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**Book review of: Dominique Garcia, Raphaël Orgeolet, Maia Pomadère, Julien Zurbach (Edd.): Country in the City. Agricultural Functions in Protohistoric Urban Settlements (Aegean and Western Mediterranean). Oxford: Archaeopress 2019.**

Attema, Peter

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**Sabine Panzram, Laurent Callegarin** (Edd.): *Entre Civitas y Madina. El Mundo de Ciudades en la Península Ibérica y en el Norte de África* (Siglos IV–IX). Madrid: Casa de Velázquez 2018. XVI, 393 S. zahlr. Abb. zahlr. Ktn. 4°. (Collection de la Casa de Velázquez. 167.) 49 €.

The editors are to be commended for putting together a collection of interesting studies of the urban history (broadly conceived) of the Iberian Peninsula and north Africa in the late antique and early medieval periods. After an introduction from Sabine Panzram that establishes the parameters of the volume and a chapter from Hugh Kennedy reflecting on the thirty years since the publication of his seminal study 'From Polis to Madina' ('Past and Present', 1985, 3–27), the volume comprises two main parts that explore the 'world of the cities' of the Iberian Peninsula and north Africa respectively.

The part on the Iberian Peninsula begins with Javier Arce's chapter on the transition from 'pagan' to 'Christian' cities in late antiquity (4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century), while Sonia Gutiérrez Lloret provides an overview of the last 20 years of archaeological research on the changes wrought on the urban fabric during the shift to Arab-Muslim rule. Case studies follow on urban change in Mérida from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Miguel Alba Calzado), on the 5<sup>th</sup>-century transformation of Cartagena (Jaime Vizcaino Sánchez), on urban continuity and connectivity across the Straits of Gibraltar (Darío Bernal Casasola), and on Šaqunda, a suburb of Umayyad Córdoba from 750 to 818 (María Teresa Casal García). These studies are of considerable interest, but Bernal Casasola's is the only one that adopts a truly comparative perspective across the Straits. Three thematic chapters follow. Ruth Pliego Vázquez and Tawfiq Ibrahim explore what numismatic and sigillographic evidence can tell us about cities before the Umayyad conquest. Francisco José Moreno Martín examines the Christian topography of cities from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The final 'Iberian' chapter is by Christoph Eger, who explores what burials can tell us about the Islamisation of urban landscapes in al Andalus.

The 'African' half of the volume begins with general chapters from François Baratte and Corisande Fenwick on urbanism in late antique north Africa and the emergence of Islamic cities respectively. These are followed by case studies on urban occupation in the south-west of Africa Proconsularis, focusing on the cities of *Ammaedara* and *Theveste* (Elsa Rocca and Fathi Béjaoui), Jerba between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> centuries (Elizabeth Fentress), and on artisanal activities in urban settings in late antiquity (Ridha Ghaddhab). The thematic chapters all focus on late antiquity, addressing urban decoration and public spaces (Anna Leone), statues and urban culture (Lennart Gilhaus), and the exile of Catholic bishops after the Vandal conquest (Esther Sánchez Medina). The volume closes with Patrice Cressier's 'Contrapunto' on the genesis of Islamic cities in the western Maghreb. Overall, this is an impressive collection of case studies and more synthetic papers that is let down slightly (excepting Panzram's introduction and the chapter by Bernal Casasola) by a lack of comparative perspective. What it does make clear, however, is that there is much scope for future work on connections (and disconnections) between Africa and the Iberian Peninsula in the first millennium.

Lincoln

Jamie Wood

**Dominique Garcia, Raphaël Orgeolet, Maia Pomadère, Julien Zurbach** (Edd.): *Country in the City. Agricultural Functions in Protohistoric Urban Settlements* (Aegean and Western Mediterranean). Oxford: Archaeopress 2019. II, 192 S. zahlr. z.T. farb. Abb. 4°. 35 €.

This volume, edited by scholars from the universities of Aix-Marseille (Garcia and Orgeolet), Paris 1-Panthéon (Pomadère) and ENS Paris (Zurbach) addresses in ten multidisciplinary case studies the place of agricultural production in current research of urbanization in the pre- and protohistoric Mediterranean. Seven papers concentrate on Aegean prehistory; Minoan Crete gets four, highlighting foremost urbanization at Knossos; Mycenae and nearby Kalamianos three; and Akrotiri on Thera and Troy one

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each. Two papers deal with the Western Mediterranean during the Iron Age, one is on Iberian Iron Age cities and the other on the town of Lattara (present-day Lattes) in Southern France. The main interest of this volume is therefore the Aegean Bronze Age. The volume is the outcome of the international conference 'Country in the City' held in Marseille in 2014.

Contributions employ archaeobotanical evidence including isotopic studies, landscape studies, survey and excavation data, storage practices, ethnographic comparanda, and in the case of the Aegean case studies, linear A and B texts. All papers adopt a multidisciplinary approach to investigate the early urban food economy and this gives the volume added comparative value. After all, the availability of productive land and labour, crop choice, subsistence and surplus production, transport, central and domestic storage, redistribution and other exchange mechanisms are global themes in the study of early urbanisation.

The volume's concern – 'Country in the City' – is dealt with in different ways; from a spatial perspective, i.e. how much of the urban space was dedicated to the production of food, for instance horticulture and how the countryside was exploited; socially, expressed in the ratio between full-time farmers living in the city and those with other professions (besides farming); economically, in terms of transporting, processing and storing foodstuffs and the subsequent distribution of agricultural produce over the urban population.

To get into (or refresh) the basics of this complex subject matter, I advise the reader to start with chapter 6, Todd Whitelaw's 33 page article 'Feeding Knossos: Exploring Economic and Logistical Implications of Urbanism in Prehistoric Crete'. This paper offers first a broad introduction on the provisioning of early urban cores in general and then a study on the prime example of early urbanization in the Aegean: Knossos during the Neo-Palatial period when the urban area, according to Whitelaw, may have had between 20 and 25,000 inhabitants and therefore, given the agricultural, transport and storage logistics, have faced considerable challenges to feed its population. With the example of Knossos, White-

law sets the upper scale of what Bronze Age urban food economies are about and raises the fundamental theme of who was in control of the economy and which part of the economy exactly was controlled. His paper illustrates well that to study the sustainability of the subsistence base of the early urban configurations that sprang up in the Mediterranean in later prehistory implies that we should realize that a common denominator of early urban configurations was the reliance of its population on primary food production with a minimum of 70 % of the total population engaged in provisioning this.

But of course, when dealing with Knossos and Mycenae, we know from the Linear A and B text fragments that these were so-called palatial economies in which the elite employed a bureaucracy to channel and control agricultural yields to the palace. Surely we have all been taught that this served a redistributive system in which the population under the sway of the palace received rations to subsist while spending their life in the service of the palatial elite. However, the scale of the Bronze age economies, as archaeological research has revealed over the last decades and as shown in this volume, was such that this can only have been a part of the story.

Take for instance the paper of Kvapil et al. on urban and rural practices in the subsistence landscape of the north-eastern Peloponnese north and south of Mycenae and I quote « .. even though Mycenae was 'the' palace center, it was simply 'a' centre for the myriad networks through which subsistence goods moved, of which none can be strictly defined as palatial or non-palatial» (p. 132). This and comparable observations on the nature of the Bronze Age economy elsewhere in the volume have only become possible because of the rich evidence from survey, excavation and archaeobotanical research, the latter showing how many agricultural and faunal products fell outside the palatial recording systems, thus raising the possibility of 'market-type' exchanges.

This re-evaluation of the palatial redistributive system within a wider economy only seems natural given the spatial scale of Bronze Age urbanization during the heyday of urban settlements such as Knossos,

Mycenae and Troy. Kostis Christakis' paper on the relationship between urban centres and their hinterland on Bronze Age Crete's east coast during the last phase of the Neo-Palatial period (Late Minoan IB = 1529/1510–1440/1430 BCE) illustrates well the rich body of archaeological and ecological data now available for the analysis of Crete's Bronze age economy, even if the author laments the dearth of excavation of non-palatial sites (p. 42).

The picture that emerges of Crete's Bronze Age economy based on Christakis' paper is one of socio-economic diversity and multi-scalar complexity. This is reinforced by Alberti et al.'s detailed paper on the food economy of the town of Malia and its hinterland and by the already mentioned paper by Whitelaw. Families involved in primary food production, making up by far the greater part of the population, produced food in very different rural and urban situations while the status of farmers varied from wholly dependent on the palatial economy to entirely independent of it.

Anaya Sarpaki's paper on Akrotiri on Thera draws a very intimate social picture of the population inhabiting this densely built up city of ca. 20 ha that was buried in volcanic ash in the Middle Bronze Age. Her analysis is based on a combination of archaeobotanical, iconographic and excavation data, the latter revealing storage and food processing practices.

Several papers in this volume show the fundamental contribution that archaeobotany makes towards the interpretation of prehistoric urban economies, as e.g. in Núria Rovira and Natàlia Alonso's paper on the evidence of the processing of cultivated and wild plants in Iron Age Lattara (south of Montpellier). This type of research is now being backed up with isotope analyses of plant material increasing the interpretive potential of archaeobotanical data, as is shown in the paper by Nitsch et al. on farming practice and land management at Knossos. In this paper the authors, among other things, reveal a practice of intensive management of pulse crops unaccounted for in Linear B texts with which an elite household at Knossos was provisioned.

Finally we need to mention the importance of studying storage practices, a

recurring point of attention in almost all papers. I single out here the highly interesting contribution by Diane Thumm-Doğrayan et al. on economy and storage strategies at Troy. Bronze age storage practices in the Aegean are almost exclusively associated with pithoi that could hold, as in the example of Late Troy VI and VIIa, eventually over 1000 litres. The authors discuss the production, transport and use of pithoi, the production of which they classify as «the most difficult among ceramic production requiring the knowledge of complicated procedures» (p. 183). While during the early Bronze Age and beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Troy IV and V) storage practices using pithoi may serve as a proxy for a single household's household risk-buffering strategy, during Middle Troy VI they point to central management of food, this in conjunction with evidence for the emergence of a strong elite. Storage and processing of agricultural products in relation to changing social constellations is also the subject of Natàlia Alonso and Guillem Pérez-Jorda's paper on Elite and Farmers in Iberian Iron Age Cities (7<sup>th</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> Centuries BC) revealing regional traditions with more diversified agriculture in the region south of Valencia when compared with the focus in Catalonia on grain cultivation.

In sum, the collected papers show in a very convincing and detailed way the complexity of primary food production in the context of early urbanization and the entanglement of city and countryside, even in situations in which we might tend to think that the major *raison d'être* of an urban configuration was trade and commerce as in the case of coastal settlements, in this volume represented by the very interesting paper on the on-going investigations at Kalamianos on the Saronic Gulf by Daniel Pullen et al. within the ambit of Mycenae and the already mentioned paper on Iron Age Lattara. Clearly also these settlements in some way relied on provisioning from their direct surroundings.

At the start of my review I mentioned that this volume has an added value in that it puts forward a fundamental theme in the study of early urbanization. This aspect might have been effectively elaborated

further by the editors in their otherwise useful introduction and epilogue. There certainly is much to take on board theoretically and methodologically. I would advocate this collection of papers also to those studying Italian early urban configurations as I do myself, or early urban configurations elsewhere. To increase comparability the editors might have wanted to give chronological tables making cross-comparison between case studies easier. An unfortunate slip of the editors is the duplication of a Malia archeological survey map in Sarpaki's paper where a map depicting sites on Bronze Age Thera had been intended.

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Peter A. J. Attema

**Michael Teichmann:** *Quantitative Untersuchungen zum römischen Siedlungsweisen im südlichen Latium*. Wien: Phoibos 2020. 353 S. 125 Farbabb. 4°. (Phoibos Humanities Series. 7.).

This volume presents the author's second PhD thesis and can be read as the sequel to the first, published as no. 6 in the same Phoibos Humanities series (reviewed in *Gnomon* 91–6, 569–571). Where that volume engaged with changes in human settlement and landscape in Roman-period south Latium drawing on a range of historical and (geo-)archaeological sources, this one focuses on the spatial analysis of archaeological settlement data of that same region. As set out in chapter 1, aim of this analysis is to explore the cultural and natural factors that influenced settlement location choice as well as to analyze settlement patterns and site intervisibility. The approach is quantitative, using GIS tools and statistical analyses to identify patterns, and diachronic, tracking changes in these spatial patterns between the mid Republican and late Imperial period.

Chapters 2 and 3 set the scene by summarizing the historical development of south Latium on the basis of written sources and describing the main geomorphological units the area consists of. These chapters provide useful background information for the reader not familiar with the region, but also seem disconnected from

the remainder of the study: the historical narrative focuses on the *histoire événementielle* and the reader is left to wonder how these events might tie into the type of *longue durée* developments the analysis focuses on. The description of landscape units seems a suitable starting point to explore location preferences, but do not play a part in the subsequent analyses.

These two introductory chapters are followed by a substantial exposé on the conceptual and methodological basis of the study. Chapter 4 reviews the application of GIS-based spatial analysis in archaeology, and the different types of spatial analysis employed here: site location modelling, cost path, kernel density and watershed analysis, and associated statistical tests.

Chapter 5 subsequently discusses the methodological choices and issues related to the archaeological data that is used. While there is a wealth of rural settlement data for this region (numerous rural site excavations and recent intensive field survey data), the author here focuses on nine topographic site inventories of different map sheets southeast of Rome: the areas of Tellenae, Apiolae, Aprilia, Velletri and Cori, which together provide a cross-section of landscapes from Rome across the Alban Hills into the northern Pontine plain, and three datasets that deal with coastal landscapes in the Pontine plain (Astura, Circeii and Anxur-Tarracina). These eight datasets follow the methodologies of the famous 'Forma Italiae' series and thus provide a sound basis for comparison. They are complemented by the 'Carta Dell'Agro Romano', which forms an interesting extension of the research area into the lower Tiber valley. As it overlaps with the Apiolae and Tellenae areas, it also provides good possibilities to evaluate potential biases in these datasets (e.g., does either dataset contain sites of a certain type or in a specific part of the study area that are not identified in the other?) and suggests possible ways to deal with these biases in the spatial analyses. In sum, the author has gathered a lot of archaeological data that provide a good starting point to explore settlement patterns in this part of Rome's hinterland.