

BOOK REVIEW

Cosa: The Roman and Greek Amphoras. BY ELIZABETH LYDING WILL & KATHLEEN WARNER SLANE. Supplements to the Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press, 2019. Pp. xi + 214 + Plans VI + Plates 70. Hardback, \$90.00. ISBN 978-0-472-13143-3.

The American Academy of Rome continues its efforts to publish and share research from the Roman town of Cosa. Kathleen Warner Slane has done an excellent job of excavating, conserving and displaying the unfinished work on amphorae by Elizabeth Lyding Will after her death in 2009. It is lovely that Slane has taken the time to make sure this vital research is accessible to scholars and students of Mediterranean trade and amphora studies. This catalog is an essential addition to the academic discussion of late Republican amphorae from the Western Mediterranean and their importance to Cosa.

The catalog of 27 different amphora types, which Will designated, composes most of the text. The renowned Cosan scholar R. T. Scott provides the preface and afterward. At the same time, Slane composes the introduction, conclusion and two appendices, "The Amphora Deposit South of the Capitolium" and "Greek Amphora Stamps from the Hill." The final appendix is a catalog of amphorae drawings from 1953, unconnected to other amphorae in Will's catalog. Slane also provides a bibliography, a concordance of inventory and catalog numbers, an alphabetical list of Roman amphora stamps and marks, a list of cataloged amphoras by context and a summary of published Cosan deposits through 2017, with an itemized list of coins and amphora fragments recovered from each deposit. This summary will be most helpful in creating a stratigraphic guide of the amphora types for the ongoing work at Cosa.

In the introduction, Slane explains her methodology. Working from Will's notebooks and handwritten catalogue cards, Slane writes each entry, pointing out that she was missing some of the artifacts and the illustrations that Will had done. A critical example for the timely publication of data lest it be lost forever.

Slane then moves straight into the catalog. Each artifact entry provides the findspot, if known, the preserved measurements, the color and a description of the fragment and any preserved stamps or marks. Each amphora type has its

section of the catalog that starts with a general description of the amphora typology, common characteristics and estimated dates for production and any bibliographic references for the amphora type. If there are comparable amphora fragments, Will provides the museum collection where they are. For the typologies that have a higher number of fragments, there is also a statistical breakdown of the recovered fragments. It is helpful that Will and Slane include the undiagnostic fragments as well, for those often are the more commonly recovered artifacts from the field and will be helpful to an archaeologist.

Will and Slane see the amphora fragments as being more crucial to scholars tracing Cosa's chronology than the textual evidence commonly used. Slane provides a summary of the history of Cosa through amphorae in her conclusion and summarizes the catalog entries from the book. Slane provides summary charts and graphs to help readers understand the sheer numbers and distribution of amphorae recovered. She then goes into some theories that can be drawn from the finds. Slane spends time looking at a comparison of amphora found in the city of Cosa versus the port of Cosa, providing a spreadsheet of comparable finds, along with a breakdown of the total number of recovered fragments from both. She goes into a discussion of the Sestius family, producers of the Type 4a amphora, synthesizing the thoughts of Will, and what the artifacts confirm. Finally, Slane summarizes how foreign-produced amphora help complete the chronology of Cosan stratigraphy.

In his afterward, R. T. Scott demonstrates how the amphorae support, expand and change different aspects of Frank Brown's original theories about Cosa. He points at the recent excavations of the bath complex as further evidence about how the history of Cosa continues to grow and become more apparent.

In Appendix 1, "The Amphora Deposit South of the Capitolium," Slane provides a summary of the discovery of the deposit, explicitly pointing out the amphora found within it and a list of the amphora fragments and their corresponding numbers in the catalog. Slane points at the importance of this deposit for providing secure dating of the amphora. She and Scott both question the idea that the deposit occurs during the cleanup that took place as a result of the 70 B.C.E. pirate raid.

Appendix 2, "Greek Amphora Stamps from the Hill," is the compilation of Virginia Grace and Elizabeth Will's correspondence about a potential catalog of Greek stamps. Slane has provided a short chronological catalog, divided by production location of the 60 Greek amphora fragments. Slane, in her introduction

to the appendix, provides helpful comparisons to other Greek stamps from around the Mediterranean basin.

Appendix 3 is a short catalog of 13 drawn profiles from 1953 of amphora found in the Atrium Publicum that Slane was unable to connect to any amphora fragments already in the catalog.

Elizabeth Lyding Will and Kathleen Warner Slane, in providing a catalog of 608 different amphora artifacts recovered within the town, have helped advance academic understanding of amphorae from the city of Cosa. Cosan scholars should be thankful that Slane spent so much time bringing this book to completion. I am excited to see more artifact typology studies coming from the American Academy in Rome and the excavations at Cosa.

ANDREW CARROLL

St. Columba School, andrew.john.carroll@gmail.com