C. & C. have made a major contribution to the teaching of Pompeii simply via the provision of translations, and this is where the value of the book lies.

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ETRUSCANS

G. BARKER, T. RASMUSSEN: *The Etruscans*. Pp. xii + 379, figs, maps. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000 (first published 1998). Paper, £15.99. ISBN: 0-631-22038-0.

This volume (there have been 'minor corrections and amendments' [p. xii] to the hardback edition) appears in Blackwell's 'The Peoples of Europe' series and presents a synthesis of our knowledge of the Etruscans, with particular emphasis on the contribution that landscape archaeology has made. This emphasis is not surprising as it grew out of the Tuscania archaeological survey, which the authors directed (p. x).

Although in Italy Etruscology constitutes a separate discipline in its own right (*Etruscologia*), in Great Britain it is much less taught. Despite this, there are however a number of recent syntheses and textbooks, and Barker and Rasmussen's text compares favourably with them. Ellen Macnamara's *The Etruscans* (London, 1990) is an excellent general introduction to the subject and the British Museum gallery, but is too brief to serve as a textbook. Another British Museum publication, Sybille Haynes's *Etruscan Civilization: A Cultural History* (London, 2000), is more substantial, and organized chronologically and thematically, but is rather traditional in its approach, whilst Nigel Spivey and Simon Stoddart (*Etruscan Italy: An Archaeological History* [London, 1990]) take a radical line, seeking 'to present archaeological history, . . . [i.e.] a history based entirely and exclusively upon the tangible results of archaeology' (op. cit., p. 17): there is, for example, nothing on language in their book.

Despite their preoccupation with landscape archaeology, B. & R. steer a middle course between the two approaches, theoretical archaeology on the one side and traditional classical archaeology on the other. The book is organized thematically, with an 'Introduction' and then chapters on 'Landscape' (B., pp. 10–42), 'Origins' (B., pp. 43–84), 'Sources and Society' (R., pp. 85–116), 'Cultural Transformations' (R., pp. 117–40), 'Settlement and Territory' (B., pp. 141–78), 'Subsistence and Economy' (B., pp. 179–215), 'Life, Cult and Afterlife' (R., pp. 216–61), and 'Romanization' (R., pp. 262–96). An appendix contains a useful guide to sites and museums (with detailed instructions for reaching the more out-of-the-way sites) (R., pp. 297–328) and the bibliography is supplemented by a brief guide to 'Selected Reading' (pp. 367–8). The index is well constructed and easy to use (pp. 369–79). The book is well written and, although the two authors each drafted different chapters, the continuity of style is relatively seamless.

Perhaps the least satisfactory aspect of the volume are the maps, so that for example the rivers Cecina and Ombrone are discussed on p. 16 but not shown on the nearest map (Fig. 4; cf. also map Fig. 19, expressly referred to) and places such as Florence, Grosseto and Massa Marittima (p. 22) are again not shown on the figure which is referred to (Fig .4). Likewise the Roman road routes described on p. 23 do not entirely correspond to those shown (incompletely) on the relevant figure (Fig. 104). The non-specialist reader would be advised to keep to hand a fairly detailed map of modern Italy, and may need to have occasional recourse to a classical Atlas.

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The 'Origins' chapter is weak on the Protovillanovan (final Bronze Age) period, a key moment in the formation of the Etruscan (and Italic) civilizations (cf. M. Harari and M. Pearce [edd.], *Il protovillanoviano al di qua e al di là dell'Appennino* [Como, 2000]), and the volume in general pays little attention to Etruscan expansion into Campania (though Pontecagnano gets a brief mention on pp. 139–40). Across the Apennines to the north, *Etruria padana* is given more space, primarily to discuss the well-preserved site of Marzabotto, but the omission of Luigi Malnati and Valerio Manfredi's recent synthesis *Gli etruschi in Val Padana* (Milan, 1991) is inexplicable, not least as there has been much archaeological field survey in the Po plain, and one of the focuses of Barker and Rasmussen's study is the contribution that such research can make to our understanding of the Etruscans (p. x).

It is rather difficult to identify exactly who this text is aimed at. It presupposes a certain knowledge of Italian geography and archaeological issues (for example, we are not told what *impasto* is [p. 132]), which in the days of 'toccata e fuga' undergraduate modules, where teaching is delivered in bite-size nuggets, makes it unsuitable as an introductory textbook, though it would be very useful for Masters-level students with good knowledge of later prehistory and/or the classical world. It is ideal for interested and knowledgeable amateurs or for those whose specialism is elsewhere but want a single volume synthesis. Despite the negative aspects, its good balance between modern theoretical approaches and the traditional concerns of classical archaeology mark it as a successful volume.

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THE ROMANIZATION OF THE VENETO

G. Cresci Marrone, M. Tirelli (edd.): *Vigilia di romanizzazione. Altino e il Veneto orientale tra II e I sec. a. C. Atti del convegno, Venezia, S. Sebastiano, 2–3 dicembre 1997.* (Studi e ricerche sulla Gallia Cisalpina 11.) Pp. viii + 327. Rome: Edizioni Quasar, 1999. Paper. ISBN: 88-7140-154-9.

This volume assembles fifteen papers from a conference devoted to the 'crucial moment of transition that signalled for the settled communities of the eastern Veneto the passage to *Romanitas*' (p. 1). The focus of the enterprise is Altinum (mod. Altino) in the second and first centuries B.C. Margherita Tirelli's opening chapter discusses the importance of recent archaeological data from Altinum for understanding 'Romanization' in north-eastern Italy (pp. 5–31). This material is presented in detail in a chapter edited by Silvia Cipriano (pp. 33–65), and further chapters examine various aspects of it (e.g. coinage and cult objects). Inscriptions command considerable treatment. Anna Marinetti surveys the pre-Roman epigraphy, tracing the influence of Latinate modes of expression in Venetic texts (pp. 75–95). Giovannella Cresci Marrone studies onomastics in the late-Republican Latin inscriptions and postulates the persistence of pre-Roman *gentes* after the arrival of the Romans (pp. 121–39). A perceptive essay by Claudio Zaccaria points out various problems in the epigraphic record for the late-Republican period in the eastern Veneto (pp. 193–210). Most of the early documents are of a public nature (mentioning Roman officials, public buildings, and economic life), while private documents (such

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