

the study. The author carefully considers what the tradition and the gradually developing narratives signified for the Romans and what kind of modern conclusions might blur our understanding about the imperial jurisdiction and the emperors as the adjudicators. Chapters are well structured and text proceeds fluently. One minor stylistic detail is found in page 272, where the mother of the emperor Severus Alexander is styled in Greek Mamaia. This is indeed correct, but the Latinised formulation, Julia Mamaea, is the established formulation (maybe this is just a misprint). In an excessively detailed appendix, Tuori presents the evidence case by case. The layout of the appendix is somewhat exhausting but this probably cannot be avoided for the sake of the printing practicalities. However, the list of the legal cases provides a valuable research tool and collection of evidence for the scholars working with the questions of imperial adjudication and imperial power. Throughout the study, the illustrations provided by J. Heikonen enlighten the reader and support the treatise well by directing the reader's mind to the places where the court hearings took place or the emperors used their judicative power. All in all, this volume is absolutely worth of reading and taking as a permanent cornerstone of the history of the Roman imperial legal praxis.

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*Maritime Transport Containers in the Bronze–Iron Age Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean.* Edited by STELLA DEMESTICHA – A. BERNARD KNAPP. *Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology and Literature* 183. Åströms förlag, Uppsala 2016. ISBN 978-91-7081-211-8. IX, 241 pp. EUR 60.

Stella Demesticha and Bernard Knapp have compiled a selection of 11 papers that were held at the 2016 annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Glasgow. The resulting book *Maritime Transport Containers in the Bronze–Iron Age Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean* offers a comprehensive view into the research related not only to different kinds of vessels used by the maritime economies during the Bronze and Iron Ages in the Mediterranean, but also to the ancient Mediterranean trade and trade routes themselves. Despite this review being written as much as four years after the book's initial publication, the volume is still very much up to date and quite useful for anyone interested in this field. It should be added that for a more cohesive account the monograph *Mediterranean Connections: Maritime Transport Containers and Seaborne Trade in the Bronze and Early Iron Ages* (New York 2016) is also available, written by the two editors of the present volume.

The term Maritime Transport Container (MTC) is surprisingly difficult to define. Attempts to categorise the vast assembly of different relevant vessels is a thread that runs through all the

present articles. In Chapter 1, Demesticha and Knapp give their definition of MTCs, offering some thought-provoking ideas regarding both the methodological approaches explored in the following articles, as well as the interpretative landscapes opened by the results offered by the study of MTCs. The chapter begins by approaching these questions diachronically by discussing the emergence of the phenomenon during the Early Bronze Age.

According to Demesticha and Knapp, MTCs are mass-produced vessels with a somewhat standardised capacity, intended for transportation overseas. This seems reasonable enough, but in fact multiple problems arise regarding this definition (for instance, what to think of some of the vessels being reused, or some apparent MTCs being used only locally, or the standardisation being often quite vague at best) and indeed very few of the 22 different vessel types represented in the book fit completely into all these requirements. However, these problems are also acknowledged by the authors, and indeed it seems to be the nature of the inquiry into MTCs that their actual definition is somewhat fluid and hazy.

Chapter 2 by Peter Day and David Wilson discusses the emergence of the MTC in the form of Early Bronze Age transport jars, giving a concise view of the situation through examples from Crete, Thera and Kea. Dispersion of common shapes and the influence of a few large production centres seem to prove that the interconnected maritime economies were developing already during this early period.

The next five chapters are focused on the so-called Canaanite Jars or Phoenician amphorae. The terminology is contested, but the role of this development in the later universalised amphora shape seems to be evident. Especially Chapter 4 by Tatiana Pedrazzi is geared towards more clearly defined terminology for this development.

Vessel capacities are studied by Cydrisse Cateloy in Chapter 3 and Chris M. Monroe in Chapter 5. Cateloy's paper also discusses the methodology of calculating the capacity itself. In addition to manual methods, such as water measurement and polystyrene beads, Cateloy examines various computer software available for the purpose. As a user of AutoCAD myself, I find her comment about it being time consuming somewhat strange, since I have found creating 3D solids of revolution based on pottery drawings quite fast and efficient. Of course, her main point still stands: since even the wheel-made vessels are never completely regular, one cannot reach accurate results by computer models based only on 2D drawings, compared to actual manual measurement of capacity.

Chapter 5 by Chris Monroe connects the Ugaritic textual evidence on vessel capacity to the evidence gathered from MTC finds. Rough standardisation of the vessels seems to have been the case, but Monroe's results point toward there not having been a correlation with Ugaritic or Egyptian systems of measurement. Further studies could be carried out with larger amounts of volumetric data, but tentatively the results seem rather convincing.

Scientific archaeometrical methods are present in several papers. Ceramic petrography is featured in Chapters 6, 9 and 10 (by Michael Artzy; Eleftheria Kardamaki, Peter M. Day et al.; and Paul Waiman-Barak and Ayelet Gilboa, respectively). These offer valuable input to the growing corpus of petrographical samples of the ceramics in the region, use of which is indispensable when studying the provenances of MTC finds. Petrography has increasingly been in use since the 1990s, but it has not yet reached its full potential, and the work here will continue making future studies more reliable.

Catherine Pratt's paper (Chapter 11) discusses Early Archaic trade networks by comparing Corinthian and Athenian amphora distributions. The spread of Athenian SOS and Corinthian A amphorae seems to imply a special dynamic related to the trade of liquid goods into the Sicilian colonies. The results are interesting, especially in challenging the earlier presumed supremacy of Corinth in the trade networks through the prevalence of SOS amphorae in the region. Nevertheless, it would be beneficial to see a comparison with a larger area and a larger data set, since the storage jar types surveyed here are found elsewhere, too.

Chapter 12 by Mark Lawall contains an interesting discussion on the whole concept of MTCs. In this sense it also works nicely as the closing chapter of the whole volume. The main focus is on Aegean MTCs of the 9<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, however. Interestingly for a classicist, the paper discusses briefly the role of the wine trade in the region and the possibility of detecting the origins of the concept of symposion in this trade. The introduction of symposia could have been instrumental in broadening the 'elite' in the communities, which in turn would have been an important element in the timely development of the new polis-based communities (224–225). Sadly, this train of thought is not developed further, but ample sources are provided.

Since the publication is a collection of conference papers, it is understandable that the illustrations and tables vary somewhat in style and composition. Some authors use screenshots of 3D models of the vessels, while others rely on traditional (and in my opinion more illustrative) hand drawn pictures. We shall see whether 3D modelling will challenge the use of hand-drawn illustration in the future. Otherwise the editing and visual features are functional and clear, and the overall quality of the publication is excellent.

The book manages to give a splendid overview of the recently defined and vast field of MTC studies. The scope is broad and the stakes are high, since the results have convincing implications regarding the international trade and diplomacy during the periods covered. For instance, the assumption of a highly developed and interconnected global market between Late Bronze Age superpowers seems to be central in understanding the mechanisms of the so-called Bronze Age collapse, and the study of MTCs provides a powerful tool for analysing these phenomena. Even after four years since its publication, the book is still recommended reading for Bronze and Iron

Age scholars and offers a valuable contribution to the study of ancient Eastern Mediterranean trade.

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GIUSEPPINA CERULLI IRELLI: *Il mondo dell'archeologia cristiana*. Studia archaeologica 225. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2018. ISBN 978-88-913-1686-8. XIII, 686 pp. EUR 408.

Il presente libro consiste in una descrizione di testimonianze sulla presenza dei cristiani in varie parti del mondo antico. Vuole pertanto essere un lavoro di geografia storica. In due appendici vengono trattate le fonti e l'epigrafia cristiana. Chiude il volume un indice dei luoghi notevoli. Non si tratta quindi di una introduzione all'archeologia cristiana. Ma esaminiamo più da vicino la consistenza dell'opera.

Dopo una fiorita e dispersiva presentazione di Antonio Sartori di dubbia utilità ai fini della caratterizzazione dell'opera, comincia la parte centrale del volume, un prospetto generale dei luoghi che presentano testimonianze cristiane, dall'Italia ed altre regioni dell'Occidente latino ai centri dell'Oriente greco. In questa disposizione salta agli occhi che i materiali italiani vengono offerti presentando le regioni augustee in ordine inverso, cominciando dunque dalla regio XI e concludendo con Roma; difficile dire quali circostanze abbiano indotto l'autrice ad assumere tale capricciosa decisione. Non si capisce neanche bene come mai nella sezione dell'Oriente greco siano state piazzate le province danubiane quali Dalmazia o Pannonia che sono restate latine fino alla fine dell'antichità e anche oltre (poi non c'è una sillaba su Noricum o Raetia).

Nella sua breve introduzione l'a. dice che si propone di ordinare assieme le varie componenti che giocarono un ruolo nell'evangelizzazione nel mondo tardoantico, vuole dunque concentrarsi sui contesti paleocristiani. Tuttavia, si occupa spesso anche di circostanze medievali, ma in modo inconsistente.

La trattazione dei singoli centri soffre non solo di una certa superficialità, ma anche di un ineguale trattamento delle fonti a nostra disposizione; per es. delle iscrizioni cristiane si parla soltanto molto di rado e senza un programma meditato. Ma soprattutto le rassegne sono molto incomplete. Esaminiamo qui di seguito due regioni d'Italia, Lazio e Campania che l'a. dovrebbe conoscere bene (avendo studiato alla Sapienza e lavorato nella Soprintendenza Archeologica di Napoli).

Prima il Lazio. La lacuna più grave della documentazione è l'assenza del complesso di S. Ilario presso Valmontone, nel territorio della romana Signina, con le sue numerose iscrizioni (vedi V. Fiocchi Nicolai, *RPAA* 61 (1988-89) 71-102 e A. E. Felle, *VetChr* 38 (2001) 237-285; il corpus