dating back to the end of the regal period if not beyond, as well as the persisting Romulean connection. The massive impact of the republican building programme is reinforced by the current volume, which also contains important observations on cisterns on the Palatine and in central Italy, and a valuable catalogue of finds. This work therefore at the same time challenges some of the particular interpretations of the sequences on the Palatine which have recently been made, whilst reinforcing the importance of the late regal and early republican periods in the development of Rome, and in the regular reorientations of Roman religious life through the republic.

University of St Andrews CHRISTOPHER SMITH

ROMAN CALABRIA

S. ACCARDO: *Villae Romanae nell'ager bruttius. Il paesaggio rurale calabrese durante il dominio romano*. Pp. 237, ills, map. Rome: L'Erma di Bretschneider, 2000. Cased. ISBN: 88-8265-061-8.

For many years, study of the *Mezzogiorno* in the Roman period was dominated by a deeply negative model of depopulation, urban decay, and terminal economic decline resulting from the widespread social and economic changes in Italy following the Hannibalic war. More recently, however, there has been a marked change of emphasis, coinciding with a major upturn in the amount of research focusing on the region. This revolution in our understanding of the culture, society, and economy of the Deep South of Italy under Roman rule has been especially marked in the case of Calabria and the *Ager Bruttius*, an area which has been a particular focus of new research. Accardo's volume represents a valuable addition to this growing body of evidence that Calabria was not an area in deep decline for much of the late republic and Roman empire, but was a region of significant economic activity throughout antiquity.

The book provides brief overviews of the development and significance of the Roman villa, well illustrated with plans of villas from other regions of Italy, and of the Roman conquest of the region. The core of the book, however, is a catalogue of known villas in Calabria, a list which runs to 169 examples in total, and which spans a variety of sizes and types of establishment, from utilitarian farms to substantial élite establishments. The accompanying distribution map indicates that with the exception of the mountainous interior of the Calabrian peninsular, there was a fairly even distribution of villas throughout most of the region, producing wine, oil, and grain as staple crops, along with fish and fruit. In addition to the archaeological evidence, A. also assembles literary sources to indicate that, far from being an economic backwater, Calabrian produce—especially its wine—was esteemed by the Roman élite, and that a significant number of senators and equites invested in villas in the region. The book also confronts the long-standing question of the economy of the Greek colonies in the Roman world, and challenges the notion that a flourishing villa economy coexisted with the decay or disappearance of urban centres. As A. points out (pp. 43–5), villas were for the most part administratively dependent on cities in Roman Italy, and recent investigation of both the urban areas and territories of the Greek colonies does not indicate a pattern of wholesale decline.

While it is clear that major changes took place in the Calabrian economy between the second century B.C. and the first century A.D., it is also clear that—far from economically disintegrating—the region continued to flourish throughout the

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principate. As more studies of aspects of ancient Calabria, such as this, are undertaken, the notion of the post-Hannibalic decline of the region becomes increasingly untenable.

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ROMAN TEXTILES

P. Walton Rogers, L. B. Jorgensen, A. Rast-Eicher (edd.): *The Roman Textile Industry and its Influence. A Birthday Tribute to John Peter Wild*. Pp. xiii + 200, ills, pls. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2001. Cased, £18. ISBN: 1-84217046-5.

This collection of articles is a delightful tribute to the work of John Peter Wild (JPW) on the study of textiles in the ancient world. Contributions from a wide range of international scholars and experts, many of them former students, reflect his innovative and influential scholarship. The book is divided into four sections, framed by an appreciation of JPW and a full bibliography of his work. This last is longer than most of the articles contained in the volume. The chronological and geographical span is far more than that suggested by the title—it ranges from Roman Egypt to Poland to China, and from the Iron Age to the Middle Ages—but the volume is carefully held together by interwoven strands of textile archaeology, conservation, analysis, and interpretation. The work of JPW, particularly the seminal *Textile Manufacture in the Northern Roman Provinces* (Cambridge, 1970), is either the springboard or presents the context for many of the contributions. Many of the articles comprise brief case-studies of particular textile finds in specific contexts or re-examinations of those in museum collections. They illustrate a range of methodological and analytical techniques.

Roman Egypt and Nubia: L. Bender Jorgensen and U. Mannering discuss the difficulties of conserving textiles within the limitations of working on site at Mons Claudianus; D. Cardon concentrates on a small section of check-patterned damask twill from Didymoi, probably the earliest so far indentifed; F. Pritchard and C. Verhecken-Lammens offer new analysis of two linen tunics from Roman Egypt in the Whitworth Art Gallery collection; N. Adams and E. Crowfoot examine textile fragments from Qasr Ibrim, including a shoulder bag and discussion of use of the gamma motif; J. Batcheller also re-examines small samples of goat-hair textile from Karanis, now in Bolton Museum.

Contact with Asia: analysis of third-century resist-dyed cotton fragments and their motifs from China, using the work of JPW on similar textiles from Berenike, is contributed by S. Desrosiers, C. Debaine-Francfort, and A. Idriss; K. Sakamoto reconsiders late Roman human-figure emblems from the At-Tar caves in Iraq and the influence of Graeco-Roman culture in the depiction of human images; G. Vogelsang-Eastwood's chapter on Greek and Roman influence on Sassanian women's clothing changes the direction of the volume away from detailed textile analysis to how such fabrics were worn and by whom.

Europe, Inside and Outside the Frontier: a case-study of gold thread in the Augustan age in Cadiz and its still closely guarded secrets in modern-day Valencia is the subject of C. Alfaro Giner's paper; A. Rast-Eicher looks at Roman textiles in Switzerland and the difference in textile and style found within the upper Rhone valley;

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