Side-by-Side Survey
Comparative Regional Studies in the Mediterranean World
By Susan Alcock and John Cherry

Twenty years ago, John Cherry looked forward to the day when archaeological survey projects working around the Mediterranean region (the 'Frogs round the pond') would begin to compare and synthesize the information they had collected. He anticipated researchers tackling big questions of inter-regional scope in new and interesting ways, working at a geographical scale considerably larger than that of the individual survey. Was his optimism misplaced? Despite the extraordinary growth of interest in field survey projects and regional analysis, and despite the developments in survey methodology that have been discussed and implemented in the past two decades, few scholars have attempted to use survey data in a comparative mode and to answer the broad-scale questions confronting social historians. In this volume, which is the outcome of an advanced Workshop held at the University of Michigan in 2002, a number of prominent archaeologists return to the question of comparability. They discuss the potential benefits of working in a comparative format, with evidence from many different Mediterranean survey projects, and consider the practical problems that present roadblocks to achieving that objective. From mapping and manuring to human settlement and demography, environment and culture, each addresses different questions, often with quite different approaches; together they offer a range of perspectives on how to put surveys "side-by-side". Contributors include Susan E Alcock, John Cherry, Jack L Davis, Peter Attema, Martijn van Leusen, James C Wright, Robin Osborne, David Mattingly, T J Wilkinson, and Richard E Blanton.
Small Finds and Ancient Social Practices in the Northwest Provinces of the Roman Empire
Edited by Stefanie Hoss and Alissa Whitmore

Key Features:
· Uses the analysis of 'everyday' objects to reconstruct social lives and practices in the Roman Northwest provinces
· Takes a critical look at archaeological contexts and site formation processes in the formation of the archaeological record and interpretations of past peoples and behaviours
· Integrates the study of small finds from the Northwest provinces with material, iconographic, and textual evidence from the whole Roman empire

Small finds – the stuff of everyday life – offer archaeologists a fascinating glimpse into the material lives of the ancient Romans. These objects hold great promise for unravelling the ins and outs of daily life, especially for the social groups, activities, and regions for which few written sources exist. Focusing on amulets, brooches, socks, hobnails, figurines, needles, and other ‘mundane’ artefacts, these 12 papers use small finds to reconstruct social lives and practices in the Roman Northwest provinces.

Taking social life broadly, the various contributions offer insights into the everyday use of objects to express social identities, Roman religious practices in the provinces, and life in military communities. By integrating small finds from the Northwest provinces with material, iconographic, and textual evidence from the whole Roman empire, contributors seek to demystify Roman magic and Mithraic religion, discover the latest trends in ancient fashion (socks with sandals!), explore Roman interactions with Neolithic monuments, and explain unusual finds in unexpected places. Throughout, the authors strive to maintain a critical awareness of archaeological contexts and site formation processes to offer interpretations of past peoples and behaviours that most likely reflect the lived reality of the Romans. While the range of topics in this volume gives it wide appeal, scholars working with small finds, religion, dress, and life in the Northwest provinces will find it especially of interest. Small Finds and Ancient Social Practices grew out of a session at the 2014 Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference.

About the Author:
Stefanie Hoss has worked as a post-excavation small finds specialist in the Netherlands for more than ten years and has taught at the Free University Amsterdam and the University of Cologne. Her research interests include the Roman culture of bathing and Roman toilets, Roman and Byzantine metal and glass finds, Roman military finds, Roman food and dining habits, and the wondrous ways of Roman refuse.

Alissa Whitmore is an independent archaeologist and anthropologist who also teaches at a community college in Iowa. Her primary interest is the intersection between small finds, identity, and spatial analysis, focused on artefacts recovered from bathhouses, especially from the drains and latrines, to reconstruct the social activities of bathers in Roman public and military bathhouses. She also has interests in ancient gender and sexuality.
Rome aan de Noordzee
Burgers en barbaren te Velsen
By Arjen V.A.J. Bosman

About 2000 years ago the Romans conquered the Netherlands. The river Rhine formed the northern border of the Roman Empire. In 15 AD, however, the Romans made an attempt to further expand their Empire and built a fort and harbour near the present-day town of Velsen.

Hundreds of Roman soldiers were stationed here, but soon the local Frisian population started a rebellion. Historical sources are scarce, but archaeological evidence show the remains of fierce battle taking place. In the end, the Romans had to retreat. Less than 10 years later they attempted to re-take Velsen with a large military campaign, but again, they could not hold the fort. The river Rhine would remain to be the northern frontier of the Roman Empire.

This book tells the story of the Romans in Velsen. What did they do here? What did they build and what remains in the ground today? How did the Romans live in the fort and the Frisians in their farms? Why was the Rhine to be the border of the Empire and what happened to the Frisians after the Romans left? 50 years after the first excavations this richly illustrated book presents a full overview of the Roman history of Velsen.
De Africa Romaque
Merging cultures across North Africa
Edited by Niccolo Mugnai, Julia Nikolaus and Nicholas Ray
Conference proceedings.

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