



---

## Review

Reviewed Work(s): Ptolemaic Itanos and Hellenistic Crete by Stylianos Spyridakis

Review by: Roger S. Bagnall

Source: *Phoenix*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Winter, 1971), pp. 405-406

Published by: Classical Association of Canada

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1088078>

Accessed: 12-06-2017 14:10 UTC

---

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>



*Classical Association of Canada* is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Phoenix*

suggests something of its significance; and where scholarly views diverge on its interpretation, the varying views are sometimes noted here. The 75 explanatory notes (111–114), sprinkled lightly here and there throughout the text, are trustworthy but very brief. The Glossary (115–117), essential in a book like this, is thorough and reliable. There is a Select Bibliography (119–121), an Index (123–124) and a Concordance of Inscriptions and Texts Translated (125).

In Lewis' translations from inscriptions little or no attempt is made to show where the surviving text is being translated and where we depart from absolute *terra firma* to a reading supplied by restoration. We are always told what text is being translated, but no indication is given where the translation begins (on page 20, Meiggs and Lewis 72 is being translated, but we begin at line 16). These features, and a few minor inconsistencies, will irritate the epigrapher, but the historian will complain a little louder. The Themistocles decree is included, and we are duly informed that there has been a running debate over the authenticity of the decree (4). However this lively debate is quickly dismissed with the misleading statement that "... opinion appears to be converging on the view that we have before us a later edition of the original decree of June/July 480 B.C., conflated perhaps with one or two additional texts." I agree with Lewis that the Themistocles decree belongs in a collection like this, and if so, why not include also the Peace of Callias, prefaced, of course, with such warnings as seem necessary? In addition, Lewis' expedient of classifying the documents under geographical headings has produced two anomalies. First, the decree concerning Erythrae (page 7, Meiggs and Lewis 40) is prefaced by a statement to the effect that the Athenians imposed democracies on their allies. However, if the decrees and treaties had been placed simply in chronological sequence, the Miletus decree would have been found somewhere near here (it is on page 106); and if this decree had been given a full preface, we would have been told that one interpretation of it entails the assumption that Athens supported an oligarchy in Miletus for a time. Secondly, the placing of ostracism under heading II "And Elsewhere" should have been avoided at all costs.

In general, this work fails to convey to the reader the full significance of many of these documents as bones of rugged scholarly contention on all levels of interpretation (witness the treatment of Ithome: Diodorus is quoted with no preface, 89). These short-comings do much to damage a book that might have been very useful, particularly to students. The printing is very nearly immaculate.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

GORDON SHRIMPTON

PTOLEMAIC ITANOS AND HELLENISTIC CRETE. By STYLIANOS SPYRIDAKIS. Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London: University of California Press (University of California Publications in History 82). 1970. Pp. 113. (\$3.00)

THIS SHORT STUDY of the politics of Eastern Crete in the Hellenistic period centres on Itanos, at the eastern end of the island. An introduction to Crete's geographical position—facing Greece but linked to Asia Minor and the Levant—leads into a useful summary of the early history of Itanos and the evidence for its location. Chapter 2 includes a review of Crete's relations with the Greek world before the third century B.C. and a description of Eastern Crete in general, with detailed discussion of the origins, history, political roles, and extent of Praisos and Hierapytna. Chapter 3 analyses the events and causes of the struggle among Itanos and these two cities in the second century—most importantly the claims to the temple of Zeus Diktaios at Palaikastro—and the weakening of the Ptolemaic influence for order in the second century. The story is followed beyond the destruction of Praisos in 140 to the Magnesian arbitration between Itanos and Hierapytna in 114–112. Chapter 4 takes up Ptolemaic influence in Crete, particularly the circumstances

of the intervention at Itanos and the character of the subsequent Ptolemaic administration of the city during the third century. Spyridakis' excursion into Ptolemaic politics and administration elsewhere is confused and ill-informed, as in the discussions of the battle of Andros (69, n. 1) and of the *dioiketes* (78, n. 32), but the many problems it raises cannot be taken up here.

The principal weakness of this study is the author's misuse of primary sources and secondary works and his excessive reliance on the latter. I can give only two examples here. On page 28 Spyridakis abbreviates and misquotes *ICret.* III 6.7.13–15, thereby distorting the sense; on the same page he bases an argument on the provenance (Itanos) of *Syll.*<sup>3</sup> 526 when the phrase he cites comes instead from *Syll.*<sup>3</sup> 527, of Dreros. On page 39, he writes "[the Ptolemies], along with the other Hellenistic monarchs involved in the Aegean power-struggle, favored piracy and had attempted to use the Cretan robbers as tools of their policies." Only secondary sources are cited: of these two (Tarn and Griffith, Ormerod) express their view of the Ptolemies as supporters of pirates but offer no evidence to connect this view with Crete; while the third, Van Effenterre, far from lending support, in fact vigorously denies this hypothesis: "Les maîtres de la mer—qu'il s'agisse d'Alexandre, des Egyptiens, des Rhodiens, ou des Romains, peu importe—devaient chercher à étendre leur influence sur la Crète pour assurer la sécurité de leurs communications. Leurs ennemis, quels qu'ils fussent, devaient utiliser les pirates crétois pour menacer la tranquillité de leurs adversaires ..." Van Effenterre goes on to demonstrate at length the Ptolemaic support of order in Crete and the Aegean. Spyridakis thus has no primary evidence for his statement, and only two of his secondary sources even partly agree with him.

Spyridakis' efforts to recover Cretan history are laudable, and the results are sometimes interesting, but his careless historical methodology demands unceasing vigilance and skepticism from the reader.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ROGER S. BAGNALL

METRISCHE ANALYSEN ZUR ARS POETICA DES HORAZ. By WILHELM OTT. Göppingen: Alfred Kümmerle (Göppinger Akademische Beiträge 6). 1970. Pp. 122. (DM 19)

THIS PUBLICATION offers for the first time a computerized metrical analysis of a significant Latin work. While the data presented fall into traditional moulds, the comprehensiveness is impressive.

After a twelve-page introduction explaining the method of presentation, there is the scanned text of the *Ars Poetica*, based on F. Klingner's 1959 Teubner edition, and summary tables of metrical information. A full index of the lines containing a word ending at each position follows; elisions are not only listed by position but also sorted by the final syllable of the preceding word and again by the beginning of the following word. There is a list of lines arranged by the metre of the verse ending and indices of the words sorted first by metrical type and position and then in alphabetical order, again with full metrical data. Finally, sixteen punched cards are included, each with holes indicating the lines with a word ending at one of the sixteen optional positions in a dactylic hexameter. By sighting through several cards, it is possible to determine the frequency of joint occurrences of the corresponding combinations of word endings.

While such data is in itself probably more curious than significant, comparisons with similar material for other works can suggest an individual poet's metrical peculiarities. Norden's commentary on Book Six of the *Aeneid* is mentioned as guiding Ott's choices of material to include; other, more detailed studies are also becoming available. Not only isolated occurrences of unusual phenomena but also the most common metrical traits can and should be considered.