (henceforth, EF) study is therefore a very welcome contribution to Greek landscape archaeology, but given the central focus of landscape analysis and long-term perspectives should interest anyone working with the archaeology and history of central Greece.

The current book is a reworked version of the author's PhD thesis, submitted at the University of Leiden in 2009. The primary aim is to "illustrate a possible way of dealing with a regional landscape and its long-term settlement history based on the integration of archaeological data applying a GIS-based approach to the social dimension of landscape" (p. 1). EF, however, emphasizes that research on the ancient Boeotian landscape is central to the investigation and that GIS "must be a tool to carry out such research" (p. 14). This is a sound way of dealing with the material which put the questions regarding the economic potential of the landscape and long-term habitation patterns to the fore, rather than the different ways in which archaeological datasets can be broadly analysed in a GIS environment.

The first chapters (Part I.1 'Regional approaches to landscape studies' and I.2.1 'Physical landscape') introduce the various key concepts which are consistently utilized in the study, as well as the physical landscape data which was assembled in the GIS. The concept of landscape is of course a primary feature of the work, and is sufficiently defined within Part one. In particular, EF refers to the large volume of previous scholarship on ancient landscapes, stressing the significance of understanding spatial and environmental dimensions of past societies as well as the importance of recognizing socially constructed landscapes embedded with cultural significance (pp. 4–5).

Much emphasis is given to micro-regional perspectives of landscape and settlement patterns, and the way in which we may understand Boeotia as a region comprising several micro-regions, environmentally and in terms of settlement structures, as well as the individual *chorai* (the primary geographical unit for the analysis).

The micro-regional approach is also concerned with the identification of "settlement chambers" within the different

*chorai* landscapes. Settlement chambers may primarily be understood as micro-regions that present an environmental optimum for long-term habitation, even if shifts of the primary settlement may occur. Previous studies of such settlement chambers have often tended to be deterministic in their view on the impact of the physical landscape, limiting the role of social and political developments on pattern of settlement.<sup>2</sup> EF manages to avoid such determinism by drawing from the more recent *community area* theory and the concept of *taskscapes* (pp. 7–11).<sup>3</sup> The result is the impact of the physical environment and social and cultural developments combined, as well as the transformations of landscape (encompassing both the physical and the social) which occur over time as consequence of human action.

One of the benefits of using GIS as a way in which to investigate and analyse long-term aspects of settlement and land use is the ability to combine and work with a large body of diverse information in a meaningful way. The assembled data are divided into a series of physical landscape datasets on the one hand and archaeological/cultural datasets on the other. Classified land capabilities, created in the GIS, were of particular importance in the analysis of settlement chambers and the economic potential of micro-regions. The surface classification is broad and generic, based on the available topographic and geological data and not on field autopsy (pp. 19–24), but should nevertheless be regarded as sound and innovative as it provides an economic context for Boeotian settlements, albeit general.

The extensive archaeological datasets consist of site information assembled from the bibliographical record of archaeological fieldwork in Boeotia, prior to 2006, and introduced in Part I.2.2 ('The archaeological/cultural datasets and the research methodology'). Rather than producing a traditional gazetteer of *sites*, EF has brought together a large amount of information from the available archaeological literature and deconstructs the archaeological record into a large amount of archaeological *components* that are based on material types and chronology (detailed information on all of the archaeological components is presented in the different appendices and on the CD). This approach has clear benefits as it allows for better comparability of the material remains, given the di-

<sup>2</sup> EF (p. 6), for example, highlights the importance of *Siedlungskammern* in the work of German historical geographers such as Lehmann (for example in *Geographische Zeitschrift* 45:6, 1939, 212–228), Philippson and Kirsten (*Die Griechischen Landschaften. Eine Landeskunde*, 1950/59).

<sup>3</sup> Community area theory has been central to research carried out by landscape archaeologists based in the Czech Republic (a review of which is provided by EF, pp. 7–8). The importance of understanding landscape as *taskscapes* has been emphasized by Tim Ingold (for example in *The perception of the environment*, London & New York 2000).

verse aims and interests that have produced the archaeological record; ranging from intensive artefact survey to small-scale rescue work and accidental discoveries. The approach also overcomes the problem of site identification within previous research.

Through this breakdown of sites into components the archaeological remains as such become the primary unit for the investigation instead all the material available at a specific place. I find this deconstructivist approach both innovative and useful, and should be of use to others working with regional investigations and assemblages of sites identified primarily through a diverse range of both systematic and unsystematic archaeological fieldwork.

The second part of *Boeotian Landscapes* presents the landscape analysis performed on the basis of the assembled GIS data, utilizing the methods introduced in Part I. Chapter II.1 describes in detail the physical topography and environment of Boeotia, while Chapter II.2 describes the state of archaeological research in the region. The next Chapter, II.3, forms the bulk of the study and is concerned with the landscape analysis of different Boeotian *chorai*. EF uses John Fossey's extensive study of ancient Boeotian settlements (*Topography and population of ancient Boeotia*, Chicago 1988) as the point of departure for the geographical division of the various *chorai* (primarily the territory of individual *poleis*), though there are some variations in regards to the area divisions employed compared to Fossey's study. For example, while Fossey treats the *chorai* of the three Corinthian Gulf *poleis*, Siphaï, Chorseiai and Thisbe, in separate chapters, EF treats them as one unit (II.3.10, 'Three small chorai to the Gulf of Corinth: Siphaï, Thisbe, Chorseiai'), though this approach has no direct impact on the treatment of settlement chambers and the diachronic landscape analysis.

The same analysis is carried out for all of the different *chorai* that make up the sub-chapters of the book, providing evidence on the topographical setting, the identifiable boundaries (physical and political) of these geographical units, and the different physical land units (i.e. the total percentage of land belonging to three different landscape types: Plains, Hilly landscape, and Mountainous landscape). The resources available to settlements in each *chora* are also dealt with, based primarily on the classified land capability.

The archaeological record is subsequently presented, including the nature of archaeological fieldwork carried out in the geographical unit as well as the identified archaeological components. Departing from the material remains an analysis of the pattern of settlement and range of identifiable activities are presented (such as settlement hierarchies, farming, burial activities, etc.), focusing primarily on the Prehistoric and Greco-Roman periods (encompassing Early Iron Age to Late Roman material). A slight problem here is the treatment

of Classical and Hellenistic towers, which are simply regarded as part of the regional defensive network. Although some of these towers may be military in nature, previous discussions on these features of the Greek rural landscape have shown that in many cases they may rather be interpreted as part of extensive agricultural installations (cf. Morris & Papadopoulos in *AJA* 109, 2005, 155–225). An investigation of towers and their geographical correlation to local resources (such as fertile or mid-fertile land) would have been highly interesting. A long-term perspective of settlement and environment is subsequently presented in each *chora* chapter, placing the Prehistoric and Greco-Roman pattern in connection with later post-Antique periods. I find this approach useful in regards to the discussion on how much of the settlement pattern is dictated by the physical environment and local resources.

Overall the study is an important addition to Greek landscape archaeology and will be the standard work to consult for anyone working with the history and archaeology of the Boeotian landscape. The analysis is highly relevant for understanding the economic potential and restraints of large settlement sites in the region, during different periods. The appendices and CD contain significant amounts of information on the Boeotian archaeological record. I am, however, slightly surprised that no actual GIS shape files or surface layers, produced as part of the analysis, were included on the CD. This would have been beneficial for anyone working with GIS and I believe it is necessary that the scholarly community starts sharing such GIS resources amongst each other. Despite this minor criticism this study has set a benchmark for GIS-based landscape research in Greece.

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G. López Monteagudo, M.L. Neira Jiménez, 'Mosaico', in *Arte Romano de la Bética. Mosaico. Pintura. Manufacturas*, ed. P. León, Sevilla: Focus-Abengoa 2010. 381 pp., 482 illus. ISBN 978-84-89895-27-0.

A magnificent edition, the book constitutes the last volume of a series of three (the earlier two cover architecture and sculpture) about *Roman art in Baetica* (ed. P. León), based on the 2008 exhibition in Seville on Roman heritage in Andalusia. This volume deals with mosaic, wall painting and minor arts and these three parts, together with the two earlier volumes in the series, centre around the room in the domestic space. The focus of all parts is placed on the craft and the artistic aspect of the material and on use, the movement of fashion and the way it spreads over an area. The present review concerns only