

CAROL L. LAWTON: *Marbleworkers in the Athenian Agora*. Picture Book No. 27. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Athens 2006. ISBN 0-87661-645-7. 52 pp., 58 figs. EUR 4,95.

CRAIG A. MAUZY: *Agora Excavations 1931–2006. A Pictorial History*. With contributions by JOHN MCK. CAMP II. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Athens 2006. ISBN 0-87661-910-3. 128 pp, 267 figs. EUR 15.

SUSAN I. ROTROFF and ROBERT D. LAMBERTON: *Women in the Athenian Agora*. Picture Book No. 26. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Athens 2006. ISBN 0-87661-644-9. 56 pp., 71 figs. EUR 4,95.

Most archaeological projects usually produce only one kind of publication, the results of the work in articles and/or monographs. Very large and long projects might also try to popularize their work. The excavations of the Athenian Agora by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens has published its scholarly work mainly in the Athenian Agora Monographs series and as Supplements of *Hesperia*, the journal of the School, and also naturally in many other monographs and countless articles. The three books reviewed here belong to the category of "other publications". Life in Athens in the times of classical antiquity is made easily available for everyone in the Picture Books series represented here by two examples: one on Athenian women (Rotroff & Lamberton) and the second on marbleworking (Lawton), and the history of the excavations is visualized in the third volume by Craig A. Mauzy.

Writing popular archaeology or science in general is not necessarily very easy. The public has great interest in archaeology and there is a real demand for good popular books, but many archaeologists look down on such efforts. The reason for the negativity is hard to understand. Maybe it is felt that the results are difficult to explain in less-than-academic terms or that the results are not spectacular enough for popularization. Or perhaps there is a reluctance to make such interpretations of the material that would make it alive for those whose main interest in life is not stones or pottery. Another, very good reason maybe that preparation of a popular volume is not counted in the project's budget and few archaeologists have the time or energy to work on such books. This makes the popular book series from the Agora excavations all the more valuable.

The volume by Susan I. Rotroff and Robert D. Lamberton is on women in the Athenian Agora, or rather on women's lives in Athens in general during the heyday of Athens, in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. The various aspects of the daily life of women is examined through texts and archaeological findings starting with women's status in society in general, their rights and obligations. This is followed by glimpses of life at home, responsibilities and tasks. There is also a section on women as companions as well as depictions of women in terracotta statuettes. The text is easy and interesting to read and the pictures illustrate the points well. There is even space for discussing the differences between what the texts and what the archaeological material tell, well illustrating the difficulties of recreating societies from more than two millennia ago. The book ends with a few pages on the women who have been integral to the work of the Agora excavation, mainly from the first generation of Agora scholars. As has been noted many times by studies into archaeological research processes and history of the discipline, women tend to be the ones who keep the records and patiently study the pottery. Lucy Talcott was responsible

for the creation of the recording system and keeping the records straight for the excavations for decades and this possibly earned her a reputation for being overtly conscientious and detailed about it. Anyone who has had to work with frequently chaotic excavation archives would appreciate the neat organization and details of the Agora system. Archaeology is much about the pleasure of finding new things and making exciting interpretations, but behind this is really a need for rigorously keeping the details straight and archival discipline in that is very important. It is delightful that the ancient women have been connected to the modern women.

The other Picture Book is on the marblworking at the Agora and written by Carol Lawton. The booklet begins by presenting the history of stone sculpture in Greece and then continues by displaying the archaeological evidence and the find locations in the Agora area. The most important stoneworking tools and methods are described next. The last part is dedicated to famous sculptors and their works related to the Agora. As with the other volume, the text is clear and informative and the many photographs and drawings handsomely complement the text.

The book by Craig A. Mauzy deals with the history of the project. Every archaeological excavation or survey leaves behind a considerable legacy of material that usually will not be published. This material includes the work conducted and other things not directly related to archaeology. Letters, e-mails, photographs, videos, drawings, plans, notes, etc. They form the basis for studying the history of the project and could contribute to the more general study of the history of archaeology. Few projects have been going on as long as the Agora excavations and for this reason, it is wonderful to see the volume of photographs and notes collected by the current site photographer.

The main emphasis of the book is not on archaeology, but rather on the process of the project and how many of its relevant infrastructures were created. The book starts with reminiscences of the first season in 1931 with photographs and notebook pages. It then proceeds to record the reconstruction of the Stoa of Attalos in the 1950's, which is now the excavation house, the main storage space and the museum of the Agora. The photographs and short notes record the various phases of planning and building the structure, giving a tangible idea of the effort (and cost) put into the project. This feat is made even greater considering that at the same time the Church of the Holy Apostles was being studied and then reconstructed to its 11th century appearance. After the building projects, the archaeological area also needed to be made into an archaeological park and this landscaping work is recorded in the next section.

The book finishes with photographs and lists of the past and present excavation staffs, the people responsible for the digging, cleaning, recording and maintenance of the archaeological record. Apart from some obligatory work photos, the archaeologist tends to not to write him/herself into the results – perhaps in an attempt to be scientifically objective? Seeing photographs of the teams at work and leisure is thus always interesting and intriguing. The excavation work itself was done by Greek workers until 1980, when they were mostly replaced by volunteer students from American universities. The educational value of the excavation is also very great! Two names and one institution could perhaps be added to the lists of participants for 1997: the current author and Petro Pesonen from the University of Helsinki had a unique opportunity to participate in the excavations by the generosity of the project's director, John McK. Camp II. We also have the photographic record as proof (not to mention the inscribed trowels)!

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