quarters for a military guard are not out of place in imperial villas (e.g. Cercadilla in Spain, Mediana in Serbia), the poor amenities (earth floors) and the small finds (showing the presence of women, and with no hint of the military at all) suggest that this building is rare evidence for the slaves' or attendants' quarters on a great landed estate. The discovery of seven child burials under the floors, while attested at Roman villas in other regions (e.g. Hambleden in England), is unique for Italy; it too points to a civilian use for the building. The children all suffered from anaemic thalassaemia, suggesting the presence of families brought in from a coastal region: they were not locals.

How long Villa Magna enjoyed favour with successive Roman emperors is unknown (future work in the palace quarters might show how long it was maintained as an elite residence), but what the excavations did demonstrate very clearly was the continuing functioning of the place as a working estate and its gradual evolution over a *longue durée*. The baths by the winery went out of use towards the end of the second century, and by AD 250, at the latest, the winery itself had also been dismantled. A freestanding basilical hall of uncertain function was built in the open space in front of the palace, perhaps in the early fourth century AD. By the sixth century this had become a church; but a wide range of imported amphorae, carrying above all wine, was still reaching the site then, not only from southern Italy and Sicily, but also from the Greek islands of Samos and Kos, and from western and southern Turkey—unusually for a site so far from the coast. They imply a level of comfortable living still being enjoyed in early Byzantine times by at least some occupants of the estate.

No less significant a contribution has been made by the Villa Magna project to early medieval archaeology, also recorded in admirably full detail. Furthermore, surviving documentary evidence for the estate's management at this time supplements and helps contextualise the archaeological discoveries. A rare example of an early medieval stone-built villa was constructed on top of the Roman winery in the eighth or ninth century AD. The church was refurbished and upgraded with decorated chancel screens at the same time. By 976 (when a document records the donation of lands), an adjacent monastery had been founded, and part of its enclosure wall has been excavated. Between the eleventh and mid thirteenth centuries, the church was re-floored with a polychrome marble pavement of Cosmati type and a free-

standing bell tower added, while the enclosure wall to the north had developed into the monastery cloister. The stone villa to the south had disappeared, to be replaced by a village of mud huts. All this is pioneering work: very few small-scale rural monasteries of early medieval date have been excavated anywhere in central or southern Italy. Equally pioneering is the full demographic, palaeopathological and isotope analysis of the extensive later medieval cemetery (some 500 individuals), which appeared in front of the church after the suppression of the monastery in 1297.

The amount of fresh information for the history of Villa Magna over the course of 1200 years that the project has unearthed is remarkable; superlative, too, is the level of detail provided, and within a very short time after the conclusion of the excavations. The volume is beautifully designed and printed (it even has that all too rare but indispensable item in any excavation report: a decent index). There are some disappointments (through no fault of the excavators): carbonised seeds for the Roman period were completely absent, for example, and the faunal samples for all periods were disappointingly small. One wonders, in fact, whether wine processing in the Roman and Byzantine periods may have been accompanied by the production of cereals and other crops, such as the *Triticum aestivum* (bread wheat) and the vetches abundantly attested in medieval levels; it is just by chance, perhaps, that the evidence for earlier periods has not survived (an absence of burnt levels?). Interpretation of the fourth-century AD aisled hall as a wine facility is particularly uncertain (one influenced by a single *comparandum*, at Passolombardo); could it have been an estate granary, for example, of the late Roman basilican type attested in the via Gabina 10 villa near Rome, and at Piazza Armerina and Gerace in Sicily? The very richness of the documentation presented here provides much food for thought, and a stimulant for further discussion. Elizabeth Fentress and her colleagues deserve nothing but praise for bringing their finely conceived project to such a triumphant conclusion.

R.J.A. WILSON

Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious
Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada
(Email: roger.wilson@ubc.ca)

MARTHA SHARP JOUKOWSKY. *Petra Great Temple volume 3: Brown University excavations 1993–2008*,

© Antiquity Publications Ltd, 2017

architecture and material culture. 2016. xxiv+598 pages, numerous b&w illustrations. Oxford & Havertown (PA): Oxbow; 978-1-78570-612-7 hard-back £60.

This monograph is the third and final volume on the excavations directed by Martha Sharp Joukowsky at the so-called Great Temple complex in

the Nabataean city of Petra, Jordan. The fieldwork, involving huge numbers of students and researchers over 17 years (1993–2009), has yielded immense amounts of information. It is always a challenge to organise the publication of such rich and complex material—and the more finds, structures, methods and specialists involved, the more complex such publications grow to be.

The Brown University team have partly solved this problem of ever growing complexity by combining hard-copy publication with an online Open Context database, where the reader can turn for more detailed information about the finds (although not all are registered in the database; for an overview of its structure and content, see pp. 29–30). While the database is an extremely useful tool—indeed, the online, open-access availability of this material represents best practice—some readers may wish that more information, as well as illustrations, had been included in the hard-copy publication. In practice, however, the decision to put much of the material in a digital archive was made on the basis of the huge quantity of finds, and one can only imagine how difficult it must have been to choose what to publish where. So despite wishful thinking about a comprehensive printed monograph, the combination of hard-copy and online publication is the most effective solution for providing users with the complete dataset and the ability to make full use of it.

The present volume focuses on the architecture of the complex and the material culture recovered during the excavations. The volume is organised into two sections: part 1 concerns the architecture and is divided into nine chapters; part 2 deals with material culture in 16 chapters, including ceramic assemblages, terracottas, glass, coins, inscriptions and sculpture. A substantial summary by Joukowsky at the end of the volume briefly touches upon the

contents of all the individual chapters and highlights the most important findings.

Part 1, which covers the architecture and layout of the complex, presents the excavations of the ‘Theater-in-Temple’, which is published here in its entirety for the first time. This is an intriguing structure and the excavators come to no definitive conclusion as to what prompted the construction of this feature within the temple complex. That it functioned as an *odeion* seems to be the most plausible suggestion, although the precise cultural and social context remains uncertain. The baths of the Roman and Byzantine periods are also presented in this section, as are the enigmatic sculpted relief panels from the Great Temple, which, despite a thorough study, still cannot be placed within the larger decorative scheme of the complex. Regardless, these reliefs remain fascinating examples of a time when Petra’s inhabitants drew on both local and wider artistic styles to articulate a unique sculptural tradition.

One aspect of the Great Temple excavations to highlight is the challenge faced when working with heavily disturbed stratigraphy. As stated in the short section on the ceramic assemblages from the Residential Quarter, it is clear that most of the excavated contexts had been disturbed prior to investigation. Such a situation is frequently encountered at multi-period sites where cycles of occupation, transformation, destruction and abandonment may extend across many centuries. In the case of the ceramic assemblages published here, for example, less than one per cent of the sherds belong to the periods when the Residential Quarter was inhabited, reflecting a “loss of context information” (p. 215) that has inhibited understanding of phasing and chronology. One way of dealing with heavily disturbed contexts is full quantification, where every single ceramic sherd is recorded and processed. This, however, demands a huge on-site team. Another method is to pay more attention to secondary contexts (later fills and their compositions) in order to determine the reasons for their formation, such as natural accumulation or intentional fills, which in turn gives insight into the ceramics of earlier periods as well. In the present volume, however, only two contexts are presented in the section on site dating based on ceramic material.

Lamps, glass, coins, inscriptions, worked bone, archaeozoological material and human skeletal remains, ballista balls and terracottas are all well

presented. The latter demonstrate a preference for the ‘camel rider’ type typical in the Near East, where it is only occasionally surpassed in frequency by the ‘naked female figurine’ type, also found at the Great Temple complex. Reference to the important research on the terracottas undertaken by C. Tuttle is helpful and his PhD dissertation (2009), which includes 777 terracotta figurines from the Nabataean realm, remains a publication desideratum in the form of a monograph. In general, these sections on the material culture give insight into the composition of the types and dating of the various categories of material culture and show the complexity involved when trying to understand such material in the context of a multi-period architectural complex.

Without doubt, this final volume on the excavations of the Petra Great Temple by Brown University completes a series of publications that collectively set an example for future investigations at complex sites such as Petra.

References

TUTTLE, C. 2009. The Nabataean coroplastic arts: a synthetic approach for studying terracotta figurines, plaques, vessels and other clay objects. Unpublished PhD dissertation, Brown University.

RUBINA RAJA

School of Culture and Society/Centre for Urban Network Evolutions, Aarhus University, Denmark
(Email: rubina.raja@cas.au.dk)

MANFRED K.H. EGGERT & DIRK SEIDENSTICKER. *Campo: archaeological research at the mouth of the Ntem River (south Cameroon)* (Africa Praehistorica 31). 2016. 212 pages, 42 colour and 82 b&w illustrations. Köln: Heinrich-Barth-Institut; 978-3-927688-43-8 hardback €38.

This beautiful volume presents survey and excavations at the village of Campo, on the southern coast of Cameroon in West-Central Africa. Strategic test pitting under a modern settlement has revealed a remarkable collection of metal artefacts and pottery dating from the Early Iron Age, 2000 years ago.

Unconventionally, I begin with the final chapter of the book, Chapter 10. The authors conclude on a

rather forlorn note, highlighting the disinterest of many stakeholders in the work of archaeologists, and the underfunded and structurally neglected conditions in which Central African archaeologists work. The over-reliance on outside sources of funding is, quite rightly, regretted. Things are not set to improve, as the worldwide archaeological community is squeezed. Taking the example of the UK, archaeologists face the potential loss of European funding sources—which account for 38 per cent of the discipline’s grant income (Nielsen *et al.* 2017: 39) and which have recently supported major African archaeology projects. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals do, at least, recommend strengthening the protection and safeguarding of the world’s cultural heritage, and promoting appreciation of cultural diversity and its contribution to development. They also identify as priorities expanding the number of scholarships available to African nationals and enhancing scientific research and cooperation. In such a context, it is important that archaeologists fight their corner, demonstrating how their findings contribute to the overall human narrative.

The research reported in this volume forms part of the ‘Environmental and Cultural Change in West and Central Africa’ project, led by the Universities of Frankfurt and Tübingen. The work at Campo was underpinned by thematic questions, but the nature of the archaeological deposits—lying beneath the school, church and other structures of a modern settlement, and in some cases revealed by road maintenance—means that the work effectively constituted salvage archaeology. The site was first recognised in 2000 and, as it held great archaeological potential but was severely threatened, systematic excavations were implemented in 2007. These involved the excavation of features CAM 07/1–CAM 07/13; salvage excavation of specific features and various ‘sondages’ were also undertaken in 2005 and 2007 at the church site; and, finally, surface samples were taken throughout the modern settlement of Campo. Chapter 3 reports on these various strands. Although the volume includes many excellent maps and well-labelled illustrations, the sheer number of units makes it difficult to keep track of their size and nature.

The features encountered are briefly interpreted on pp. 59–60. Some are seen as pits, in keeping with the ubiquity of such features in Central Africa (for another example, see Lavachery *et al.* 2010).

© Antiquity Publications Ltd, 2017