demolition applied to private as much as public buildings). Surprisingly, there is little discussion of whether the putative *forum*'s demolition in the early third century reflects the beginning of the process of civic structures becoming weaker in the later Roman period.

In all, this monograph gives a rounded picture of our knowledge of this provincial Spanish town, but also raises interesting and important points about the nature of 'Romanization' in general and as such deserves a wide readership.

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INSCRIPTIONS FOR ANCIENT HISTORIANS

J. BODEL (ed.): *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions.* Pp. xxvi + 246, 23 ills. London and New York: Routledge, 2001. Paper, £14.99. ISBN: 0-415-11624-4.

John Bodel's *Epigraphic Evidence* promises to introduce to 'non-specialist readers . . . *some* of the ways in which inscriptions contribute to the study of ancient history' (my emphasis). The collection achieves this, but will sometimes leave the non-specialist a little perturbed. For the authors of the thematic chapters in this volume, the task of introducing to such an audience language and culture (M. Parca), onomastics and prosopography (O. Salomies), family and society (R. Saller), civic and religious life (J. Rives), and the inscribed ancient economy (G. Pucci) was no small task. This is a book of less than 250 pages. The authors have their own special areas of interest. It is no surprise, therefore, that some areas of ancient history receive a lighter touch, as indeed B. implies.

The book is a useful introduction to many of the problems that the historian must be aware of when dealing with epigraphical evidence. The importance of studying inscriptions in context is a feature not only of B.'s approach (p. 5) but those of the other contributors too (e.g. Rives on lists of councillors at Athens, p. 126). B.'s far-ranging introductory chapter deals well with methodological problems (pp. 46–56; as do other chapters—see esp. Salomies, p. 73; Saller, p. 97) and themes which apply equally to Greek and Roman epigraphy: epigraphical habit or culture (pp. 6–15), orality and literacy (pp. 15–19), monumental form or symbolism (pp. 19–30). That most pervasive genre, funerary inscriptions, receives individual attention (pp. 30–41).

A common problem for those who wish to use epigraphical material is the relative inaccessibility of the evidence. Inscriptions appear in many parts of the ancient world and publications can be available only to the more complete research libraries. Such geographic diversity produces 'a micro-cosmically variegated galaxy of epigraphic behaviors' (p. 7). B.'s book suffers from the (unavoidable) use of technical terms. Would a glossary not have been useful? Can anything be done about the accumulation of abbreviations in epigraphy? Probably not. But the piling up of references to inscriptions, which most readers are never likely to or be able to consult, is worrying. (The expanding community of students learning about ancient history does not always read Greek and Latin, unfortunately.) B.'s volume illuminates the dark recesses of epigraphical material for a wider audience and *Epigraphic Evidence* is a worthy addition to the ancient historian's bookshelf.

If there is a complaint, and this from someone who (still) works almost exclusively on Athens, it is that the epigraphy of Greece, and especially pre-Hellenistic Greece, is sometimes underexploited. The non-specialist student who takes up this book will gain

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a good understanding of how epigraphical evidence can be used by the historian particularly of the Roman period. But those toiling in the Archaic and Classical (even early Hellenistic) periods will find less guidance. A small but significant slip describes the first volume of *Inscriptiones Graecae* in its third edition as incorporating Athenian decrees and laws down to 304 B.C.—in fact, it is all those before 403/2 (p. 154). *IG* I^3 does *not* cover the fourth century (p. 167).

Onomastics and prosopography have informed many areas of Greek history. J. K. Davies's *Athenian Propertied Families* reveals much detail about the structure of Athenian society (*pace* p. 75). The cavalry tokens discovered in the Athenian Kerameikos and Agora offer a valuable insight into the dominant cavalry élite of the third-century *polis*, and their prosopography reveals a great deal about the nature of Athenian social history in this period. It is true that the structure of personal names in Rome offers more than Greek names, but there is considerable mileage to be had from 'applied onomastics' (p. 77) in the Greek world. The *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names* does much to help establish a person's origin by considering the geographical distribution of a name (p. 78), and the recent volume edited by S. Hornblower and E. Matthews (*Greek Personal Names: their Value as Evidence* [Oxford, 2001]) also illustrates the potential that lies in the research of Greek onomastics. Names have often been used to authenticate inscriptions, as Glenys Davies has shown in her studies of the addition of names to Roman ash chests in the eighteenth century (cf. pp. 48–9). New inscriptions still add to the number of known names. Athens is no exception, where the recently discovered fifth century B.C. casualty list of cavalry dead during the Peloponnesian war includes the names Bathykles, Demoson, and Oinarchos, all new to Attica (L. Parlama, *Η Πόλη κατά απο την Πόλη* [Athens, 2000], pp. 396–9, fig. 452).

However unfashionable it may be, the historian of ancient Greece is still able to extract from epigraphy valuable evidence of events for which the literary sources do not always supply information. For the large part, B. and the contributors look to areas other than 'traditional political history', but the rôle epigraphy has to play in helping us to establish the rather dusty subject of when things happened remains invaluable. Inscriptions illuminate periods both rich and poor in literary sources. The trend in social and economic history encourages epigraphers to reassess their evidence. Epigraphy is now studied very much in a broader context, and often within its physical or archaeological environment. B. and his contributors extract these themes nicely: those who work on epigraphy must also continue to offer the student of ancient history fresh and interesting analyses of the rôle inscriptions played in the ancient world.

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INSCRIPTIONS THROUGH THE AGES

A. COOLEY (ed.): *The Afterlife of Inscriptions. Reusing, Rediscovering, Reinventing and Revitalizing Ancient Inscriptions*. Pp. xiii + 203, ills. London: Institute of Classical Studies, 2000. Paper. ISBN: 0-900587-86-5.

This book is a collection of essays which were presented during a two-day conference in July 1998 at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

The volume begins with a list of illustrations (pp. ix–xii), notes on contributors (p. xiii), and an introductory chapter wherein A. Cooley lays out the aim of the

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