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(C.) Dubosse Ensérune (Nissan-lez-Ensérune, Hérault). Les céramiques grecques et de type grec dans leurs contextes (VIe–IVe s. av. n. é.) (Monographies d’Archéologie Méditerranéenne 23). Lattes: Edition de l’Association pour le Développement de l’Archéologie en Languedoc-Roussillon, 2007. Pp. 567, illus. €50. 9782912369154

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cance of south Italian ‘princely burials’, raising important questions about gift exchange and redistributive networks; more work along these lines is certainly needed. Another topic that receives special focus is the interaction between the aristocracies of Ruvo and their Greek and Etruscan counterparts, with increasing quantities of Greek pottery in the fourth century seen as evidence of stronger links with Taranto (193–94). Montanaro also notes a proliferation of high-status burials at Ruvo in the fourth century (193), although the absence of more precise quantitative assessments makes one wonder how significant this rise in Greek imports and lavish burials actually was. Slightly more controversial are Montanaro’s attempts to trace the migration of individuals from the central Apennines into the area of Ruvo in the fifth and fourth centuries BC, a process noted by ancient authors but very difficult to trace in the archaeological record. Montanaro is perhaps too ready to link mortuary practice with ethnic identity when he interprets extraneous traits (a supine as opposed to crouching position of the body, as well as the presence of ‘Samnite’ breastplates, 192, 197, 204) as evidence that the deceased were foreigners from the central Apennines. Lastly, Montanaro identifies a gap in the mortuary evidence at Ruvo after the third century BC, which is paralleled in much of south Italy and remains an unresolved problem.

Overall, Montanaro endeavours to provide a balanced historical account of the community at Ruvo. However, his narrative inevitably centres on the more lavish burials and the people who could afford them. This is because most of the material at his disposal was unearthed by 19th-century ‘treasure hunters’ with an eye only for black-figure and red-figure vessels, bronze armour and personal ornaments of gold, silver and amber. Only tentative observations can be made about the burials with more everyday artefacts, especially coarse or undecorated pottery. One hopes that Montanaro’s work will stimulate future excavation at Ruvo and surroundings, so as to complete the picture.

RAFAEL SCOPACASA
University of Exeter
 rs236@exeter.ac.uk

DUBOSSE (C.) **Ensérune (Nissan-lez-Ensérune, Hérault). Les céramiques grecques et de type grec dans leurs contextes (VIe–IVe s. av. n. é.)** (Monographies d’Archéologie Méditerranéenne 23). Lattes: Edition de l’Association pour le Développement de l’Archéologie en Languedoc-Roussillon, 2007. Pp. 567, illus. €50. 9782912369154.

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Ensérune forms part of a group of indigenous oppida which are located near the coast or a little further inland in the region of Languedoc in southern France and are characterized by a substantial amount of imported Greek pottery. These Iron Age oppida, inhabited by indigenous people, were situated in the area between the two Phocaean colonies Massalia (Marseille) and Emporion (Ampurias) and near the Massalian commercial settlement and subsequent colony of Agde. Situated on top of a prominent, drawn out hill ridge, the archaeological site of Ensérune lies approximately 13km from the sea, between the two modern (and ancient) towns of Béziers and Narbonne with convenient transport links.

According to the archaeological evidence, most notably the imported Greek pottery, Ensérune was founded in the second quarter of the sixth century BC and was abandoned in the early Roman Imperial age, around AD 30, after a period of continuous settlement spanning six centuries. The excavations, which began in the 19th century (of which documentation is unfortunately insufficient) and which were intensified in the first half of the 20th century, revealed three main phases in the history of the site. In phase I (second quarter of the sixth to the second quarter of the fifth century BC) the settlement comprised only simple huts which were replaced with stone architecture only in phase II (second quarter of the fifth to the late fourth century BC). The last, Hellenistic-Roman phase (III) is connected with the Roman conquest and reign in the region. Apart from the settlement area, which was possibly protected with a surrounding wall in the middle of the fifth century BC, a number of graves were excavated on the western fringe of the hill on a plateau below the later settlement area (520 burials, of which approximately 200 pertain to the sixth to fourth century BC).

Today the archaeological site is characterized primarily through the substantial architectural remains of the last, Hellenistic-Roman, period. In

many cases these remains are situated directly above the walls of phase II, whose ground-plan they partially overlap. Storage pits, which probably date to phase I of the settlement and which are distributed all over the hill and its slopes, appear in large numbers (over 250) and are also accounted as places of discovery of Greek pottery. Among the wider professional circle Ensérune, the ancient name of which was lost in history, is best known through the two 1927 and 1998 volumes of the CVA (France 6, Collection F. Mouret and France 37, Musée national d'Ensérune 2) comprising the most important Attic vases.

The interest in the Greek ceramics, probably imported via Massalia into the region, stems from their large quantity and the fact that they were found in huts and houses as well as in graves. They can be roughly allocated to their contexts of discovery, but the precise data for the older excavations are often missing. The study of the contexts of discovery forms a major part of Dubosse's book.

The present extensive and richly illustrated monograph, which evolved from a PhD thesis, contains a complete corpus of the imported ceramics. It comprises 2,030 catalogue numbers, of which 97% are Attic ware. Black-figure and red-figure as well as black-glazed vessels are represented. The latter make up 35% of the material, but it has to be taken into consideration that during the earlier excavations figure-decorated sherds might have been preserved out of preference. In addition, some Corinthian, Laconic and Etruscan vases appear, as well as a number of Archaic East Greek vases (partly colonial imitations) and some imports from Etruria and Magna Graecia of the late fourth century. They are mostly very poorly-preserved fragments. Therefore, the number of sherds cannot be equated with the amount of vessels. Dubosse has tried convincingly to include in her statistics not only the quantity of fragments but also the amount of vessels which can be reconstructed through their profiles. Not taken into account in the book are the transport amphorae (due to the fact that during the earlier excavations they were retained only in exceptional cases). The typological and chronological classification, a short description (in which certain information, like signs of ancient repairs, is missing) and comparisons to similar finds from the region are highlighted. A short introduction to the different types of pottery is also presented.

In the first part of the book the material is studied with reference to the chronological development and the existing array of forms – separated by location (settlement, necropolis) and the various chronological periods. Numerous diagrams and graphics help in understanding the (in some places redundant) text. Of the Attic ceramics, Dubosse records a list of approximately 860 vessels, nearly two thirds from the settlement and one third from the necropolis. The timeframe stretches from the second quarter of the sixth century to the end of the fourth century BC, but for the sixth century there are only a few vessels listed. The peak of imports lies in the last quarter of the fifth century and the first half of the fourth century. Drinking vessels (kylikes, stemless cups, skyphoi, etc) dominate clearly, with approximately 80% both in the settlement and the necropolis. After this come the kraters, especially the bell kraters, and the late kantharoi (canthares à pouciers). The latter served as urns, as did some of the kraters. It is clear that the imported ware found in the settlement area is related to wine consumption. In the necropolis, where signs of intentional damage and burning of the imported ware are frequent, a connection with ritual libations is to be found. The other ceramic forms (oinochoe, olpe, hydria, pelike, lekythos, amphoriskos, plate, lekane, pyxis) appear only in very small numbers. The array of forms can be described as not very broad.

Missing in this work is a detailed, comparative analysis of the material from the settlement area and the necropolis, although similarities and differences from both contexts are repeatedly mentioned. Thanks to Dubosse's extensively documented material, such an analysis, with reference to other locations, will be possible in the future. Iconographic issues do not play a part in the book, and the question of whether or not the pictures on the vases might have been of importance to the buyer in Ensérune is not taken into account.

Dubosse's work is a very useful publication, which gives a vivid picture of the wealth of Greek, especially Attic, pottery in an indigenous Iron Age settlement in southern France.

CHRISTOPH REUSSER
Archäologisches Institut, University of Zurich
christoph.reusser@access.uzh.ch