

BOOK REVIEW

The Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval Glass from Cosa. By DAVID FREDERICK GROSE. Edited by R.T. SCOTT. *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome.* Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press, 2017. Pp. xiv + 247. Hardback, \$80.00. ISBN 978-0-472-13062-7.

This volume presents the glass artifacts from the American Academy of Rome excavations at the Roman town of Cosa. In three chapters, David Grose provides the context and methodology needed to flesh out the catalog in Chapter 4. Two concordances following the catalog align these entries with those in the American Academy archives and with the 37 plates prepared by John Huffstot. The publication ends with a glossary of glass terms and a select bibliography on Cosa. The premature death of David Grose in 2004 and of David B. Whitehouse in 2013 delayed the text's completion, but as Russell Scott and Jennifer Price explain in their preface, they kept true to Grose's original text, which was written in the infancy of Roman Glass Studies and should have been a foundational text for the field.

In Chapter 1, the shortest of the volume, Grose begins with a summary of his methodology and scope of work. He provides a brief history of the site and explains the different areas of excavation. He reconciles the cataloging techniques of the archives and includes a map of the city of Cosa, which proves helpful in orienting the reader.

Chapter 2 covers the ten different datable glass deposits. Grose provides the known dates from historical texts of Cosan history and uses the stratigraphic record to fill in the gaps. For each deposit, he locates it spatially and temporally, pointing out chronologically significant artifacts in that deposit. Each entry ends with an overview of the glass finds with their catalog numbers. Grose provides a state plan of the Forum and Atrium Buildings I and II; the only building mentioned without a state plan was the house excavated by the State University of New York. At the end of the chapter, he gives a helpful chart for quick reference of the ten deposits and the catalog numbers associated with each one.

Chapter 3 presents Grose's methodology and is the most technical of all the chapters. He refers to classification systems used by Donald Harden and Jennifer Price to provide a uniform typology across Roman glass scholarship with his catalog. Grose decided to group the glass objects by chronology and manufacturing type, allowing the reader to see all Hellenistic core-formed glass or early Imperial monochrome cast glass without having to flip back and forth in the volume. He breaks down the catalog entry, explaining what information he put into general remarks, state of preservation, the name of an object, the color, weathering, material and fabric. This chapter pairs well with the glossary provided at the back of the book. It is clear that Grose designed his book with the idea of the reader using it to search for comparanda.

Chapter 4, the catalog, is the most significant component of the volume. Grose divides the objects into nine chronological and manufacturing types with subsections that break down the artifacts into formal types. The number of examples in each category depends on the numbers recovered, so that Hellenistic Core-Formed Glass has only two entries while Roman Blown Undecorated Glass has 273. The Table of Contents, however, lays out all the different categories and subsections for quick reference. I found it best to read through this section with a bookmark in the corresponding plates at the end of the book for ease of referencing the profiles.

Each category starts with an explanation of the history of the technique in the Mediterranean World. Grose then describes the evolution of the subsection of shapes and any field notes from their excavation at Cosa, along with parallel examples from other Roman sites. Finally, he gives a short bibliography for further reading on these comparanda before listing all the catalog entries for that shape subsection. If an artifact was published, Grose is sure to provide the bibliographic reference. Grose also does an excellent job of allowing the artifacts to speak for themselves and does not try to force the evidence into specific theories. He provides general context for Roman glass, so that even generalist archaeologists who are simply looking for comparanda can understand the place an object has in the history of manufacture. He focuses on fragments just as much as more complete specimens, with the result that one can see the complete picture of glass recovered, ordering the catalog entries from most complete object to least.

While Scott and Price tried to locate the original photos, they were unsuccessful in their endeavors. It would have proven an excellent addition to have a few examples from each subsection re-photographed so the reader could have more information than just Grose's vibrant descriptions.

With so few datable deposits, I would have liked to see some stratigraphic drawings to aid in understanding the conclusions on dating made in Chapter 2. Their find locations also should have been clearly marked on the general map of Cosa.

While this volume will be a boon for glass scholarship, it does little to aid in understanding building function at Cosa, since these artifacts are discussed only with reference to the buildings they were found in but not any other small finds. They are just one part of understanding daily life at Cosa. In his subsection descriptions in Chapter 4, Grose draws from the entire geographic and chronological area of the Roman world, leaving little room for regional variation. It suggests that glass manufacturing was a uniform industry in the Roman period.

David Grose, Russell T. Scott and Jennifer Price have given Roman scholars a rich, collaborative text to add to the Cosa bibliography. This volume lays the groundwork for future workshop studies in Roman glass. It also serves as an example of why we archaeologists need to strive to publish promptly; many of the subsections refer to unpublished data that Grose gathered from working with scholars at other sites, and we were very close to losing that crucial archaeological information. Cosan scholars owe a debt of gratitude to Scott and Price for bringing this book to completion.

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