

CHRISTOPH HINKER, *Ausgewählte Typologien provinzialrömischer Kleinfunde. Eine theoretische und praktische Einführung*. Beiträge zur Archäologie, volume 8. LIT, Wien, Berlin 2013. € 29.90. ISBN 978-3-643-50510-1. 368 pages, 58 illustrations.

LINDSAY ALLASON-JONES (ed.), *Artefacts in Roman Britain. Their Purpose and Use*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2011. £ 50.00. ISBN 978-0-521-86012-3 (hardback). £ 18.99. ISBN 978-0-521-67752-3 (paperback). XVIII + 356 pages, 80 illustrations.

Artefacts without doubt belong to archaeological sources of the first rank. They are a fundamental basis for the reconstruction of ancient life worlds. On account of their portability they can be interpreted as direct evidence of human actions, although their quality as culture-historical sources is crucially dependent on a correct estimation of their contexts of transmission. Excellent knowledge of both their chronological and functional classification as well as the possibilities and limitations of their contextual significance are essential for a realistic assessment of archaeological artefacts, and should therefore be an important component of university teaching. The books under review here provide an intellectual basis for the dissemination of such knowledge. Based on similar initial aims, they differ substantially, because they result from distinctive structures of university teaching and varying priorities in the scientific understanding of small finds as well as different research traditions.

A major reason for this might be the increasing use of cultural anthropological approaches in British archaeology since the 1960s. Supported by different theoretical fundamentals, find studies were doomed to a shadowy existence during the later 20th century in Britain, as in the whole English-speaking world. By contrast, following a period of ideological mobilisation of archaeology as a “*hervorragend nationale Wissenschaft*” between the 1920s and 1940s, the German scientific community returned to a descriptive, ideology-free understanding of artefacts after the war. The most important task was to fit archaeological discoveries into a time-frame, based on increasingly detailed typological and chronological subdivisions, or help to establish gender allocations of human remains in grave contexts in the absence of anthropological studies. Due to large commercial excavations and the widespread use of metal detectors in recent decades, the amount of discovered small finds grew so large that often no resources were left for detailed considerations or fundamental reflections on their meaning and significance.

With the growing interest of younger scholars in theoretical and interpretative matters, the number of theoretically informed studies on artefacts grew in recent years and an intensive debate on research approaches developed across Europe. This has led to slow methodological advances in the field of material culture studies during the last decades as well. But, we are still at the beginning of a much-needed discourse, a point underlined by the two publications reviewed here.

The first book to be discussed, written by Ch. Hinker, arises from the experience of university teaching. It is based on courses, which the author held at the Austrian universities of Graz, Innsbruck and Vienna, and which were mainly targeted at imparting basic knowledge of well-studied artefact categories. This volume concentrates on selected typologies with chronological relevance: “Die Auswahl berücksichtigt vor allem gut erforschte Kleinfundkategorien, (...) die chronologisch eingeordnet werden können und damit eine nähere zeitliche Eingrenzung von Befunden ermöglichen” (p. 126).

Since this “Wortschatz” needs a “Grammatik”, the author presents a theoretical introduction, comprising about one third of the book (pp. 15–121), considerably less than the discussion of the different artefact groups and their typologies. After a short introduction to material culture in general, essential information is given, outlining important terms and methodical approaches on topics such as small finds (pp. 16–18), source criticism (pp. 18–20), taphonomy (pp. 20–29), classifi-

cation (pp. 29–35), feature analysis (pp. 35–39), analogies (pp. 40–41), interdependencies between shape, function and material (pp. 41–46), and the typological method, including the basics of chronological considerations (pp. 46–91) and comments regarding the interpretation of material culture (pp. 91–121). The latter section, in which the reader learns about activity zones, distribution studies, archaeology's linkage with the historical tradition and cultural anthropological aspects of artefacts, is relatively short and general, although the author emphasises that the value of small finds as archaeological sources goes beyond matters of classification and chronology (p. 56; more detailed pp. 91 f.) and highlights that Provincial Roman Archaeology is not confined to providing data for Ancient History as an auxiliary science (p. 91).

Much of the information offered has already been discussed in greater detail in other introductions, especially in relation to prehistoric archaeology, but the repeatedly interspersed cross-references, Latin quotes and briefly discussed Roman examples make the book more vivid and compelling to the reader and connect it usefully to the second, so-called practical part of the work, also containing thematic backlinks. But would less have been more? Some well-chosen examples explained in greater detail would have helped better to disclose scientific procedures and problems, as for example H. J. Eggers in his (outdated but still readable) introduction to prehistory cleverly demonstrated (H. J. EGGERS, *Einführung in die Vorgeschichte* [München 1959]). Different groups of artefacts have different predictive values for certain issues, which the author could have demonstrated by examples. It is, for instance, possible to reconstruct distribution networks and sales volumes of pottery by analysing the depots of merchants (e. g. S. BIEGERT / B. STEIDL, *Ein Keramikhändler im vicus des Limeskastells Ober-Florstadt. Terra sigillata und lokale Waregruppen des 3. Jahrhunderts n. Chr.* In: B. Liesen [ed.], *Terra Sigillata in den germanischen Provinzen. Kolloquium Xanten*, 13.–14. November 2008. *Xantener Ber.* 20 [Mainz 2011] 221–332). In the future, this will be possible in even more detail for coarse wares or their contents as it is now possible to differentiate products of individual workshops through the consistent use of archaeometric analysis (M. HELFERT, *From pile of potsherds to a mountain of data. Archaeological and geochemical studies on ceramic production in the vicus of Roman castellum Gross-Gerau „Auf Esch“.* In: B. Ramming / O. Stilborg [eds], *Naturwissenschaftliche Analysen vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Keramik I. Universitätsforsch. Prähist. Arch.* 176 [Bonn 2010] 127–137). Thus, there is no reason to doubt the usability of computer-produced “masses of data”, as is done by the author (p. 158).

In the second and twice as large part of the book in review the author presents the most common typologies of Roman glass vessels (pp. 126–152), pottery (amphorae [pp. 161–177], lead glazed pottery [pp. 177 f.], so-called Rätische Ware / Raetian ware [pp. 180–182], so-called Belgische bzw. Rheinische (?) Ware / Belgian or Rhenish (?) ware [pp. 182 f.], ceramic lamps [pp. 183–196] and Samian ware [pp. 196–233]), brooches (pp. 240–265), metal lamps (pp. 265–267) and metal vessels (pp. 268–297) with references to important recent research. Since the author aims to discuss artefact categories that allow a more exact dating of features, the reviewer misses a separate section on coins, especially since they are mentioned repeatedly in the book. There are occasional comments related to other artefact groups, for example to glass products apart from vessels (p. 152). A section on brick stamps as good chronological evidence would also have been useful.

Each section is preceded by introductory remarks representing a readable synopsis and useful starting point for the subsequent discussion of typological divisions. In this way the reader is introduced to the basics of technical requirements and necessary facilities, origin and provision of raw materials, manufacturing techniques and product types and their development, the organisation of production and sales, as well as required tools etc., with excursions on pottery kilns (p. 159 f.), metal processing (pp. 233–240).

After referring very briefly to the research history of the various typological classifications (more detailed on Samian ware p. 203), the author continues with the presentation of the typologies. Following the original type order, the individual forms are discussed with a brief characterisation, possible sub-divisions, and information on distribution patterns and chronology. Occasionally, further information is provided, for example on production and use. Moreover, standard types from other publications are explained in greater detail, but there are notable gaps. For instance, in discussing brooches, the work of O. Almgren is undoubtedly important for a reconstruction of the development of many brooches of Northern and Central Europe, but he discussed provincial Roman forms in passing only, so it would have been appropriate to deal also with the works of W. JOBST (*Die römischen Fibeln aus Lauriacum* [Linz 1975]) and E. RIHA (*Die römischen Fibeln aus Augst und Kaiseraugst. Forsch. Augst 3 and 18* [Augst 1979 and 1994]) or A. BÖHME (*Die Fibeln der Kastelle Saalburg und Zugmantel. Saalburg-Jahrb. 29, 1972, 5–112*), especially since the use of Almgren numbers as type labels for Roman brooches – such as the (Roman) knee brooches (Jobst 12A–G and 13A–F) – is not very common. Alternative classifications are mentioned in association with other categories of finds, but are not discussed in detail as well. This is particularly regrettable in relation to modern publications of large complexes of artefacts (e. g. B. RÜTTI, *Die römischen Gläser aus Augst und Kaiseraugst. Forsch. Augst 13* [Augst 1991] or S. TASSINARI, *Il vasellame bronzeo di Pompei. Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei, Cataloghi 5* [Rom 1993]) which could have been explicitly mentioned. A concordance between the varied names and type labels is always helpful. In addition, it would have been useful to draw attention to the numerous and partly divergent typologies and the resulting problems in order to forewarn the student readership.

The second part of the book particularly reveals its grounding on university courses due to many small unfortunate weaknesses, which detract and confuse. Overall, the volume gives a rather unbalanced impression: content jumps (e. g. pp. 132–133), footnotes appear (partly) arbitrarily set (e. g. p. 147; p. 194), ‘terminological inaccuracies’ can be found (e. g. *Hispania ulterior Baetica* is used instead of the correct *Hispania Baetica*, *Hispania ulteriore Lusitania* instead of correct *Lusitania*; “Typologische Serie” is used instead of the more common “Typologische Reihe”; “Feinkeramik” is neither necessarily “Feinware” nor “Dünnwandige Keramik” etc.). Anglicisms are unnecessarily taken from the original literature (e. g. pp. 220–221: “Style A” and “Style E umfasst zwei Stile”). The length and contents of the individual chapters or sections vary greatly and the structure is slightly unclear – numbering would have helped here. In textbooks or handbooks focussed on a student readership, a coherent and well-organised structure is particularly important. A little more time spent to revise the manuscript would undoubtedly have improved the book.

Sometimes the author tends to list information, and occasionally extremely condensed details lead to uncertainties, e. g. “Polieren. Oberflächen werden poliert” (p. 239). The naming of forms – mainly of metal vessels – without describing further details is downright bizarre (particularly p. 278). Since the reader should use the “*eponymen Klassiker*” of type labels, Hinker could have gone on without mentioning these, losing no major information. The “*Mut zur Lücke*” quoted by the author (p. 10) could have been applied to limiting information in the book to particularly relevant and well researched forms or types.

As a compact handbook, the reviewed volume has its main value in the countless information conveying fundamental methodical and theoretical knowledge, and it provides diverse insights into the various aspects of the artefact categories discussed. The author is to be thanked for the courage to devote himself to such an ambitious task, since comparable works in German are lacking. The handy and readable synthesis provides a quick overview of selected categories of small finds and facilitates quick access to the most important literature on the themes. Therefore, it ful-

files the most important tasks of an overview work and offers a useful introduction, particularly for students, to artefact knowledge in Roman archaeology.

By contrast, essentially divergent approaches to the understanding of small finds characterise the volume edited by Lindsay Allason-Jones. The enormous scope of different Roman artefact groups makes it very difficult to put together a volume to help students to identify archaeological finds more accurately, and various monographs deal with many important categories of Romano-British artefacts already (e. g. D. F. MACKRETH, *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain* [Oxford, Oakville 2011], J. PRICE / S. COTTAM, *Romano-British Glass Vessels. A Practical Handbook in Archaeology 14* [York 1998] or P. TYERS, *Roman Pottery in Britain* [London 1996]) or information is available in databases (for example <http://potsherd.net>). As a result, Allason-Jones decided to focus on the significance of small finds and how these fit in our understanding of Roman Britain (p. XIII). Due to the accessibility of published sources, issues such as typology, distribution patterns and chronology are not generally discussed. Instead, attention is drawn to use circumstances as well as to the significance of small finds in different contexts. Thus, individual chapters deal with essential fields of human activities as well as informative artefact categories. Moreover, Allason-Jones was able to win known experts as contributors for each: the chapter on commerce is written by R. J. Brickstock (pp. 20–45), travel and transport by N. Crummy (pp. 46–67), industry by W. H. Manning (pp. 68–88), agriculture by S. Rees (pp. 89–113), weaponry and military equipment by M. C. Bishop (pp. 114–132), writing and communication by R. S. O. Tomlin (pp. 133–152), domestic life by Q. Mould (pp. 153–179), heating and lighting by H. Eckardt (pp. 180–193), personal ornament by E. Swift (pp. 194–218), recreation by L. Allason-Jones (pp. 219–242), medicine and hygiene by R. Jackson (pp. 243–268), religion by J. Bird (pp. 269–292) and funerary contexts by H. E. M. Cool (pp. 293–312).

Again and again context, original material and preservation are highlighted as crucial parameters determining the information capabilities of artefacts (see also Allason-Jones' introductory remarks). These aspects cause a distinctly different quality of data sets within differing contexts of use and therefore have an impact on the content of each chapter. This affects for example the contributions of N. Crummy on travel and transport, S. Rees on agriculture and L. Allason-Jones on recreation, whose material basis is highly fragmented due to a high proportion of non-surviving objects or object parts; activities and associated artefacts can be reconstructed only indirectly. Inscriptions on organic material, and thereby an entire category of sources (see R. S. O. Tomlin on writing and communication), have been handed down only under favourable circumstances (e. g. Vindolanda tablets).

Clearly arranged and structured, each chapter is worth reading even if the content and priorities of the individual sections vary. This is not solely due to varying implementation by the different authors, but also to the subjects in discussion. The contribution by R. J. Brickstock predominantly provides basic knowledge about coins and money circulation, the essay by W. H. Manning on industry focuses especially on metal tools, while R. Jackson discusses medical instruments in greater detail. In contrast, M. C. Bishop and H. E. M. Cool particularly emphasise context and significance of finds in their contributions on weaponry and funerary contexts respectively, both largely omitting descriptive discussions of objects. There are significant differences in the range of artefacts treated in each contribution. A broad spectrum of diverse finds is discussed for example in the contribution by Q. Mould on domestic life, J. Bird on religion and L. Allason-Jones on recreation; essays that offer some unusual perspectives and surprising insights into the use of objects. The chapters by H. Eckardt on heating and lighting and E. Swift on jewellery are more focused on certain categories of artefacts but offer balanced, comprehensive and detailed remarks highlighting a range of aspects.

Despite the sometimes significant differences between the individual chapters, the reviewed volume is a competent compendium and a fascinating textbook, not only transmitting considerable knowledge, but also stimulating the readers mind by helping to identify interrelations and dependencies, raising questions starting from the *status questione*, and referring to new approaches and interpretations. An intellectually stimulating character should be an important element of such publications, though this is rarely associated with university textbooks.

Notwithstanding the many differences between the two books, some general comments refer to both of them. For example, concerning conception and content the reviewer would have appreciated more illustrations. These vary considerably in style and composition due to the multiple authorship of the volume edited by L. Allason-Jones. While a limited number of illustrations is bearable in the context of a more general discussion of artefacts with references to relevant literature, they are needed for a visual comparison of type distinctions presented by Chr. Hinker. Above all, a visual overview of types is of particular importance and highly valuable in a good summary publication because of the increasing competition with digital resources. Its absence reduces the usability and the overall value of the book as a portable handbook. Its use, therefore, is largely limited to the library. Motivated students as well as field archaeologists will always need to work with the original publications or other handbooks if they do not want to or cannot use the internet to identify individual types with certainty. References to relevant literature or even printed links to internet databases, as in the chapter on amphorae in the book by Ch. Hinker, are of little help. The reviewer would have preferred type-illustrations as found in other handbooks to some of the attractive photos (e. g. already in R. G. COLLINGWOOD / I. RICHMOND, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* [London 1930]). Moreover, illustrations that name individual components of lamps and brooches are always helpful (e. g. Hinker p. 185 fig. 21 and p. 243 fig. 41; also in the contribution of H. Eckardt in Allason-Jones, p. 183 fig. 14).

Essential for the student reception of such books is direct access to further literature. The volume edited by Allason-Jones has a joint bibliography for all contributions at the end of the book, but the readership might have welcomed longer or more extensive references in some cases. Important literature is explicitly mentioned in some cases (e. g. R. J. Brickstock p. 28 or for key artefact categories in the contribution by E. Swift), but almost incidentally in others (e. g. the contribution by R. S. O. Tomlin p. 135). Thematically ordered bibliographies (as presented in the book by Ch. Hinker) are easier to use for students. However, an easy handling of Hinker's volume is hampered by additional separate lists of literature (for a more accessible approach see TH. FISCHER [ed.], *Die Römischen Provinzen. Eine Einführung in ihre Archäologie* [Stuttgart 2001]). If the author had used a bibliography sorted by chapters, he could have avoided footnotes completely.

Both volumes have been written for geographically divergent audiences, but they do have trans-regional and supranational significance because of the discussion of objects spread throughout the Roman Empire. Therefore, the reviewed publications should be an interesting read for students and colleagues from different parts of Europe. Due to the student readership, such books should be especially committed to an educational value, which requires experience and comprehensive skills to structure knowledge successfully at a high level.

The future readers will be thankful for the extensive knowledge the two reviewed publications provide. Both volumes fill a gap in student's bookshelves, although it is certainly not the same one. They clearly reveal different approaches to Roman small finds. Although (or: because) the books differ in their content priorities, they complement each other, and therein lies an opportunity. In the future – and this is especially important for coming generations of students – we should increasingly promote an international discourse on methodological and theoretical issues. Roman

studies offer a chance for a global exchange of experience hardly comparable to any other archaeological discipline; and there is no doubt that we all would benefit from it.

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CHRISTOPH HINKER, Ein Brandhorizont aus der Zeit der Markomannenkriege im südostnori-schen Munizipium Flavia Solva. Mit Beiträgen von Günter Christandl und Ursula Schachinger. Zentraleuropäische Archäologie Band 4. Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut / Phoibos, Wien 2014. € 65,-. ISSN 2218-6433, ISBN 978-3-900305-70-3. 341 Seiten mit 38 Abbildungen, 20 Tabellen, 43 Tafeln, 9 Fototafeln, 1 Typentafel.

Der Titel des vorliegenden Bandes 4 der Reihe Zentraleuropäische Archäologie des ÖAI weist darauf hin, dass es sich um die Vorlage eines bedeutenden Befundes handelt. Eine Grundlage für dieses Werk brachten die Notgrabungen im Bereich der Insula XLI am Westrand der ehemaligen Stadt Flavia Solva, deren Ergebnisse bereits von Stefan Groh veröffentlicht wurden (S. GROH, Die Insula XLI von Flavia Solva. Ergebnisse der Grabungen 1959 und 1989 bis 1992. Sonderschriften ÖAI 28 [Wien 1996]). Für sein Forschungsvorhaben hat Ch. Hinker speziell die Bauperiode II von Insula XLI ausgewählt, die nach S. Groh um 150/160 n. Chr. beginnt und mit einer Brandkatastrophe um ca. 170 n. Chr. endet. Sie wird deshalb in Verbindung mit der möglichen Zerstörung von Flavia Solva infolge des überlieferten germanischen Einfalls nach Oberitalien zu Beginn der Markomannenkriege gebracht. Wie der Verfasser in der Einleitung schreibt, geht es ihm dabei nicht nur um die Vorlage eines weiteren wichtigen geschlossenen Befundes und dessen Interpretation, sondern darüber hinaus auch um einen methodischen Beitrag zur spezifischen und zentralen Fragestellung der Verknüpfung archäologischer Befunde mit der Ereignisgeschichte. Die Publikation ist in 17 Kapitel von unterschiedlichem Umfang gegliedert.

Das erste Kapitel ist der geographischen Lage von Flavia Solva sowie der Stelle der Insula XLI im Stadtbild des Munizipiums gewidmet. Im folgenden Kapitel werden die mit der germanischen Invasion bis nach Oberitalien in Zusammenhang stehenden Schriftquellen zusammengestellt. Danach werden die oft kontroversen Forschungsmeinungen über das genauere Datum dieses Ereignisses, die vom Jahr 167 bis zum Jahr 171 n. Chr. reichen, wie auch dazu herangezogene verschiedene Argumente näher behandelt. Ch. Hinker weist darauf hin, dass anhand der zur Verfügung stehenden archäologischen Quellen die Datierung des vorliegenden Brandhorizontes exakt auf ein Jahr ebenso wenig möglich ist, wie diesen Zeitpunkt aus dem wahrscheinlichen Zeitraum des germanischen Einfalls ableiten zu wollen.

Das dritte Kapitel „Forschungsgeschichte“ enthält lediglich knappe Angaben mit einem Hinweis, dass sie detailliert in der Publikation von S. Groh vorliegt. Im folgenden Kapitel „Forschungsmeinungen“ stellt der Autor die Interpretation von Walter Schmidt über eine Zerstörung von Flavia Solva im Zuge der germanischen Invasion nach Italien während der Markomannenkriege vor, die ohne Vorlage der konkreten Befunde und Funde in die Fachliteratur eingegangen ist und von den folgenden Forschergenerationen vorbehaltlos übernommen wurde. Diese nicht verifizierte Interpretation hat sich so verallgemeinert, dass sie auch in späteren Arbeiten über die Markomannenkriege in Verbindung mit weiteren Zerstörungsbefunden als zusätzlicher Beleg der damaligen Ereignisse herangezogen und so tradiert wurde.

In Kapitel 5 „Quellenkritik“ wird erklärt, wie man den Wert und die Aussagekraft von Befunden und Funden einschätzen kann und aus welchen Gründen ein Teil des Fundmaterials ohne