Review of Der Parthenonfries: Katalog und Untersuchung, by Frank Brommer

Brunilde S. Ridgway
Bryn Mawr College, bridgway@brynmawr.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.brynmawr.edu/arch_pubs

Part of the Classical Archaeology and Art History Commons, and the History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons

Custom Citation

This paper is posted at Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College. http://repository.brynmawr.edu/arch_pubs/152

For more information, please contact repository@brynmawr.edu.
The illustrations have been selected with great care. Both photographs and line drawings are run into the text. The photography, much of it done expressly for this book, is of high quality. An indication of date would have added to the interest of older photographs of monuments and areas. Noteworthy among the drawings are perspective restorations of Athenian houses by J. Ellis Jones. Bibliographical references have been very judiciously selected and conveniently placed.

All lovers of Athens whether they know the city through autopsy or hearsay will profit from this book, and they may be sure of much pleasure in the reading of it.

HOMER A. THOMPSON
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Der Parthenonfries: Katalog und Untersuchung
by FRANK BROMMER, viii, 292 pages, 200 black and white plates, 46 text figures.
VERLAG PHILIPP VON ZABERN, Mainz am Rhein, Germany 1977 260 DM

This handsome set of two volumes concludes Brommer's monumental work on the Parthenon sculptures. Since his first publication on the pediments appeared in 1963, followed by that on the metopes in 1967, one can truly say that Brommer has emulated the speed of the Periklean workers themselves while equally accomplishing results of lasting significance. Der Parthenonfries follows the format of the two previous works. It begins with a catalogue of all extant frieze slabs, followed by lists of fragments in Athens and elsewhere and by concordances. Interspersed with the concise descriptions of the plaques are the corresponding drawings by Stuart, Pars, Worsley and Hartig; the Carrey drawings are instead included with the plates. The second part of the book critically reviews the massive bibliography on the frieze and tries to separate facts from theories. The reliefs are examined in the light of both predecessors and successors among friezes down to the Roman period, and their influence is traced in other monuments, including vases and even modern forgeries. Discussion of technical details and polychromy is followed by analysis of the individual components of the procession by category: offering bearers, musicians, apobates and all the others; their costumes and hairstyles are discussed separately in their amazing variety. Finally problems of identification and interpretation are raised, and the artistic execution and planning of the reliefs are reviewed. In brief, not a single aspect of the frieze remains unexplored.

This is a work of the highest scholarship that only a person with Brommer's deep knowledge of the Parthenon sculptures could have accomplished with such
The Archaeology of Mesopotamia
From the Old Stone Age to the Persian Conquest

By SETON LLOYD. Professor Lloyd systematically analyzes the wealth of material produced by major and minor excavations since 1900 and the developments they revealed in the realms of art, architecture, religion, and social history. 174 illustrations. $17.95

Myth and Symbol in Ancient Egypt

By R. T. RUNDLE CLARK. The author gives considerable attention to the philosophical ideas expressed in the myths, their symbolism and art. 18 plates, 40 drawings. $7.95 paper

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Archaeology

consultant editor GLYN DANIEL. 224 pages, frontispiece, 71 black and white photographs, 23 text figures. THOMAS Y. CROWELL COMPANY, New York 1977 $17.95

This book purports to bring within its covers everything connected with archaeology—terminology, methods and personalities as well as sites of all times and places, from the Old Stone Age to the twentieth century, from the ice-clad sources of pre-Eskimo archaeology to the steaming ruins of Angkor Wat. What is more, since the authors of the book are not Classical or Near Eastern archaeologists but prehistorians and anthropologists, they include industrial archaeology, with the consequent addition of such entries as ‘Pullman (Ill.),' 'Steam engines,' 'Sawmilling' and the like. To give an idea of the book’s scope, here are the rubrics beginning with the letter G: Gallery grave, Gallinazo, Garagay, Gasworks, Gaul, Gaviota, Gela, Gems, Geology and Archaeology, Geometric, Gerasa, Geyre, Gezer, Ghana, Ghassul, Ghazna, Ghost towns, Glanum, Glass, Globular amphora culture, Glottochronology, Gold, Gold mining-industrial, Gordion, Gortyn, Gournia, Greven, Great Silla Dynasty, Great Tombs period, Greece-archaeology of, Grime’s Graves, Grubenhauser, Gutierrez Cave, Gumelnitsa culture, Guti, Gymnasium. These take up slightly less than seven two-column quarto pages.

How were the authors able to compress so ambitious a range of subjects into just 220 such pages? One way was to exercise a highly idiosyncratic judgment in the choice of rubrics. In the letter G, for example, why no entry for Gandhara, when they include ‘Ajanta’ and ‘Ellora’; for Gararmantes, when they include ‘Cimme­rians’; for Garbage, when they include ‘Gasworks,’ ‘Electricity’ and ‘Waterpower’; for Germany in prehistory, when they include ‘Britain in prehistory’ and ‘Russia in prehistory’; for Gokstad, when they include ‘Osberg’? Some of their omissions seem aggressively conspicuous. There is an entry for ‘Calendar, Mesoamerica’—and only that; are readers to presume that the Egyptian or Mesopotamian or any other calendar is not worth bothering about? There is an entry for ‘Painting, Classical World’ but for no other time; for ‘Sculpture,