

unidentified material, objects that could be modern, and objects mentioned in the antiquarian sources. The text is followed by an index of the museums with a list of greywacke products cited in the book. Another index provides the proveniences of the objects.

The presentation of the material is clear, and easy to follow. The arrangement of the catalogue is also understandable, and I have only one question concerning the author's choice of order. Why did she place no. 71, a fragment of a crater, in the group of "Ornamental sculpture", and not in "Fragments" as she did with no. 95 which is another fragment of a crater? To me it seems more suitable to place no. 71 with the group of fragments, not with the ornamental sculpture which contains complete or nearly complete examples.

Especially interesting is the significance of the use of greywacke, which the author discusses on pages 56–58. She suggests that greywacke could have been used for portraits of Augustus to point out via an allusion his power over conquered Egypt; Augustus could have accentuated his power in a symbolic meaning through an allusion. For the same purpose, Augustus could have used mythological statues made of greywacke to decorate the Temple of Apollo to emphasize the victory over Egypt. The same theory of imperial propaganda would then suit the portraits of Livia and Gaius Caesar, Tiberius and other members of the Julio-Claudian family. The first century AD is therefore the most important period for the use of greywacke in art.

The cessation of the use of greywacke took place in the second century AD, due to several possible reasons: Belli Pasqua suggests the change in taste as one possibility. Another reason could have been that specialists who were able to work with this material disappeared, and, as the most interesting alternative, she proposes that the symbolic meaning of greywacke with imperial connotation disappeared when other materials became more popular: porphyry took over the symbolic meaning of greywacke.

The book gives us an important introduction to a special group of objects, Roman sculpture made of greywacke, and we have to be grateful to the author for all the pieces of information she has collected into this volume about this rare group of Roman artifacts.

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*Petra. Ez Zantur* I. Ergebnisse der Schweizerisch-Liechtensteinischen Ausgrabungen 1988–1992. Terra Archaeologica II. Ed. A. Bignasca, N. Desse-Berset, R. Fellmann Brogli, R. Glutz, S. Karg, D. Keller, B. Kolb, Ch. Kramar, M. Peter, S.G. Schmid, Ch. Schneider, R. A. Stucky, J. Studer, I. Zanoni. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz 1996. ISBN 3–8053–1749–2. 411 pages, 1027 illustrations and drawings, 7 color plates, and 16 plans. DEM 180.

This comprehensive volume which presents the results of the 1988-1992 Swiss-Liechtenstein excavations at Petra is a true milestone in the studies concerning the culture history and archaeology of Petra during the Classical and Byzantine periods. Petra was the capital city of the Nabataean Kingdom, and subsequently the capital of the Roman province of *Arabia* and later, of the Byzantine province *Palaestina Salutaris/Tertia*. The economic significance of Petra as a major emporium in the international long-distance trade in spices and aromatics during the Hellenistic and Roman periods is well-known. Therefore, the volume is all the more welcome since the archaeological exploration of Petra is still

insufficient, and the material published so far is not abundant, despite the obvious importance of the city. The Swiss team under the leadership of Prof. Rolf Stucky, University of Basel, had selected a site located on the slope of a hill overlooking the city center, which turned out to be a residential quarter. That fortunate decision brought in a plethora of information concerning the domestic architecture and the material culture of the Nabataean, Roman, and Byzantine periods at Petra. The excavations have uncovered a sequence of domestic structures dated from the late 2nd century B.C., through the early 5th century A.D. The occupation was, however, disrupted at the beginning of the 2nd century A.D., largely discontinued during the 2nd and 3rd centuries, reconstituted in the early 4th century A.D., and disrupted again by the disastrous earthquake of A.D. 363. While that destruction was followed by a limited rebuilding of the housing complex, another seismic event, postulated by the authors to have occurred in A.D. 419, finally brought to an end the occupation at the ez-Zantur slope.

The volume is divided into chapters which consequently present the material culture remains, and comment on parallels and the historical significance of the finds. Particular attention may be directed upon the exemplary, well-referenced, and imaginative presentations of the Nabataean and Late Roman domestic architecture. Private houses were excavated in Petra in the past but so far the best preserved and published examples were restricted to the Nabataean Negev (e.g., at Mamphis). The ceramic analyses which follow the architectural presentations involve thorough discussions of plain, fine, and imported ware found in association with the houses at ez-Zantur. The Nabataean Fine Ware analysis and the proposed chronological framework of the distinguished types should be considered a major breakthrough in Nabataean ceramic studies, with regard to the form and decoration vs. the chronological assignment. Although Nabataean pottery has been intensively studied in the past, using the material from Petra and the Nabataean settlements in southern Jordan and the Negev, the current analysis is particularly valuable since it is based upon a corpus of material which represents a considerable time-span, and which comes from well-stratified and coin-dated deposits. Other contributions in the volume are equally outstanding and exhaustive in information and parallels, and these include the presentations of terracotta finds, glass, ceramic lamps, faunal remains, and human skeletal remains. The numismatic chapter includes the description of the coin finds associated with the A.D. 363 earthquake.

One cannot but highly praise Rolf Stucky and his team of experts for their contribution in expanding our knowledge of Petra through this important publication. Undoubtedly, this handsomely produced and illustrated volume will remain a standard reference book for all who work in Petra or study the history and archaeology of the city. The readers will eagerly await the appearance of the following volumes in the series, especially in light of new and important discoveries which have been made by the Swiss-Liechtenstein team since 1992.

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