economic conditions within the empire would have affected differential responses, resulting in variations in types, methods, and locations of the linear fortifications.

Despite these shortcomings, the author deserves high praise for her arduous and meticulous work, which brings to scholarly attention hitherto neglected structures, such as the fortifications in the valley of the Saveka River, or the "klaene und grosse Schanze" on the Plain of Backa (Serbia). The book will remain a standard reference work on Roman linear fortifications in years to come.

These four recent publications amply illustrate what is old and new in Roman military studies, and what research is needed. At the turn of the millennium, each is a valuable contribution in its own way. There is little doubt that Roman frontier studies will continue the traditional course of examining the excavated evidence in order to tighten up the existing classification and typology of military infrastructure and artifacts. Any new epigraphic materials will certainly help to improve the currently accepted framework of troop dispositions and dispositions. It is hoped, however, that research will also proceed beyond these goals in ways that will improve our understanding of the intricate military-civilian relationships in the frontier zones, urban centers, and the countryside. Such research would focus on variations in patterns of behavior, and differential stimuli and responses in sociopolitical and economic affairs. Simultaneously, traditional methods of research need to be enriched by the latest advances in behavioral sciences, including cross-cultural analysis, cultural ecology, and environmental studies.

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BOOK REVIEWS


Both of these volumes are refreshingly significant contributions to the archaeological science literature. In a departure from other texts that emphasize analytical techniques, they are organized around materials and what modern archaeologists can learn from them using chemistry. Traces of the Past and Archaological Chemistry are, however, very different in scope, presentation, and intended audience.

Lambert's volume is directed at a wide audience, covers a comprehensive range of materials and applications in clear language, and has no in-text citations. It presents a variety of chemical applications to archaeology, with a broad chronological and geographic range of examples drawn from the literature, and at the same time has a parallel theme: the history of human manipulation of materials using chemistry. This approach should make the volume appealing to academic and lay scientific audiences as well as archaeology enthusiasts without any scientific background.

The first chapter ("Stone") opens with provenance studies, followed by a consideration of rock varnish, weathering, and synthetic stone (plaster and cement). The examples chosen range from the Colossi of Memnon, via Stonehenge, to obsidian in Mesoamerica. A much shorter second chapter ("Soil") is concerned with chemical traces of human activity at archaeological sites (e.g., phosphates and organic residues). Chapter 3 ("Pottery") covers clay and temper selection, firing and color, paints and glazes, using several Bronze and Iron Age examples from the eastern Mediterranean, as well as Italian majolica and Chinese porcelain. The pigments and dyes used for wall paintings, cosmetics, pottery, and cloth, as well as writing ink, are the focus of chapter 4 ("Color"). Egyptian, Roman, Islamic, and other contributions to the development of glass and enamel are treated in chapter 5 ("Glass"). A wide variety of materials, including foods, fabrics, products from animals (e.g., skins, hides, hair, ivory), and natural substances (e.g., bitumen, asphalt, resins, amber, lacquer, glue), are discussed in chapter 6 ("Organics"). The principal metals used in antiquity and the technological processes used to transform them into tools, weapons, Chinese vessels, and even the Liberty Bell are dealt with in chapter 7 ("Metals"). The final chapter ("Humans") is concerned with dietary evidence from coprolites and isotopic analysis of bone; dating methods including amino acid racemization, electron spin resonance, and thermoluminescence; and population genetics based on blood groups and DNA studies. The volume also includes a brief epilogue, a glossary of some 230 terms, extensive references in a section entitled "Further Reading," a substantial index, and two time lines.

Traces of the Past is an extremely readable overview of the archaeological history of chemistry and of chemical analysis in modern archaeological practice. Lambert successfully weaves together the history of human chemical manipulation of materials with recent examples of their analysis and archaeological interpretation. The book is accurate and clear in its presentation of a wide range of materials and analytical methods, and the many archaeological examples used to illustrate their application are well chosen. The excellent text is enhanced by an abundance of illustrations, including 16 color plates.

Archaeological Chemistry, on the other hand, is aimed at students of archaeological science as well as "chemists interested in new applications." Its 10 chapters are seamlessly written by the two authors. Chapter 1 covers the historical development of archaeological chemistry. Chapter 2 dis-

It is a no easy task to shepherd a major archaeological project through to final publication; often fascicles do not appear in their intended order. The present volume represents the second half of a two-volume series on the British School at Athens’s Laconia Survey, containing the primary data collected in fieldwork from 1983 to 1988, while the first volume, which will include an account of survey methods as well as diachronic synthesis of the results, has not yet appeared. There is much in volume 2 that cannot be properly digested without reference to information contained in the first volume; thus, a full assessment of the Laconia Survey cannot yet be written, and volume 2 must be evaluated on its merits as a repertorium of data.

The Laconia Survey amassed an impressive amount of information about surface finds and their related cultural material in a relatively rugged, inland section of Lacedaemon, encompassing approximately 70 km² to the east of Sparta. The first eight chapters (chs. 10–17; chs. 1–9 are assigned to volume 1) catalogue the pottery by chronological period (Neolithic, by Cavanagh; Early Helladic, by Cavanagh and Crowell; Middle Helladic and Late Helladic I–II, by Cavanagh and Crowell; Mycenaean [Late Helladic III], by Crowell; Archaic and Classical, by Catling; Hellenistic, by H. Visscher; Roman, by J. Lasson; and Byzantine and Ottoman, by P. Armstrong). Although the chapters vary substantially in length as a consequence of the amount of material, their method and scope are similar. For each period, a number of ceramic “types” are generated, illustrated, and documented with comparanda. Commentaries are limited mainly to chronological and taxonomic issues. A broader theme common to many contributions is the contrast between the assemblages from urban centers and sanctuaries, which have been at least minimally studied, and those from rural sites, which have received little or no prior attention.

Three short chapters (ch. 19, the small finds by M. Overbeck; ch. 20, the stone architectural and sculptural fragments by D. Bibler; and ch. 21, the epigraphic material by Shipley) report the miscellaneous finds. Overbeck’s catalogue is dominated by terracotta objects, including architectural fragments, lamps, kiln equipment, loomweights, figurines, and plaques. Rare finds of metal, coins, stone, and glass are also described. The material presented by Bibler comprises 23 architectural pieces and one fragment of a sculptured relief. In Shipley’s chapter, some 77 inscriptions from the survey area are assembled, ranging in date from Archaic to modern times.

Two chapters stand out as fundamentally different from the rest. The chapter on the chipped and ground stone (ch. 18) by T. Carter and M. Vito, and that concerning the phosphate and geophysical survey (ch. 22) by Cavanagh, R. Jones, and A. Sarris, are freestanding studies that can be unde-