

Blurb for

LEPTIMINUS (LAMTA), REPORT No. 3: THE FIELD SURVEY

The ancient harbour city of Leptiminus (modern Lamta, Tunisia) has been the subject of an important programme of excavations and survey since 1990. This volume presents the results of the intensive archaeological surveys carried out in three zones: the urban centre, the suburban zone and the rural hinterland. The combined results make this one of the most detailed attempts yet to present the story of a city primarily through survey methodologies. The urban core was explored through survey of structural remains, geophysical prospection for the underlying structures, and fieldwalking. The *suburbium* was as extensive as the urban core and characterised by traces of aqueducts, cemeteries and villas interspersed with extensive pottery manufacturing and other industrial activities. The rural survey extended in a series of transects into a landscape of villages, villas, farmsteads and cemeteries.

Part I sets the archaeological work in its environmental context, describes the methodologies employed, and presents a synthesis of the results obtained. A particular feature of the work is the GIS mapping of the wide-ranging archaeological data gathered, providing a detailed picture of an ancient city, despite the relatively small amount of excavation that has taken place. Of particular interest to Roman archaeologists will be the discussion of the urban morphology, infrastructure and amenities, including studies on the site's aqueducts and cisterns, cemeteries, building materials, and a lengthy analysis of the city's economy, with a particular focus on olive oil and fish products, amphora and other pottery production, metallurgy and the rural economy. The section concludes with an attempt to sketch an urban biography for Leptiminus.

Part II presents detailed specialist reports on pottery, amphoras, amphora stamps, lamps, iron production debris, mortars and plasters, building materials and decorative stone, querns and lithics.

In Part III (on an accompanying DVD) two detailed gazetteers cover the urban/suburban survey and the rural survey.

The cloth-bound volume contains 493 pages, 234 printed figures, 8 printed pages of colour, 4 printed folding maps in the endpocket, and a DVD containing the gazetteers, heavily illustrated with colour images, and a full selection of images of the amphora stamps. Shipping weight 5 lbs.

The volume will be of value to all researchers interested in the ancient economy, Roman urbanism and Roman material culture.