

LUCIO BENEDETTI: *Glandes Perusinae. Revisione e aggiornamenti*. Opuscula Epigraphica del Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Sapienza – Università di Roma, 13. Edizioni Quasar, Roma 2012. ISBN 978-88-7140-464-6. EUR 30.

Le ghiande missili erano fra le armi più usate nell'antichità, fabbricate in pietra, argilla e soprattutto piombo. Il Benedetti offre nel presente volume un'ottima edizione delle ghiande in piombo della guerra perugina del 41–40 a. C., uno dei gruppi più interessanti e articolati di questo genere di oggetti. Iscritte direttamente sul piombo o impresse nella matrice, esse riportano iscrizioni di diverso carattere: nome del comandante o dell'unità militare assediante (per es. n. 3 nel catalogo di Benedetti: *Caesar imp(erator)*, seguito da un fulmine), nome del comandante nemico, spesso accompagnato da invettive (per es. n. 33 *L. Antoni, calve, peristi; C. Caesarus victoria*); talora le invettive che un soldato si diverte a mandare al nemico sono oscene (n. 29 con buon commento di Benedetti: *Laxe, Octavi, sede*, seguito dalla figura di un fallo).

Nel suo libro, l'autore presenta una revisione delle ghiande perugine note che ora si trovano in varie collezioni, a Perugia, Roma, Napoli, Bologna, Torino, Parigi. Dopo l'edizione segue un'appendice che contiene la corrispondenza fra Mariano Guardabassi e studiosi quali Henzen, Zange-meister e altri. Seguono indici e concordanze. Chiudono il volume fotografie e disegni, uno accanto all'altro, dei singoli pezzi.

Heikki Solin

PETER THONEMANN: *The Maeander Valley. A Historical Geography from Antiquity to Byzantium*. Greek Culture in the Roman World. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2011. ISBN 978-1-107-00688-1. 414 pp. 110 b/w illustrations, 13 maps. GBP 77.

Peter Thonemann's (henceforth T.) wonderful monograph, imitating the twists and turns of both the Maeander and its derivative English verb, is something of literary river cruise. The reader is transported from source to delta, disembarking at points along the way to explore a wealth of sites, stories and cultures over a span of almost two millennia. Part of the *Greek Culture in the Roman World* series from Cambridge University Press, this is ostensibly a work of historical geography. Yet, to describe it simply as such belies its true nature. What makes this volume so captivating is the particular way in which T. understands the task of the historical geographer, viz. to study the interaction between people and landscape; culture and geography; in short, "[the] dialectical relationship between men and women and their environment over time" (p.xiii). Landscape is, in T.'s opinion, anything but a monolithic determinant, it is individuals and communities who give it shape and importance. Thus, he has chosen to present the Maeander as a multispectral image capturing its dynamic affective relationship with the cultures of its valley.

The initial chapter ('The Valley') convincingly justifies the choice of subject matter, arguing for the existence of a specific Maeanderine identity, evidenced in the names of cities i.e. Magnesia on the Maeander, and people i.e. *Anaximander*. Chapter two ('Hydrographic Heroes') discusses the importance of hydrological conditions in the conceptualisation of local mythology, both pagan and Christian, throughout antiquity. Such narrativization of landscape is a key tenet of the book and of-

fers much fertile ground for exploration. The following chapter, ('The Nature of Roman Apamea') is an extended discussion of economy and identity politics at Phrygian Apamea through the appropriation of the Roman assizes as a local festival. T. 's discussion sets up further exploration of adjacent themes later in the volume (chapters 6 and 7) demonstrating the importance of specific local cultural contexts in assessing economic conditions in the ancient world beyond simple cost-benefit analysis. The fourth chapter ('The Fortress at Eumeneia'), takes as its subject the longevity of an Attalid fortified position near modern Işıklı. The continued recognition of this region as a liminal space regardless of political realities provides welcome fuel to the essential illogicity and cultural specificity of human-environmental interactions.

Likewise, in chapter five ('The Pastoral Economy') the interfaces between urban and rural realms illuminates an unusual level of prestige placed on animal husbandry. The textile industry, where the ability to pasture vast numbers of animals encouraged specialisation, was highly profitable. This industry, along with Imperial patronage seems to have been the most important factor for local power politics early Roman period, as is shown in chapter six ('The Nobility of Mt Cadmus'). While some families remained spatially constant, others influence and identity could spread across the region and even the wider Roman world. In the next chapter ('The Rural Economy'), T. discusses diachronic changes in estate holdings from the Hellenistic period to the early Middle ages, emphasising conflicts between monastic estates and local potentates in addition the characteristically non-contiguous nature of land holding in the region. The final chapter, ('The Bounty of the Maeander') looks at the creation of new lands in the Maeander delta. T. presents a persuasive counter-narrative to the pervasive negative interpretation of riverine accretion, demonstrating that while arable land might be damaged by the process, other economic activities, such as horse rearing, could flourish. Progradation could be as beneficial to some communities (i.e. Miletos) as it was destructive to others (i.e. Priene).

The depth and breadth of T. 's scholarship throughout is impressive, he is as comfortable discussing the landholding in archaic Miletos as 13th century CE Byzantine monastic traditions, without ever losing sight of his overarching themes. His command of the evidence, whether it be onomastic, numismatic, epigraphic or archive material is consistently of the highest quality, adding significant layers of understanding to the vignettes he presents throughout. T. recognises that neither community nor landscape can operate in a vacuum nor can they act decisively upon the other, it is within the terms of dialogue between the two that they are constituted. In this reviewer's opinion, it is this feature which makes T. 's monograph truly ground-breaking and a must-read for graduate students and scholars interested in the relationship between space and culture in the ancient world.

*John Brendan Knight*

ROBERT ROLLINGER: *Alexander und die großen Ströme. Die Flußüberquerungen im Lichte altorientalischer Pioniertechniken (Schwimmschläuche, Keleks und Pontonbrücken)*. *Classica et Orientalia* 7. Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2013. ISBN 978-3-447-06927-4. XVI, 177 S., 39 Tafelseiten mit 70 Abb. EUR 38.

The crossing of great rivers has been a challenge to all armies throughout history; different solutions have been developed depending on the terrain and the circumstances. This book deals with the ques-