

that the city population clearly resented. The walling of towns, perhaps more than anything else, distinguished the early from late Roman Empire. To accompany so much excellent description Todd offers little comment on their effects: Aurelian's Wall is 'a product of a time of fundamental change in military organization' (p. 71) and it may be that 'behind its great wall Rome remained a vigorous and lively place' (p. 83). Yet admiration for these and similar feats of Roman construction ought to be balanced by the likelihood that, to a great mass of the population, even the sight of these and similar walls must have been profoundly demoralizing. Massive town walls reflect wholehearted trust in the value of a deterrent: invading barbarians (as Todd observes on p. 72) would not risk the siege of a walled city but preferred, as the urban rulers hoped, easier pickings in open country. The price which the Empire paid for the sense of security conferred by town walls was the progressive and lasting estrangement of the rural population. For town and country in the Roman world walls around towns were divisive. As the abandoned rural populations could only flee from their misery, the wealthy elements in the cities called for utmost belligerence against those deemed enemies of the Empire. An enthusiasm for *force de frappe* is not uncommon among those able to contemplate the future from the interior of a fall-out shelter.

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L. QUILICI and S. QUILICI GIGLI: *Antemnae*. (Latium Vetus, 1.) Pp. xvi + 182; 58 plates. Rome: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, 1978.

This is the first in an ambitious programme of monographs intended to cover all the communities of ancient Latium: it is an enormous undertaking and, if successful, will provide the essential material for understanding the background out of which Rome emerged. The Quilicis are already well known for their publications on some of the northern Latin communities such as Gabii, Collatia, and Crustumium. Antemnae, located on a strategic acropolis at the junction of the rivers Tiber and Anio, and one of the places first mentioned in Roman history, poses special problems because, although located by Nibby and Gell, it was not properly investigated before the site was levelled for the construction of a great military fort (1878-8). Some attempt was made to note finds during the building work and Lanciani, in particular, took an interest, but inevitably the discoveries were unsystematic and many of the objects unearthed are now known only from contemporary drawings. Since then very little excavation has been possible. Enough, however, is known to indicate that Antemnae was founded more or less at the same time archaeologically as Rome, that its greatest prosperity was during the seventh and sixth centuries, that it had cultural and artistic ties, as one would expect, with Veii and Falerii as well as the Latin towns, that it was fortified c. 500 B.C., and that it declined steadily as it became absorbed into the suburbs of Rome during the course of the Republic until in the mid-first century B.C. a large villa was built in one part of it and the rest became an attendant village.

This corresponds in broad outline with the historical tradition but *Antemnae*, thoroughly annotated and illustrated as it is, suffers not only from the extreme paucity of the actual evidence but from the Quilicis' decision to accept the chronological framework of Latial pottery proposed by Gjerstad and Gierow, which has always been questionable. A proper understanding of the early development of Latium (including Rome and Antemnae) will not be possible until the exciting results of the new excavations south of Rome, as at Pratica and Decima, have been fully published and assimilated.

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J.-P. DESCOEUDRES, C. DUNANT, I.R. METZGER, C. BÉRARD: *Eretria* VI. Ausgrabungen und Forschungen: fouilles et recherches. Pp. 95;

16 line drawings, 45 plates, 2 fold-out plans. Berne: A. Francke, 1978. 88 Sw. frs.

Among contemporary excavation reports, the Eretria volumes stand out for their interest and readability, but also for a certain unexpectedness—some would say capriciousness—in their choice of subject-matter. Of the five contributions to the latest instalment, the first, J.-P. Descoedres's 'Euboeans in Australia', exemplifies both qualities. Initially at least, one wonders what forty sherds from Al Mina, now in Sydney, are doing in this report, especially when less than a quarter of them can be argued to have been even made in Eretria. It is D.'s case that, thanks to the fact that the sherds are marked with their level of origin at Al Mina, and to the evidence for relative chronology derived from this and from a few parallel finds at Eretria, the whole dating of the Eretrian imitations of Corinthian kotylai can be lowered, and with it the absolute chronology of the early levels at Al Mina, by a margin of about a generation. The relative down-dating of the kotylai, supported by an ingenious fold-out table at the back of the book, may carry some conviction, but the application to Al Mina is much more dangerous. How far can we depend on the reliability of the level-markings when the excavator himself (see Boardman, *BSA* lii, 8, n. 45) appears to have confused level numbers? And is forty sherds an adequate sample for such broad inferences? D. remarks, when making the hypothetical assumption that these were the only finds from the early levels, that it is 'less absurd than it sounds, the hitherto published material comprising not more than about 140 pieces' (p. 15). Maybe; but it would be safer to take account of more of the sherds which were so widely distributed to other museums (the Museum of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge alone has 445, quite a number of them with level-markings too).

The next three contributions are of a more orthodox nature: C. Dunant publishes 189 inscribed funerary stelai, mainly of Hellenistic date, from the area of the West Gate; I.R. Metzger first carries on the good work of the late Mrs. Ure in distinguishing Euboean from Boeotian (and indeed Eretrian from Chalcidian) among the fifth- and fourth-century sherds with lotus-and-palmette decoration, then rather summarily publishes the late fourth-century material (miniature vessels, lamps, terracottas) from the small votive deposits ('pyrai') near the west wall.

The final essay is a rather embattled piece by C. Bérard, defending his interpretation of the Heroön published in *Eretria* 3 against his (mainly French) critics; this leads him into the broader question of the whole process of urbanization at Eretria. His defence is spirited and convincing: for him, Eretria was a quasi-colonial *Küstensiedlung* of the eighth century, centred on harbour and temple and not yet incorporating the acropolis within the fortification-wall which it presently acquired. The Heroön represents a landmark, chronological as well as spatial, inaugurating the development of genuine urbanization and of a more systematic fortification-circuit in the early seventh century B.C.

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ANNA MARGUERITE McCANN: *Roman sarcophagi in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. Pp. 151; 189 plates. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1978.

The author, already well known for her work on Septimius Severus' portraits (*MAAR*, 30, 1968), has now produced this welcome catalogue of twenty-eight whole or fragmentary Roman sarcophagi in the 'Met'. The twenty-four marble sarcophagi are arranged according to their subject matter, as follows: Garland (nos. 1, 2), Endymion (3, 4), Contest of Muses and Sirens (5), Eros with a torch (6), Orestes (7), Dying Meleager (8), Achilles among the daughters of Lycomedes (9), Heracles (10), Mars and Rhea Silvia (11), Nereid (?-12), Apollo and Marsyas (13), Eros on horseback (14), Indian triumph of Dionysus (15-16), Triumph of Dionysus with the Seasons (17), Battle of Romans and Gauls (18), Flying Amorini holding a portrait medallion (19), Female portrait medallion (20), Marriage scene with *dextrarum iunctio*, Poet-philosopher, Sidamara type (22), Child's Season sarcophagus (23), Strigil sarcophagus with physician (24). In addition there are four interesting