

The book, nevertheless, offers an essential reading for scholars of early Roman Egypt, and demonstrates how far a flexible body of evidence can and should be taken. This is doubly true if we are reminded of the fact that at issue there lies a narrative put together by a biased contemporary, one hardly ever reinterpreted since.

Gil Gambash

University of Haifa

Joseph Patrich. *Studies in the Archaeology and History of Caesarea Maritima Caput Judaeae, Metropolis Palaestinae*. Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity, 77. Leiden: E.J. Brill. 2011. ISBN 978 90 04 17511 2. Xii + 500 pp. 172 illus.

Caesarea Maritima was founded by Herod the Great close to the remains of Hellenistic Strato's Tower and became the main harbor and the capital of Roman Palestine as well as the most elaborated settlement of classical character in this region. As a multi-ethnic/religious city it housed Jews, Pagans, Christians and Samaritans who enjoyed a common urban armature. This armature is the central issue of the book discussed here: from the city's foundation throughout the changes that occurred due to historical events and developments. The author of this book, Joseph Patrich (henceforth P.), is one of the leading Caesarea archaeologists and scholars and this volume is partly based on the excavations that P. conducted in Caesarea between 1990 and 2000.

By warmly welcoming the book discussed here, I am joining reviews which have already been published about this opus,¹ as I did for another volume on Caesarea which was published by this author.² Unlike the latter, which is an archaeological report of a certain area, here we deal with a collection of the author's papers dedicated to Caesarea Maritima on various topics concerning its long lasting history. The book consists of twelve papers, originally published (either in Hebrew or English) between 1996 and 2010. They are here republished without major changes. Only Chapter 5 was written especially for this collection; others (announced in the book as forthcoming) have been published in the meanwhile.³

The papers discuss the rather complicated issues of Caesarea's history and archaeology from its pre-Herodian existence as Strato's Tower throughout its complex history as a multi-ethnic/religious urban center up to some aspects of the transition to the Early-Islamic urban epilogue of the city.

One of the main problems regarding the archaeological activity at Caesarea is the fact that it is split among various schools and scholars working there almost simultaneously yet not coordinating scientific evaluation of the remains. P.'s book is one of the attempts to bring together some of the results of various Caesarea teams since 1993.⁴

¹ For such reviews see: F. Rojas, <http://www.bmcreview.org/2012/12/20121221.html>; H.W. Dey, in *JRA* 24 (2012), 901-905.

² J. Patrich, *Archaeological Excavations at Caesarea Maritima, Areas CC, KK and NN. Final Reports, Volume I. The Objects*, Jerusalem 2008; reviewed by M. Fischer, in *JRA* 25 (2012), 899-900.

³ Thus Chapter 6 in the book under review, was published in K. G. Holum and H. Lapin (eds.), *Shaping the Middle East: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in an Age of Transition*, Bethesda, MD, 2011, pp.33-64.

⁴ A. Raban and K.G. Holum, eds., *Caesarea Maritima. A Retrospective after two Millennia*. Leiden, 1996; see also K. Holum, J. Stabler and E. Reinhardt, eds. *Caesarea Reports and Studies: Excavations 1995-2007 within the Old City and the Ancient Harbour*, Oxford 2008.

The first chapter in this collection, 'Herodian Caesarea: the Urban Space', also discusses the pre-Herodian, Hellenistic history of the city. This survey takes account of recent scholarship and includes an updated post-script and a map (Fig. 14). P. rightly agrees with those (in fact the majority) who favor a rather late Hellenistic date for Strato's Tower, mainly on the basis of an accurate evaluation of the material culture, which lacks finds from the Persian and early Hellenistic periods. What we have here is one of the most detailed and exact descriptions of the Herodian and Early Roman beginnings of Caesarea. P.'s comments regarding Caesarea's urban layout between Hellenistic Alexandria and Augustan Rome are still valid à propos the impact of the "competition" between these two main centers on the shaping and designing of Mediterranean cities, including Caesarea Maritima.

Chapter Two is a reprint of a contribution which appeared in English in *Festschrift Tsafirir*. It includes a post-script in which P. responds to Holum's contribution published in the same volume.⁵ P. uses Jewish *halakhic* sources revealing the status of Caesarea with regard to its laws of purity of the city; this is of great importance for the question whether Caesarea was within the purity boundaries of Eretz-Israel as well as for understanding the *eruv* boundaries of the city itself and, by implicitly, the location of burial places around it. These sources are also relevant to the question whether the *extra-muros* expansion of the city kept the orthogonal street-grid of the Herodian city. P. points out that it is plausible that a certain urban pre-Classical Near East tradition, in which streets often followed the layout of the existing city walls, was here the case as well.⁶ As to this point, it has often been showed in the past that, in general, *extra-muros* developments of Roman cities do not necessarily follow an urban expansion similar to that of *intra-muros*.⁷ After dealing in Chapter Three with issues of the proclamation of Caesarea as a Roman colony (with a very good re-appraisal of the various sources) P. re-approaches in Chapter Four the issue of the urban space of the city as it developed eventually in Roman times. This is a reprint of a 2001 article, still valid as a good overview of the city's development from its first generations to the Late Roman and Byzantine periods. This chapter is, in my opinion, one of the most complete descriptions of Caesarea's history, but it would have profited from an update of more recent studies.⁸ Building activity, including architecture, architectural decoration and art, are briefly mentioned yet they do not reflect the fact that during this very period Caesarea became a city importing, using, and diffusing marble, thus turning into a real competitor of other Mediterranean metropolises.⁹

Chapters Five, Six, and Nine are the fruits of P.'s excavations in the SW zone of the city, such as 'The objects' published by P. and his collaborators in 2008 (see n. 2). These chapters are perfect for the general reader, since they offer some economic aspects (such as Chapter Five, written especially for this collection) and emphasize the topic of the transition to late antiquity (Chapter Six). But for a better understanding they should be read together with the 2008 report. Concerning the issue of post-Classical Caesarea and the impact the Muslim conquest had on it, P. offers some interesting data and discusses the aspects of a weakened urban armature, which

⁵ L. Di-Segni, Y. Hirschfeld, R. Talgam and J. Patrich (eds.), *Man Near a Roman Arch. Studies Presented to Prof. Yoram Tsafirir*. Jerusalem 2009; Patrich's contribution on pp. 142*-168*; Holum's contribution on pp. 187*-207*.

⁶ A good reference to this issue would be: Z. Herzog, *Archaeology of the City: Urban Planning in Ancient Israel and its Social Implications*, Tel Aviv 1997.

⁷ E.g. P.J. Goodman, *The Roman City and its Periphery: from Rome to Gaul*, New York 2007, 1-6 ('Exploring the edges of a Roman city').

⁸ It would have been useful to include references to Holum, Stabler, and Reinhardt 2008 (n. 4).

⁹ A reference to M. Fischer, *Marble Studies. Roman Palestine and the Marble Trade*. Konstanz 1998, s.v. Caesarea, would have been useful.

nonetheless continued in using the space but bearing a different character.¹⁰ Chapter Nine is in fact another by-product of the vast excavations carried out by P. in the SW part of the city, published in various articles but mainly in his 2008 Report (n. 2). In any case, this chapter provides a concise typology of *horrea* and other installations against their social and sometimes even religious background.

Chapter Seven deals with the ‘amphitheater’ (as Flavius Josephus calls it), defined here as ‘hippodrome/stadium’. It was uncovered between the theater and the southern wall of the Crusaders’ city, partly by P. (the *carceres*) and mostly by Y. Porath. The history of this important monument is affected by the fact that the excavations carried out by various teams were not always coordinated, so changes which the building had undergone (affecting its character) and their chronological frames are still unclear. I would recommend to readers who are interested in this subject to also consult P.’s article dealing with the Herodian Entertainment Structures.¹¹

Chapter Eight (announced as *forthcoming*), was eventually published in 2010 in the Proceedings of the conference.¹² This chapter offers a good overview of the *praetoria* of the city through its various stages of development including attempts at interpreting the function of their components. This is a valuable addition to the chapters dealing with the urban layout of the city. The variety of epigraphic material which has emerged from these areas, both in Greek and Latin is convincingly used by P. for emphasizing the role these buildings and their different components have played in the city’s political and economic administration.

The last three chapters are dedicated to Christian aspects of Caesarea, which has witnessed the activity of some of the most important figures of early Christianity, such as Paul, Origenes, Eusebius and Martyrs. Chapter Eleven presents four Christian objects retrieved from P.’s excavations. Chapters Ten (dealing with an attempt to identify Paul’s chapel) and Twelve (the Martyrs of Caesarea) are the highlight of this volume with the urban armature as its leitmotif. Faithful to this concept P. presents the Christian events and sites, as he does throughout this volume, against the urban space of Caesarea.

A detailed Bibliography, together with several very useful indices, are a real achievement for such a collection of papers drawn from various sources. The volume is enriched by a wonderful collection of illustrations, again marvelously re-edited after their separation from their original publications. One remark, however, regarding Fig. 1 (Caesarea — Roads map): it was designed to emphasize the roads connecting with Caesarea, yet it neglects the real picture of the road system in Roman Palestine.¹³

In such an enterprise some repetitions, mistakes and misspellings are inevitable despite the excellent editing work done here. Thus introductions to Caesarea’s historical and archaeological

¹⁰ Of relevance for this issue are the contributions by Holum, Avni, Whitcomb and others in the same volume Patrich’s article has appeared, see above, note 3; recently the change of the coastal area during Early Islamic period has been investigated by Y. Masarwa, *Transforming the Mediterranean from a Highway into a Frontier: the Coastal Cities of Palestine during the Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods, Le Proche-Orient de Justinien aux Abbasides (Bibliothèque de l’Antiquité tardive 19)*, Turnhout 2011, pp. 149-167.

¹¹ J. Patrich, ‘Herodian Entertainment Structures’, in: D. M. Jacobson and N. Kokkinos (eds.), *Herod and Augustus: Papers Presented at the IJS Conference, 21st-23rd June 2005* (IJS Studies in Judaica 6), Leiden 2009, 181-213.

¹² T. Capelle et al. (eds.), *Imperium — Varus und seine Zeit. Internationales Kolloquium des LWL-Römermuseums am 28. und 29. April 2008 in Münster* (Veröffentlichungen der Altertumskommission für Westfalen, Vol. 18), Münster 2010, 177-186.

¹³ For updated maps see: I. Roll, ‘Map of Roads’ in: Y. Tsafir, L. Di Segni and L. Green, *Tabula Imperii Romani: Iudaea, Palaestina*, Jerusalem 1994.

background are repeated several times; references to 'see below/above' are not always easily located; Josephus Flavius/Flavius Josephus is inconsistently used; names are sometimes misspelled.

Needless to point out that in spite of all these misgivings the volume under review here is undeniably an erudite and high professional combination of ancient history, epigraphy, and archaeology as reflected by the main city of the Classical period in Ancient Israel. P. shows a great ability to use written sources of various (Jewish, Greek, Latin) origins as background to the archaeological remains and their interpretation. Although not fulfilling the *desideratum* of a full Introduction and/or summary of Caesarea's history and archaeology, this book is definitely one of the most important Caesarea volumes of the last decades.

Moshe Fischer

Tel Aviv University