

and how this could really not be used as it was noticed that the sites were regularly 30 or so meters off from their actual locations. Häuber has a long history in the research of Roman topography with the "paper supported" systems and now that she has started to use the digital systems, hearing of her experiences would, to my mind, have benefited the researchers of classical archaeology more than this text, which is mostly just a good description of how difficult the study of ancient topography can be.

The section also raises questions on the accuracy of the content of the database. How can we evaluate the data that we are supposed to use for further research? Can we find out who has collected the data and how the collection has been made? Are the sources listed somewhere? Has anyone checked the data and its accuracy before or after it was included in the database? Is the information inserted correctly? The list of questions is long. The documentation of the data and its creation is almost as important as the data itself. If the user can evaluate the methods of compiling the data base, he/she can use the data with confidence in its veracity. This is perhaps one of the old problems of classical archaeology: what is published are the results of the research and little is said of how they were achieved. Yet, the methods used, however simple or commonplace, are of greatest importance when the results are evaluated. This applies particularly to the digital systems where simple mistakes in the process of data manipulation can lead to great errors which might go unnoticed.

I opened the book with great expectations as I am involved in the process of creating and developing a database for one current fieldwork project. I hoped for ideas and examples of how to do such a work and how at least some of the most common problems have been solved. In the end, I felt frustrated and unhappy with the book. I feel that it told me only a little bit about databases, very little about specifically archaeological databases and almost nothing of the use of archaeological databases.

*Eeva-Maria Viitanen*

STEPHAN STEINGRÄBER: *Arpi – Apulien – Makedonien. Studien zum unteritalischen Grabwesen in hellenistischer Zeit.* Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 2000. ISBN 3-8053-2564-9. XVII, 221 S., 30 Kart., 61 Taf. + CD-ROM (mit 106 Abb.). EUR 65,50.

Stephan Steingraber gives both an overview of the monumental tombs in Hellenistic Apulia and takes the Tomba della Medusa in the Daunian Arpi into special consideration. The hypogeion, built ca. 300-270 BC and probably used by five generations, is one of the most monumental, remarkable and enlightening of all the tombs in Southern Italy and Apulia. It was discovered in 1980, but only examined in depth in the latter half of the 1980s after an unfortunate visit by grave robbers. The finds were recovered, however, to a great extent. The tomb consists of an open dromos, three parallel chambers with barrel vaults, with a floor mosaic in the main chamber. The name comes from the gorgoneion in the pediment of the vestibule. The clearly Macedonian features bring about a general discussion of the welcoming of Eastern monumentality into South Italy, probably as an influence of the, at times, forced interaction between the prominent Lucanian and

Bruttian families and the Epeirote court of Alexander the Molossian.

The case study of the Tomba della Medusa is complemented with an extensive study of the South Italian tombs from the fourth to the second century BC. The typology of the tombs is followed by the presentation of the tombs' characteristic features and details of internment. The topographical sites of the necropoli and the south Italian features of the cult of the dead also are clarified. The whole subject relies on almost exclusively on archaeological material, as only seldom do literary and epigraphic sources exist. The third part of the book is not large, but very useful indeed. It is an updated bibliography written according to regions and sites in chronological order, and will be an invaluable aid to anyone interested in the subject. A useful CD with over one hundred photos of the Tomba della Medusa and other tombs in the larger geographical area is enclosed. Its photos are, for the most part, the same presented in the book itself, but in colours.

The geographical maps are in general very informative and readable, except for the one on Tafel 14 with its minimal text. There is also some vacillating in describing the walls of the tombs as right, left or according to the points of the compass. But these are minor defects, as the book is a good orientation to a little known subject.

*Leena Pietilä-Castrén*

*Adriatico tra IV e III sec. a.C. Vasi alto-adriatici tra Piceno, Spina e Adria. Atti del Convegno di studi Ancona, 20–21 giugno 1997. A cura di MAURIZIO LANDOLFI. Ministero per i Beni e le Attività culturali. Soprintendenza Archeologica per le Marche. Regione Marche, Assessorato alla Cultura. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2000. ISBN 88-8265-121-5. XVI, 169 pp., V tavole. EUR 78.*

Dopo gli obbligatori premessa, presentazione e saluto del sindaco di Ancona, fortunatamente brevi, seguono le comunicazioni stesse presentate nel convegno di Ancona: L. Braccesi, *Dorica Ancon* e problemi connessi; P. G. Guzzo, Perché i Piceni non erano alla battaglia di Cuma?; M. Landolfi, I Galli e l'Adriatico; S. Bonomi – N. Camerin – K. Tamassia, Aggiornamenti sulla ceramica alto-adriatica di Adria; M. T. Robino, Tipologia e cronologia delle brocche alto-adriatiche nelle necropoli di Adria; F. Berti – P. Desantis, I crateri alto-adriatici di Spina; C. Massai Dräger, Crateri alto-adriatici figurati ed ideologia funeraria; M. Landolfi, Vasi alto-adriatici del Piceno; B. Kirigin, Alto-Adriatico Vases from Dalmatia; M. Mazzei, La ceramica apula a figure rosse. Alcune riflessioni; W. Johannowsky, Considerazioni sul rapporto tra ceramica alto-adriatica e ceramica campana; F. Gilotta, Ceramiche alto-adriatiche e vasi etruschi a figure rosse; M. Harari, Modelli etnico-culturali e ceramografia. I vasi alto-adriatici.

Tranne i primi tre contributi dedicati ai problemi storico-archeologici in generale, si tratta di analisi sulla ceramica antica, nella quale i vasi alto-adriatici giocano un ruolo predominante, della loro tipologia e la loro diffusione in altre regioni quali Dalmazia o Campania. Il volume si può raccomandare non solo agli specialisti della ceramica antica, ma anche ai normali antichisti che si interessano della storia repubblicana dell'Adriatico e della diffusione della sua ceramica in altre parti dell'Italia o altre regioni limitrofe.

*Heikki Solin*