divided the office of *pontifex maximus* for the first time' (p. 14). Dio, of course, ended his history of Rome with his second consulate in 229 and his return to Bithynia; what C. attributes to 'the usually reliable Dio' is in fact a footnote added by E. Cary to his Loeb translation of the passage of Dio that C. purports to cite (53.17.8).

Nevertheless, despite carelessness, inaccuracy, and an often injudicious approach to the general history of the fourth century, C. has much of real value to say about the city of Rome at that time. He rightly emphasizes the rôle of Septimius Severus in shaping the public space of the city (pp. 5–9, 24–7) and of Maxentius in providing the urban context for the subsequent activities of Constantine (pp. 50–68). His survey of the buildings constructed in Rome by Constantine and bishops of Rome in the fourth century, on which he spends two chapters, is a sensible and helpful digest of the work of others, especially Charles Piétri and Richard Krautheimer (pp. 70–157), even though he follows conventional modern opinion in assuming that Constantine commissioned the building of the Old Saint Peter's while registering at least some of the contrary evidence and noting Piétri's later dating (pp. 109–14). Perhaps the most illuminating chapters are those on religion and the Circus Maximus in the fourth century (pp. 218–59), and asceticism and the Roman aristocracy (pp. 260–320). Even here, however, C. fails to use relevant German scholarship where it would have helped him most. Most obviously, Hermann Usener's classic *Das Weihnachtsfest*[2] (Bonn, 1911), pp. 273–81, would have saved him from mis-stating the day on which Marcellina, the sister of Ambrose, took her vows as a nun (p. 229 n. 61, citing Ambrose, *De Virginibus* 3.1) and would have drawn to his attention the important fact that the entry 'natus Christus in Betleem Iudeae' under 25 December in the codex-calendar for 354 (*Chr. min.* 1.71) is the earliest clear evidence that the birth of Jesus was deliberately and artificially made to coincide with the pagan *natalis Invicti*.

University of Toronto T. D. BARNES

SPANISH ÉLITES

M. Navarro Caballero, S. Demougin (edd.): *Élites hispaniques*. Pp. 297, ills. Bordeaux: Diffusion de Boccard, 2001. Cased, frs. 301.75. ISBN: 2-910023-23-0.

This volume, the product of a conference held in Bordeaux, contains fifteen papers in French and Spanish. Three main themes are covered—the origins and nature of Hispano-Roman aristocracies, the rôle of such groups as vectors of Roman cultural values, and the nature of their power. The work ends with a rich bibliography.

Despite the title, not all the Iberian peninsula is covered here. The papers focus in the main on the province of Baetica and the southern parts of Lusitania (Merida is the subject of two papers). There are also two specialized papers on the Ebro valley. There is no coverage, save in passing, of central or north-western Spain. Even papers with general titles, such as Stylow's interesting contribution on the rôle of honorific statues in aristocratic life, have a more local focus than is at first apparent. Given the nature of the peninsula, this is perhaps inevitable. It is, however, a pity that this diversity is itself not used more to explore possible differences between aristocracies in these diverse areas. Nor, though Alföldy raises the issue in his introduction to the first section, is

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there any attempt to compare Iberian aristocracies to those found in other provinces of the empire.

In the section on the genesis of Hispano-Roman aristocracies, two papers are given over to the foundations of their wealth. These concentrate on the south of the peninsula, and inevitably olive oil features heavily. Caballos Rufino looks at the ideology of wealth as well as its manifestations, and uses stamps from Dressel 20 amphorae to attempt to identify Baetican aristocrats. The method is suggestive, but doubts still remain as to the true meaning of these stamps. Etienne and Mayet follow Gracia Brosa ('Mercatores y negotiatores: "simples comerciantes" ', *Pyrenae* 30 [1999]) and Remesal Rodriguez ('L. Marius Phoebus mercator olei hispani ex provincia Baetica. Consideraciones en torno a los términos mercator, negotiator y diffusor olearius ex Baetica', in G. Paci (ed.), *Epigraphai. Miscellanea Epigrafica in onore di Lidio Gasperini* [Rome, 2000]) in attempting to untangle the various terms used for traders in oil. LeRoux valiantly attempts to demonstrate that the epigraphic decline in the attestations of senators and equestrians from the third century is a product of social change rather than outright decline.

The section on aristocratic transmission of Roman values centres on the use of statuary. Nogales Basarrate examines the development of Roman sculpture in Merida and sees it mirroring developments at Rome in its transition from a 'realistic' late-republican style to a more idealized early imperial style. She emphasizes in particular the importance of imperial portraiture in influencing the way local aristocrats wished to be perceived by their own communities. Melchior Gil looks at euergetism in the peninsula and the reasons for it. Like Veyne, he finds that euergetism is more a demonstration than a purchasing of power and, unsurprisingly, that the bulk of this activity was performed by the freeborn aristocracy, with a substantial minority contribution coming from wealthy freedmen, especially *seviri Augustales*. The dedication of temples is seen as a particularly important vector of Roman values, though one might wonder what syncretic deities could lurk behind the remaining epigraphy. One striking aspect of this analysis is that almost 25% of such acts were done in the name of women, whose rôle in aristocratic life is explored further in a paper by Navarro Caballero.

In short, this is a thought-provoking, though given its scale, perhaps overambitious, collection which those working on provincial communities in the Spanish provinces will find of considerable value.

University of Manchester A. T. FEAR

LATE ANTIQUE GAUL

R. W. MATHISEN, D. SHANZER (edd.): *Society and Culture in Late Antique Gaul. Revisiting the Sources*. Pp. xii + 328, map, ills. Aldershot, Burlington, Singapore, and Sydney: Ashgate, 2001. Cased, £47.50. ISBN: 0-7546-0624-4.

As the editors explain, the subtitle of this collection of sixteen papers tells us what it is really about—almost all the papers are focused on different individual sources for fifth- and sixth-century Gaul, whether 'historical' or 'intellectual'. The authors and

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