

explored as much as could have been done. The effort to promote interdisciplinary approaches can only be applauded and one can hope it will be continued in further work.

*Eeva-Maria Viitanen*

DANIELA BALDONI: *Vasi a matrice di età imperiale a Iasos. Missione archeologica italiana di Iasos III*. *Archaeologica* 139. Giorgio Bretschneider Editore, Roma 2003. ISBN 88-7689-196-X. IX, 102 pp. EUR 146.

After an interval of several years this book resumes the publication of the results of the Italian fieldwork at Iasos, northeast of the Halikarnassos peninsula. This Carian city has a long history and some outstanding remains; it was uninterruptedly inhabited since the Early Bronze Age, and became much later, in 125 BC, a prosperous part of the Roman province of Asia.

The two previous volumes of the Italian archaeological mission at Iasos concentrated on monumental remains, and may be seen as fruits of different methodology and aims of research, while the current volume casts light on the city's life in an era of minor creativity. The object of the study is more than three hundred fragments of the fine mould-made ware, from the late first century through the early fourth century. The material, sometimes with hazy chronological contexts, comes from the old excavations, and consequently forms a rather fortuitous choice of this material at Iasos. The catalogue entries are supported either by drawings or photos of most items, and the material is conventionally divided into closed or open shapes and those with plastic decoration, the first group being by far the most numerous. The reader would have appreciated a clarifying word on the principles and the general parallels in the catalogue, and especially on the (former?) typologies, which are now taken for granted in p. 39 ff and p. 49 ff; otherwise the entry texts are quite sufficient.

In the introductory part of the book, the presentation of the Imperial mould-made ware in Asia Minor is very good indeed with all the technical details, different production centres and diffusion of the exports. On the concluding part, it appears that there circulated in Iasos both locally made moulded ware as well as Cnidian and Pergamene products. The very enlightening historical and economical review of fine wares in general in the eastern Mediterranean, pp. 85–90, should have been given at least a subtitle of its own; now it is inserted, somewhat unfortunately, under the general heading of conclusions. Putting it instead in the beginning, as a complementary part of the presentation of the moulded ware from Asia Minor, might have proved a better solution and given even more volume to the background of the Imperial fine wares in this part of the ancient world.

Despite the vacillating organization of the text, the material has been analyzed with skill, the text in general makes nice reading, and the conclusions are a new opening in the ceramic studies of the area. This volume is also number 139 of the meritorious series *Archaeologica*.

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