

offers no discussion on how the methodological and theoretical strategies of the Alpena-Amberley Ridge project fit into the overall development of underwater archaeological research. Making a connection to some of the recent studies, such as those published in *Submerged Prehistory* (Jonathan Benjamin, Clive Bonsall, Catriona Pickard and Anders Fischer (eds), 2011, Oxbow) would have enhanced the value of this informative volume.

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Thonis-Heracleion in Context

Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology Monograph 8

DAMIAN ROBINSON and FRANCK GODDIO
(eds)

319pp., 231 figures, 6 tables, Oxford Centre for
Maritime Archaeology, 2015, £45 (hbk),
ISBN 978-1905905331

Following the Symposium ‘Heracleion in Context’, held in Oxford in March 2013, this volume, as the primary authors and editors, Robinson and Goddio, state in the Acknowledgements, is a successful attempt to bring together the current results of excavations at Thonis-Heracleion and the specialist reports and analysis concerning the material culture recovered from this remarkable underwater site.

The now-submerged settlement and port of Thonis-Heracleion, located off the western fringes of the Nile Delta, was occupied during the later phases of Egyptian history from the 7th century BC to the Ptolemaic era, before being subject to a series of natural disasters that led to its eventual abandonment in the 1st century BC. During this period it flourished as Egypt’s primary harbour on the Mediterranean, finally to be usurped by the port of Alexandria. However, the settlement of Thonis-Heracleion continued to fulfil a role as a centre of ritual and religion well beyond the fall of the Greeks. Its importance, therefore, lies in the pivotal role it played as a port of trade and centre of religion in Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean, themes that are clearly highlighted in the content of this volume—the eighth in the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology’s Monograph Series, the majority of the previous volumes having mapped out much of the previous research pertaining to the site and thereby providing the context within which this book benefits from being read. The volume is not insubstantial, containing some 319 pages of A4 text, with 16 authors, 16 chapters, and a useful index. An extremely comprehensive Introduction by Robinson and Goddio presents an overview of the context and

archaeological significance of the site to date. The introduction also serves to outline the volume’s content, mapping out the forthcoming papers and how they relate to each other and the overall interpretation of the site. The book is clearly laid out, and well illustrated, but would have benefitted from a few more maps and more detailed site-plans. There is no overall location map other than the satellite image on the front cover, and the site-plans almost exclusively consist of a digital base-map with keys added to show the distribution of different artefacts. More detailed plans indicating vertical as well as horizontal relationships, illustrated at a higher resolution, would have enhanced insight into the complex relationships between artefacts across the site.

The volume is divided into four parts. Part I, ‘The religious landscape and the gifts to the gods’, presents three papers that address the religious context of the site. The paper by Goddio is particularly informative as it paints a broader picture of the over-arching religious landscape of Thonis-Heracleion, and offers insights as to how and why this changed over time. Five papers in Part II are dedicated to ‘The organisation of trade’ both at the site and in the region beyond. The papers largely, but not exclusively, relate to the Late Period, and cover topics from the informative paper by Muhs on taxes, which regrettably only briefly references Thonis-Heracleion in the conclusion of the paper, through to analysis of the organization of trade established by an evaluation of the material finds, specifically pottery, weights and coins, this latter paper by Meadows being particularly detailed.

Of particular relevance to *IJNA* readers is Part III, a collection of three papers entitled ‘Ships at Thonis-Heracleion’. The first, by Fabre, updates a previous article by Belov (2011), and describes the context of the 74 ship-finds that have so far been identified, the majority of which date to between the 6th and the 3rd centuries BC. The second article, by Belov, provides an update on the discovery of the Egyptian *baris* boats (Herodotus, *Historiae* 2.96), building on previous publications by the author. Finally, Robinson discusses the so-called ship graveyard in the central port. He considers a variety of motives to explain the vessels’ abandonment—were they intentionally sunk, either as blockships to defend the entrance to the port from attack, or as part of a land-reclamation process, or most interestingly as a pontoon bridge? The excavated *baris* boat, Ship 43, provides unique evidence of this form of ship construction dating from 785–412 BC.

Finally, Part IV addresses ‘Trade beyond Thonis-Heracleion’, with three of the five articles focusing on the city of Naukratis. Villing discusses Egyptian-Greek exchange; Thomas’s article draws on geophysical, geological and archaeological surveys to provide more detail of the spatial layout of the city; and Bergeron focuses on decorated and inscribed pottery finds as direct evidence of Greek presence in Naukratis as early

as the 7th century BC. However, a map to identify the relative location of these two key sites is only provided in the article by Kenawi (p.286), where a more holistic overview is outlined, linking the commercial activity in the Western Delta region with the ports of Alexandria and Thonis-Heracleion. The final article by Wilson extends the geographical reach even further to explore the linkage between the diminution of the Canopic Branch of the Nile and migrations into the Northern Delta region during the Late period.

Overall this volume provides a comprehensive insight into the latest discoveries at Thonis-Heracleion. The breadth and depth of material presented is impressive, making the volume an engaging read and good value. There are a few negatives relating to inconsistencies and repetition between papers, assumptions of knowledge, particularly in relation to detailed evidence supporting interpretations; papers are variable in length, and many images lack scales. Some of this inevitably derives from collating edited volumes, particularly those resulting from symposia, but others could have been ironed out at the editorial stage. However, overall this volume reflects the astonishing quality and quantity of material that has been discovered at this remarkable site, as well as providing input from some of the key scholars in the region.

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Amphora Stamps from Thasos

The Athenian Agora, Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
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CHAVDAR TZOCHEV

xx + 244pp., illustrations, American School of Classical Studies, Princeton, 2016, \$150 (hbk), ISBN 978-0876612378

To most readers of this journal, the study of transport amphoras and their stamps at the Athenian Agora is synonymous with the late Virginia Grace. Based primarily in Athens until her death in 1994; she published extremely influential reports on amphoras and their stamps at Athens, Delos, Pergamon, Tarsus and elsewhere; and she provided advice to countless archaeologists including many working on Mediterranean shipwrecks. Particularly in the latter half of her career, Grace aimed to compile and publish corpora of stamps of the major amphora types (Thasos, Knidos, Rhodes, Kos). Although her card-files achieved a nearly unbelievable scale, the intended volumes never appeared.

The amphoras of Thasos, however, also enjoyed sustained attention from French archaeologists. Grace herself collaborated with Antoine and Anne-Marie Bon to produce a first corpus of Thasian stamps in 1957 (*Les timbres amphoriques de Thasos*, Études Thasiennes 4, Paris), Yvon Garlan published an updated corpus of stamps of the 'old style' in 1999 (*Les timbres amphoriques de Thasos. 1 Timbres protothasiens et thasiens anciens*, Études Thasiennes 18, Athens and Paris), and Michel Debidour compiled (unpublished) a corpus of 'new-style' stamps, a copy of which is housed at the library of the French School in Athens. Such collections are exceptionally useful for both the specialist in amphora studies and for the general archaeologist simply hoping to identify a particular stamp without having to search through countless site-reports.

In such comprehensive collections, however, the record of any single site tends to be obscured. There remains a place for site-reports. Chavdar Tzochhev's familiarity with the fundamental sources from the French School, the vast bibliography from countries surrounding the Black Sea (the primary destination for exports of Thasian amphoras), and his deep engagement with the excavation records of the Athenian Agora, all combine to make this volume a perfect entry-point into research on Thasian amphoras. Not every stamp one might encounter is included—the Agora collection is in fact quite limited compared with many sites in the Pontic region. But a close reading of this volume will guide a researcher to a quick understanding of matters of Thasian chronology, the distribution patterns so far recognized for Thasian exports, and hence the contribution of Thasian amphora studies to broader topics of ancient economic history. Maritime archaeologists in particular will find a clear setting for contextualizing any Thasian cargoes or singletons into the broader economic milieu of the late Classical and Hellenistic Aegean world.

Chapter 1 eases the reader into this scholarly world with an admirably uncluttered overview of past scholarship related to the Agora's Thasian stamps. A brief section on terminology will be very useful for non-specialists and provides a rare Anglophone presentation of these practices. Chapter 2 opens with a discussion of the major elements of Thasian stamping: the official's name (the eponym), the fabricant (of uncertain identification), and the image used on an annual basis either to complement the naming of the fabricant or to stand in place of a named fabricant. Tzochhev's close observation of chosen images, misspellings of names, and co-occurrences of multiple 'fabricant' names at various workshop sites makes clear just how complex is the interpretation of the functions of the individuals named (or indicated by annually changing images) on the stamps. Yvon Garlan's discussion (*Les timbres amphoriques en*