

provide valuable information for the specialist in other areas of Ancient Greek studies – archaeology, history, literature, art and Ancient Greek language – which evidence its interdisciplinary scope.

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CATERINA PARIGI: *Atene e il sacco di Silla. Evidenze archeologiche e topografiche fra l'86 e il 27 a.C.* Kölner Schriften zur Archäologie 2. Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden 2019. ISBN 978-3-95490-366-5; ISBN (e-book) 978-3-95490-721-2. 240 pp. EUR 98.

The study of Roman Athens has most often been concentrated on the activities of Augustus and Hadrian, and the time between the siege and destruction by Sulla in 86 until the founding of the province of Achaia by Augustus in 27 has largely been ignored. Post-Sullan Athens has been treated in passing in *Athens, The City beneath the City: Antiquities from the Metropolitan Railway Excavations* (2001), the *Studi di Archeologia e Topografia di Atene e dell'Attica* series (2008–) by the Italian Archaeological School at Athens, and in various notices in the *Archaologikon Deltion*. This shortfall in our knowledge of Athenian history has now been amended by Caterina Parigi with her systematic study of the city in the first century BC, including the time both before and after the Sullan siege.

The presentation of the historical context is followed by eight chapters focusing on topographical districts or structural categories: the walls, the necropoleis, the Kerameikos, the Agora, the Acropolis and its slopes, the area further south of the Acropolis and approximately the district of the modern Makriyanni, the Areopagus and the residential quarter in the valley towards the Pnyx, and finally the area to the east of the Agora. Each chapter covers the respective excavation histories, literary and epigraphical sources, a description of the monuments, and an analysis of the sources, followed by concluding remarks. Furthermore, each chapter is supported by generous appendices listing the associated sources and finds. Taking such a large and heterogeneous body of information and presenting it as interesting reading has demanded great persistence from the author.

The period in question has usually been seen as a somewhat “decadent” transition from a Greek Athens to a Roman Athens. Also, that the actions of Sulla and his troops were a catastrophe for the city, especially in the economic sense, from which it recovered only during the reign of Augustus. By tracing the actual condition of the temples and other structures, the use of various building techniques, and the evidence for and dates of restorations, the author has been able to suggest, e.g., whether the structural effects were due to actual destruction and pillaging – and even to trace the routes the Sullan troops must have taken through the city – or were rather due to natural

deterioration. As to the city walls, in light of the archaeological data she concludes that the reported destruction of the north-western part of the circuit as described by ancient authors seems to have been somewhat exaggerated. Instead, only minor damage was detected between the Dipylon and the Sacred Gate, not dissimilar to that in the south-eastern and south-western parts of the wall. Neither was the moat filled in all at one time; rather, it seems to have been done only gradually. The area of Kerameikos was certainly involved in the siege of Sulla, but burials went on without any change in the rituals. While the nature of some buildings, such as the Pompeion, did change, the materials for reconstruction were apparently used, according to the author, in places more in need of immediate repair. Our information on other necropoleis comes mostly from the metro excavations and is therefore sporadic, but neither in them was she able to detect changes in burial practices.

This important book is the product of an immense quantity of research, from which the author has drawn interesting reflections and conclusions. Without a doubt there may be future nuances in interpreting the evidence, but the substance of this book would be difficult indeed to ignore. Some editorial reconsideration might have removed the superfluous use of italics and also conformed many names to more standardized orthography, but overall it is a sound study covering a neglected period of Athens' history.

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