
This CD contains nearly 900 images with commentary. The electronic format is ideally suited for the subject matter contained on this CD. Archaeology has always...
been a visual subject and this CD helps the user to not only see the images, but to utilise them in creative ways.

The cities treated on the CD are: Athens, Corinth, Isthmia, Olympia, Delphi, Thessalonike, Philippi, Ephesos and Pergamon. It therefore includes not only cities that are of value for the history, culture and sociology of Christianity but also cities that help us to understand the broader religion, society and culture of the time. Material does not only focus on the time of the Christian mission but also include Hellenistic and early Christian archaeological monuments. Each city is covered comprehensively by maps, models, photographs and commentary. There are general materials that enable the user to get a broad review of the cities. Specific aspects of the cities can be found by using the index on each city. The programme enables one to make one’s own presentation with the available material. One is allowed by the programme to use either text or photos or both. Greek text in the commentary can be accessed in the Odyssea UBS font from Linguist Software. A zoom function helps one to focus on a particular subject in a photo or to create special effects in a slide show. The material could also be used in other presentation programmes such as Microsoft Power Point or Apple Keynote. There is an understandable help function that makes it easy to use the CD and to make the most of the material. The programme comes with technical support.

I have tested the contents on Corinth, Ephesos and Pergamon, three cities that I know extensively. The available material on these cities is comprehensively treated in both visual material and commentary. On the other cities I found new information that was not available in sources that I have read. The bibliography on each part of commentary makes it a useful tool for serious research.

In some countries with an adverse US $ exchange rate the price may be on the high side for the use of private individuals.

The electronic format gives one a wide range of possibilities and there will always be space for improvement. A ‘reconstruction’ function would make this programme truly remarkable. Archaeologists are always confronted with the problem of reconstruction of a site. Does one reconstruct? If you decide to reconstruct which buildings do you reconstruct? Which buildings do you sacrifice and which do you restore? It is possible to overcome these daunting problems with the help of electronic reconstruction. This would capture the feel of a city much better than a photograph of a model ever could.

Despite the price and the ever increasing possibilities of technology that make people of the computer age expect ever more, I recommend this CD as a standard work, both for the scholar and the lay person.

J A Myburgh, N G Kerk Wierdapark, P O Box 50317, Wierdapark 0149, South Africa. E-mail: canis@gogga.co.za

----------------------------------------