document officiel avait déjà acquis aux yeux des auteurs anciens la même valeur que la méthode historique lui a attribuée ultérieurement. Il importe, à cet égard, de ne pas perdre de vue le caractère ‘semi-literate’ (pour reprendre la terminologie d’E. A. Havelock) de la société athénienne de cette époque.

Concluant, nous devons souligner qu’A. J. Podlecki n’a certainement pas eu l’intention d’apporter des solutions toutes faites à tous les problèmes que pose le personnage, tant fascinant qu’énigmatique, que fut Thémistocle. Mais il mérite en tout cas notre gratitude d’avoir mis à notre disposition un précieux instrument de travail, qui présente en plus l’avantage de nous faire réfléchir sur le métier d’historien de l’antiquité.

KESSEL-LO (Leuven), Eikenboslaan 19

H. VERDIN

1) Aux études citées au sujet des témoignages littéraires sur Thémistocle on peut ajouter celle de W. Kierdorf, Erlebnis und Darstellung der Perserkriege (Hypomnemata, Heft 16), Göttingen 1966.

2) Voir à ce sujet les remarques judicieuses de L. A. Schneider, Gnomon 46 (1974), 397-405.


In 1972 Etienne and Knoepfler decided to turn their attention to the site of Hyettos, the north Boiotian settlement to the east of Orchomenos. They were preparing a more precise documentation of the twenty-four catalogues of twenty year old conscript soldiers of the army of the Boiotian League (IG VII, 2809-2832). These catalogues had been inscribed in the fortress wall of Hyettos. The investigators had the pertinent part of the wall cleaned and drawn (fig. 54). They discovered two new lists on a block which had rolled down (pp. 72-81). At about the same time Professor J. M. Fossey found a fragment of a third new list. This had been incised on a stele (pp. 401-3). The investigators surveyed the fortification wall of the acropolis (fig. 9). The study of the catalogues of the new Mnemosyne, Vol. XXXV, Fasc. 3-4 (1982)
conscripts and of the terrain where these lists have been found occasioned a series of additional expositions, about the terrain, the *polis* of Hyettos, and the dating of the archons of the Boiotian League between the years 250 and 170 B.C. 1). The interesting book reports about the evidence which is found in this part of north Boiotia. In this review I want to confine myself to the aspects of the publication concerning Hyettos as a settlement.

Hyettos was a small, remote, non-maritime *polis* of central Greece. The authors attempt to establish the confines of the *khora* (pp. 12, 189-97), and they suggest identifications for the neighbouring settlements of Olmones, Kyrtones, Korseia and Boumeli-teia (pp. 19-44). The *khora* had only limited resources at its disposal (pp. 197-201). The Hyettos material presented here shows to what extent a small remote place took part in Greek civilization. The written texts referring to Hyettos (p. 381) are few in number, but the name of Hyettos can probably be reconstructed too in the *Hellenika Oxyrhynchia* XII, 15-16 (XI, 3 Bartoletti), in a *Notitia*, and in Hierocles, *Synekdemos* 645, 3 a Honigmann. There are five or six epigraphical references (p. 381). The book offers a full description of the settlement (pp. 45-65, 143-88, 391-9) and of its *khora* (pp. 189-97). Most of this is new. Other important expositions concern the tomb *stelai* (pp. 113-42), inscriptions from the settlement (pp. 151-88), and the Hyettian prosopography (pp. 355-78).

I would like to comment on a few of the subjects treated in the book.

1. Hyettos probably originated in the archaic period. In earlier centuries Aspledon seems to have been a centre of habitation in this region to the north of Lake Kopais (Stephanus of Byzantium s.v. 'Ὑπεροκεῖται'); see fig. 3. That town must have been situated closer to the shores of the lake and to Orchomenos. It is difficult to answer the question as to what circumstances may have caused a change of habitation. The authors consider the possibility that the water level of the lake may have risen (pp. 214-5). I wonder if a drought may have caused the shift. Hyettos lies in a place where a copious spring is found, which flows throughout the year (pp. 45, 145). It seems that the south-eastern areas of Greece were harassed by droughts in the early archaic period 2). In nearby Euboea the shift of habitation from Levkandê/Xerópolis/Old-Chalcis 3) to Chalcis might be explained in this way. It is possible that the toponym Xerópolis, 'the dry city', the later name of the deserted settlement, preserved the reminiscence of this Euboean event. An old saying described the Chalcidians as 'those who drink from the holy Arethusa spring' 4). As to north Boiotia, Pausanias has preserved the tradition that Aspledon had been deserted because of a shortage