
The temple of Apollo at Eretria has long been distinguished for its beautiful pedimental sculptures, but unfortunately the architecture that they grace receives scant notice in the handbooks. Thanks to this handsome monograph, which augurs well for the future publications of the Greco-Swiss excavations at Eretria, this lamentable gap in our knowledge of Archaic Greek architecture has been filled. From the most unpromising material Auberson has supplied a convincing reconstruction of the ground-plans not only of the late sixth-century temple to which the sculptures belong, but of its seventh-century predecessor. Both temples merit the careful attention of students of Greek architecture.

The first, a peristyle hecatompedon, dated perhaps too conveniently to 670-650 to coincide with the currently favored date for the end of the Lelantine Wars, displays obvious Ionic features in the proportions of its ground-plan. Its close affinities with Hecatompedon II at Samos are unmistakable—all serving to remind us of the wide horizons of Euboean cities in the early Archaic period. Ionic influences such as the close alignment of the walls of the cella-block with the peripteral colonnade are subtly retained in the successor, dated 530-520, and harmonize well with the Doric order adopted elsewhere in the building. This synthesis places Eretria apart from other late Archaic temples of mainland Greece and points the way to fifth-century Attica.

Every detail of Auberson’s reconstructions is meticulously presented with ample provision of photographs and plans, all of high quality. One can only regret, however, the omission of any discussion of the vestiges of still earlier buildings on the site belonging to the Geometric period, especially as they appear to have been temples also (K. Schefeld, Archaeology 21 [1968] 275); they could most easily have found a place in this volume.

James Russell
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This handsome volume traces the history of Gela from the period before the coming of the Greeks to the present day, although the focus is upon the ancient site. Inevitably a wider view encompassing other areas in Sicily is incorporated, particularly in such chapters as “Hellenization of the Interior,” “The Founding of Akragas,” and “Towards the East Coast,” and in the treatment of “Artistic Developments and Their Sources” we look to the motherland herself. Abundant and glorious illustrations (in color and black-and-white) portray the range and variety of the development vividly and beautifully. We feel the spirit of the people and understand the nature of the landscape; maps are ample and clear.

The number of masterpieces (in architecture, sculpture, pottery, and coinage) exquisitely reproduced is overwhelming. We witness before our very eyes the vital and rich contributions made by Sicily to the mainsprings of our Greek heritage. Von Matt is to be congratulated on the excellence of his art.

The format of the text makes reading a pleasure: the style, however, is most disjointed, elementary at best, awkward to the point of illiteracy at worst. Griffio is obviously a learned archaeologist (factual details abound and the bibliography alone is a mine of information) but unfortunately English is not his language. What a shame a collaborator (or translator) could not be found to help him with his task, even though the book was printed in Italy. Yet the beauties of this work are to be treasured and with perseverance one will learn much from the narrative.

Ohio State University Robert J. Lenardon


This is a short version of the author’s study of the Villanovans at Tarquinia, their forerunners and contemporaries recently published by the Peabody Museum. Considerably easier to read, it also has better illustrations.

Professor Hencken describes the material from the Villanovan graves at Tarquinia; each type of artifact is illustrated and any significant change in form. From the comparisons he builds a Villanovan history: much of their pottery, particularly the characteristic two-storeyed ash urn and its schemes of decoration, is closest to pottery from the urnfields of Oltenia and the Banat along the Danube in Rumania. Since in a primitive society pottery is woman’s work, such resemblances suggest migration. Early Villanovans sites in Italy are near the sea, which suggests that the settlers came by sea. Mixed with Villanovan pots there appear others of Apennine type, characteristic of the late Bronze Age in Italy, which suggests intermarriage with or enslavement of the earlier population. Villanovan bronzes, the most sophisticated of their artifacts, are related to central European urnfield types, which suggests trade and probably the emigration of craftsmen. Finally, so much of the Villanovan matrix is studded with Aegean elements that the Villanovans must have come through the eastern Mediterranean, not directly from eastern Europe.

Hencken suggests that the Villanovans are the originals of Herodotus’ Lydian Tyrsenoi and Hellanicus’ Pelasgians who settled in Italy after the fall of Troy, that they may have brought the Etruscan language along, and that they must be, as the continuous use of their cities and cemeteries in the Etruscan period clearly indicated, the chief ingredient in the composition of the Etruscans of historic times.

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