

**José Pascual, Maria-Fotini Papakonstantinou (eds.), *Topography and History of Ancient Epicnemidian Locris*.** Mnemosyne supplements. History and archaeology of classical antiquity, 362. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2013. Pp. xxx, 626. ISBN 9789004256699. \$254.00.

This important volume presents the results of a Greek–Spanish survey and research project in Epicnemidian Locris, conducted primarily by scholars affiliated with the 14th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, based in Lamia, Greece, and the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Delimited by the Callidromus ridge and the Cephisus basin on the south, the Dipotamus valley on the east, the Euboean and Malian gulfs on the north, and Oite on the west, Epicnemidian Locris is a small region in central Greece that would in antiquity have occupied approximately 320 km<sup>2</sup>, slightly smaller than Sicyon with its chora (ca. 396 km<sup>2</sup>) and about one–eighth the size of Athens and Attica (ca. 2450 km<sup>2</sup>). The territory was quite densely sown with small poleis and associated settlements and followed a historical trajectory distinct from those of the larger city–states that dominate traditional narratives of Greek history. Despite the exceptional research potential of Epicnemidian Locris, it remains relatively understudied.

In Part One, “Geography,” J. A. González et al. offer a clear, detailed overview of the geology of the region and its likely appearance in antiquity, for, while ancient landscapes are always in flux, few so popularly imagined (e.g., Thermopylae campaign) have changed as dramatically as the coastline of Epicnemidian Locris.

Part Two, “Topography,” offers a range of chapters on sites (J. Pascual; M.–F. Papakonstantinou and G. Zachos), cemeteries (M.–F. Papakonstantinou and E. Karantzali), fortifications (S. Milán), routes and passes (E. Sánchez–Moreno), and coastal communication and interaction (M. Arjona). The most substantial of these uniformly excellent contributions is Pascual’s chapter, which weighs in at a near monograph–length 140 pages. Pascual catalogues 24 sites, to which the additional five observed by Papakonstantinou and Zachos in the “Phokian corridor” may be added. Each entry follows a standard format (cf. J. Fossey’s several indispensable works on the topography of central Greece, which seem to be a model), with citation of: ancient sources describing the sites; archaeological remains discovered or visible on site; and discussions of the site by early travelers and scholars, among whom William Oldfather and Kendrick Pritchett loom especially large, but also including luminaries like Leake, Gell, Dodwell, Phipps, Ross, Bursian, and Lolling, among others. Commentary on and, when possible, identification of the site follows. It is an exceedingly useful collection of materials, which marries the traditions of heroic topography with the concerns of anthropological archaeology. My most substantial criticism

concerns the absence of any explicit statement of or meditation on survey methodology employed in the course of the project. And there is little focused discussion of ceramics, which are so essential to establishing the size and chronology of the settlements in the region.

In Part Three, “History,” six chapters are presented on the history of Epicnemidian Locris from prehistory to Late Antiquity, including contributions by S. Dimaki (Neolithic to Late Bronze Age), A.J. Domínguez Monedero (early and late Archaic), J. Pascual (Classical), J.J. Moreno Hernández and I.M. Pascual Valderrama (Hellenistic), and G. Zachos (Roman). Those chapters concerned with earlier periods are in general more successful in generating genuinely local, Epicnemidian Locrian perspectives on broader social, economic, and political developments, particularly the two chapters of Domínguez Monedero that attempt to integrate the difficult fragmentary literary and material evidence and offer provocative new hypotheses (e.g., possible attribution of the “Phokian wall” (Hdt. 8.176) to the Thesalians, with a concomitant reordering of regional politics in the late Archaic period (pp. 446–57)). Later chapters tend to narrate history “in” rather than “of” Epicnemidian Locris, with the result that the region is distinguished chiefly as military thoroughfare and theatre of conflict between larger, external polities. Distinct regional perspectives do emerge, though, as, for example, in Moreno Hernández and Pascual Valderrama’s presentation of the rich epigraphic evidence for tension between Skarpheia and Thronion in the later Hellenistic period concerning borders (e.g. FD III 4.2, 42, 159) as well as the appointment of hieromnemes to the Delphic Amphictiony (CID IV 123–6) or Zachos’ discussion of Hadrian’s letter to Naryx (SEG 51.641).

A brief conclusion summarizes in broad strokes the contribution of the volume. A hefty bibliography and three useful indices follow. While many chapters could have used another round of stylistic editing, the decision of the editors and contributors to publish in English was wise and will ensure that the volume finds the broad readership that it richly deserves. All students and scholars with an interest in the archaeology and history of central Greece will need to consult this work, which provides an essential foundation for future research in the region.

More noteworthy still is the spirit, vision, and idealism of international collaboration that permeates the work. In an era of shrinking resources and increasing administrative demands placed on scholars, it is refreshing to read in the Acknowledgments the editors’ hopes that the project “contribute in the effort for the foundation of The Spanish School at Athens and more generally to the promotion of relations between the two countries at the level of interdisciplinary research in humanities” (p. xxi), and their conviction

that “knowledge of Greek civilization is also a way of finding oneself and understanding the present” (p. xxii).

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