

Edited by

John McK. Camp II / Craig A. Mauzy

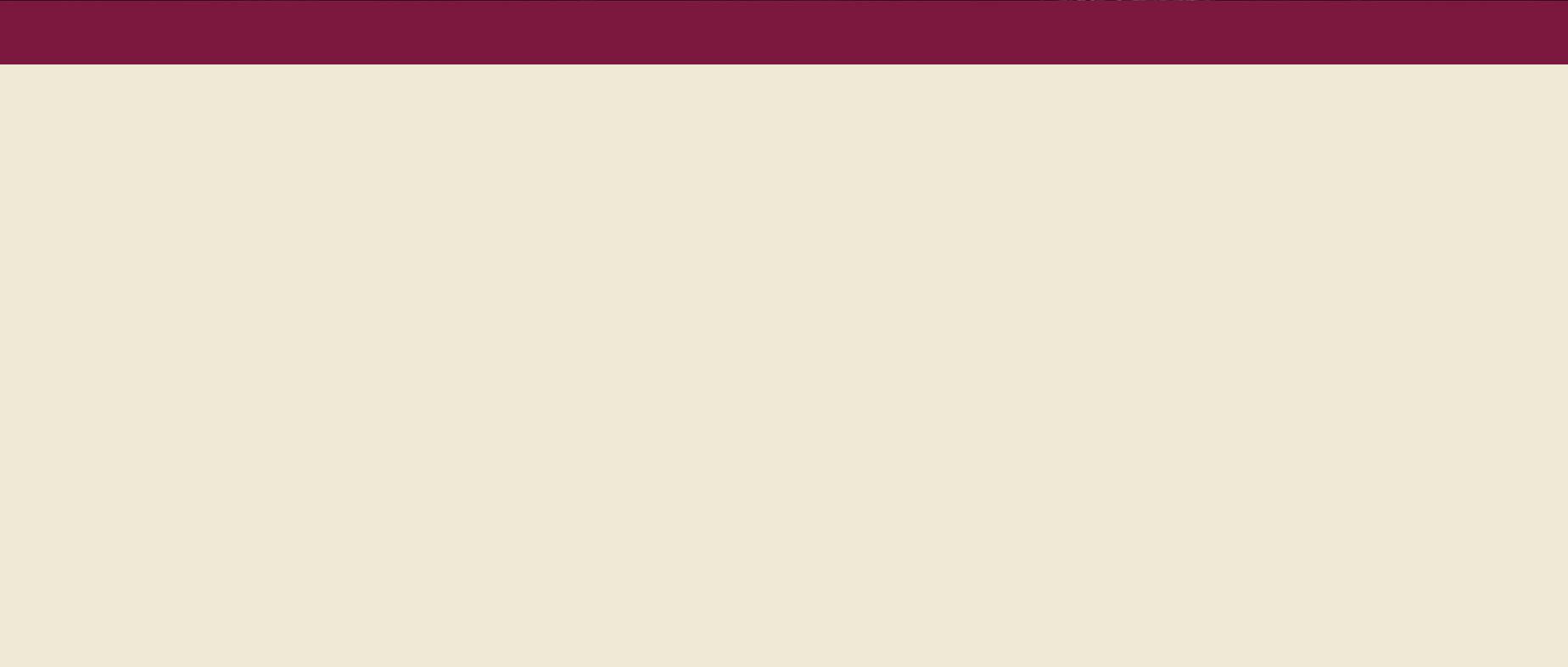
# THE ATHENIAN AGORA

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON AN ANCIENT SITE

Zaberns Bildbände  
zur Archäologie

Sonderbände der  
ANTIKEN WELT

Published in collaboration with the  
American School of Classical Studies at Athens





John McK. Camp II / Craig A. Mauzy

# THE ATHENIAN AGORA

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON AN ANCIENT SITE

144 pages with 88 colour and  
75 black/white images.

Cover:

Hephaisteion (interfoto, München)

Page 2/3:

View from Hephaisteion (C. A. Mauzy,  
American School of Classical Studies at Athens).

Cover back:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
(see Fig. XXX).

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
(see Fig. XXX).

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
(see Fig. XXX).

[www.zabern.de](http://www.zabern.de)

Information of Deutsche Nationalbibliothek:  
<<http://dnb.d-nb.de>>

Layout:  
Melanie Barth, scancomp GmbH, D-Wiesbaden

Coordination of production:  
Ilka Schmidt, Verlag Philipp von Zabern, D-Mainz

Editorial department:  
Alrun Schöbler and Annette Nünnerich-Asmus,  
Verlag Philipp von Zabern, D-Mainz

© 2009 English edition by The American School of  
Classical Studies at Athens (text and images) and  
Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein (design)  
Mainz am Rhein  
ISBN: 978-3-8053-4082-3

All rights reserved

Printed in Germany by Philipp von Zabern, on fade resistant and  
archival quality paper (PH 7 neutral) · tcf

# Table of Contents

PREFACE	6
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ATHENIAN AGORA	
The Archaeology of the Agora: A Summary by John McK. Camp II	11
Commerce and Crafts around the Athenian Agora by Susan I. Rotroff	39
Living Near the Agora: Houses and Households in Central Athens by Barbara Tsakirgis	47
Roman Portraits from the Athenian Agora: Recent Finds by Lee Ann Riccardi	55
The Wine Jars Workroom: Stamps to Sherds by Mark L. Lawall	63
The Persian Destruction Deposits and the Development of Pottery Research at the Agora Excavations by Kathleen M. Lynch	69
Ostraka from the Athenian Agora by James P. Sickinger	77
THE ATHENIAN AGORA EXCAVATIONS	
A Pictorial History of the Agora Excavations by Craig A. Mauzy	87
From Pot-Mending to Conservation: An Art Becomes a Science by Amandina Anastassiades	113
Anchoring the Floating Monuments of the Agora by Richard C. Anderson	121
Applying New Technologies by Bruce Hartzler	128
CHRONOLOGY	140
SUPPLEMENT	141

# Preface

The Agora of Athens was the center of the ancient city, a large, open square where the citizens could assemble for a wide variety of purposes. On any given day the space might be used for a market, an election, a dramatic performance, a religious procession, a military drill, or an athletic competition. Here administrative, political, judicial, commercial, social, cultural, and religious activities all found a place together in the heart of Athens, and the square was surrounded by the public buildings necessary to run the Athenian government.

These buildings, along with monuments and small objects, illustrate the important role played by the Agora in all aspects of public life. The council chamber, magistrates' offices, mint, and archives have all been uncovered, while the law courts are represented by the recovery of bronze ballots and a water clock used to time speeches. The use of the area as a marketplace is indicated by the numerous shops where potters, cobblers, bronze-workers, and sculptors made and sold their wares. Long stoas (colonnades) provided shaded walkways for those wishing to meet friends to discuss business, politics, or philosophy, while statues and commemorative inscriptions reminded citizens of former triumphs. A library and concert hall met cultural needs, and numerous small shrines and temples were sites of regular worship. Given the prominence of Athens throughout much of antiquity, the Agora provides one of the richest sources for our understanding of the Greek world in antiquity.

## The Background to this Book

This volume originated in the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the beginning of excavations by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in the Athenian Agora, held in 2006. It is structured around two essays: the first, by John Camp, introduces the archaeological results and the second, by Craig Mauzy, presents a brief pictorial history of the excavations. Each introductory essay is followed by

a series of short chapters. The first group comprises contributions in various fields of scholarship (architecture, sculpture, epigraphy, pottery, and amphoras), highlighting recent research in these areas at the Agora. The second group, contributed by excavation staff members, covers new advances in how the excavations are recorded and how new finds are treated (conservation, survey and drafting, record-keeping, and archives). The demands of a long-term excavation such as that of the Agora means that all who work there are part of a continuum stretching back to the digging of the first trench in 1931; others have worked on the project before and others will come after. This project — still in progress — has drawn on the talents and resources of hundreds of scholars and students who have worked together to enhance our understanding of Athens through the ages. It is hoped that this volume will serve to review the past, to indicate the present state of the work, and to suggest what may lie in the future.

In addition to the contributors to this volume, many other individuals have worked for the success of this project and it is appropriate to record and acknowledge their contributions here. The archives and offices have been under the competent and dedicated management of Jan Jordan and Sylvie Dumont for many years. Staff artist Annie Hooton has contributed to many Agora publications through her drawings, and photographer Angelique Sideris has provided numerous images. In recent years the conservation department has benefited from the work of Wendy Porter, Claudia Chemello, Amandina Anastasiades, and Karen Lovén. A large project to computerize the Agora archives has been under the supervision of Patricia Felch, ably assisted by Irimi Marathaki, Pia Kvarstrom, Vasili Spanos, and Frederick Ley. George Dervos and Maria Stamata-tou have handled numerous logistic duties.

Other papers on Agora topics were delivered in Athens during the 75th anniversary by John Hayes (Roman pottery), Maria Liston (bones), and Marianne Stern (glass) but have not been included here for reasons of space. A photo exhibit and illustra-

ted volume on the history of the Agora excavations (*Agora Excavations 1931–2006: A Pictorial History*, Athens 2006) were prepared by Craig Mauzy. In addition, an exhibition and accompanying catalogue on the watercolors of Piet de Jong, curated by John Papadopoulos, were prepared by Agora staff and scholars (*The Art of Antiquity: Piet de Jong and the Athenian Agora*, Athens 2007).

## The Agora Today

Also celebrated in 2006 was the 50th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Stoa of Attalos, completed in 1956, to serve as the site museum. Built originally by King Attalos II of Pergamon in ca. 150 B.C. as a gift to the Athenians, it served as a major commercial center until its destruction in A.D. 267. It now houses a display area and provides working space and storage for the excavations. On display in the public galleries is a selection of the thousands of objects recovered in the last 75 years, reflecting the use of the area from 3000 B.C. to A.D. 1500. Most significant, perhaps, is the material – unique to the site – illustrating the mechanics of the world's first attested democracy, such as ostraka (inscribed potsherds) used as ballots to exile overly ambitious politicians, allotment machines and bronze identification tags used in selecting Athenian juries, and tokens and inscribed lead strips used in the administration of the Athenian cavalry.

Context is essential in understanding archaeological material. The great museums of Europe and the United States often display magnificent objects with little or no information as to where they were found and what else was found with them. What sets the Agora project and museum apart from most collections is the relationship of the objects to the

archives. Because the excavations began so late, a generation or more after other large-scale digs around the Aegean (Knossos, Delphi, Olympia, Pergamon, Ephesos, and Priene, to name a few), the same recordkeeping system adopted at the beginning has been used to the present day, supplemented of course by new technology. This means that every object found in the Agora excavations is stored in the Stoa of Attalos, a reconstructed Hellenistic building, together with the record of its recovery. The inventory is large: 35,000 pieces of pottery, 7,600 inscriptions, 3,500 pieces of sculpture, 5,000 architectural fragments, 6,000 lamps, 15,000 stamped amphora handles, and more than 70,000 inventoried coins. This vast collection has all been entered in a unified database, part of a collaborative project with the Packard Humanities Institute. Because of this correlation of objects and archives, the museum collection serves as a center for archaeological research, used by hundreds of scholars from all over the world.

Unlike the work of most European scholars, American archaeology in Greece is funded almost entirely by private funds, given by either foundations or individuals. In the early years, fieldwork at the Athenian Agora was funded by John D. Rockefeller Jr.; other support has come from the Samuel H. Kress, Andrew W. Mellon, Gladys Krieble Delmas, and Ford foundations as well as the European Union. The recent excavations have been made possible through the support and collaboration of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Packard Humanities Institute. The Packard Humanities Institute has also undertaken the task of bringing the excavations into the digital age. It is fitting to record here our thanks to the Institute and its president, David W. Packard, for support essential to the continuation and success of the Agora excavations.