continue to spend so much of his time and his scholarly superior brain' (p. 13) on Etruscan matters.

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doi:10.1093/clrevj/bni332

ROMANS IN FULL COLOUR

G. WOOLF (ed.): *Cambridge Illustrated History of the Roman World*. Pp. 384, colour maps, colour ills. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Cased, £30, US$45. ISBN: 0-521-82775-2.

Like its predecessors in the acclaimed *Cambridge Illustrated History* series, Woolf's new volume on the Roman world is filled with lively writing, many useful tools for the beginner and, above all, a spectacular array of illustrations. The large, glossy pages overflow with a wealth of images, all beautifully reproduced in full color. Ancient wall paintings, statues, cameos, relief sculptures, inscriptions, and mosaics are elegantly woven throughout the text, together with illuminated manuscripts from the middle ages, Renaissance frescoes, a generous selection of early-modern paintings (some familiar, some not), a sixteenth-century woodcut, engravings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and a nineteenth-century bronze. There is also room for numerous photographs of monuments and landscapes and for a handful of attractive and informative maps, often presented in striking double-page spreads. It is no exaggeration to say that the illustrations alone are worth the price of the book.

For the price of the book readers will also get quite a bit of substantive writing. Successive chapters treat the nature of the evidence (W.), the Republic (C. Mackay), the emperors (D. Potter), Roman imperialism (W.), the Greek cultural inheritance (W. again), the social hierarchy (E. Dench), the city of Rome (J. Coulston and H. Dodge), literature (S. Swain), urbanization (P. Allison), encyclopedism, science and technology (R. Flemming), religion (R. Lim), the economy (N. Morley), and the Roman army (I. Haynes). In general, the quality of these chapters is high. They are well written, informed by recent scholarship, and, for the most part, accessible to the beginner. The format of the *Cambridge Illustrated Histories* is best suited to broad, thematic surveys that combine description and analysis, such as Potter's 'The Emperors', W.'s 'An Imperial People', and especially Flemming's 'Knowledge and Empire'. Flemming's contribution is a real gem, expertly elucidating the production and management of knowledge in the context of the growth of Roman imperial power. Many chapters convey large amounts of complex information with clarity and a light touch. W.'s introductory chapter, 'Discovering Ancient Rome', Lim's 'The Gods of Empire', and Morley's 'The Profits of Empire' stand out in this regard. Dench addresses an impressive range of topics under the rubric 'Domination', but the novice will find it difficult, I suspect, to follow the connections drawn here between social stratification, gender, Roman Italy, Roman citizenship, slavery (as metaphor and in practice), and the relationship between town and country. The book's format is less well suited to the systematic presentation of discrete facts. The chapters on the city of Rome ('The Imperial Metropolis') and on urbanization ('An Empire of Cities'), for example, read a bit like entries in an old encyclopedia. It should also be noted that lengthy discussions of Rome's physical topography and monumental development will be unintelligible to most readers without a map of the city—an inexplicable omission. Similarly unsatisfactory is Mackay's sketch of the Republic,

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https://doi.org/10.1093/clrevj/bni333 Published online by Cambridge University Press

which is too cursory to be effective. But this was an impossible assignment. Who could adequately cover the period from the Sullan reforms to the death of Caesar in just two pages? The book contains a lot of valuable information, but it does not really provide the 'comprehensive overview of the history of both the Republic and the Empire' promised by the dust jacket.

In most chapters, institutions and structures take precedence over individuals and events, a welcome departure from the many introductions that emphasize 'great' figures and historical 'turning points'. The book is quite traditional, however, in its consistent focus on the period from the Late Republic through the High Empire. Early Rome and the Later Empire are mostly ignored. Roman law is another topic that does not receive much attention, and one can read the book from cover to cover without getting a real sense of the regional and local diversity that was such a characteristic feature of the Roman world. One topic that is perhaps overemphasized is the cultural influence, and dominance, of the Greeks. The theme appears in nearly every chapter and is itself the subject of a chapter by the editor. Emphasis on the Greeks is most evident in Swain's 'The Empire of Letters', in which pages and pages are devoted to Polemo, Philostratus and Aelius Aristides, while discussion of Sallust, Livy, Virgil, Ovid, and Tacitus is confined to two paragraphs. The imbalance in this chapter is patent. No one disputes the significance of Greek culture within the Roman world, but in this book it is sometimes inflated out of proportion.

In general, though, the *Cambridge Illustrated History of the Roman World* offers an excellent introduction to the subject. The picture of the Roman world that emerges from this volume is dynamic and often arresting, and will surely stimulate interest in the subject. The book is particularly successful as an *illustrated* history. Throughout the book, text and image are subtly integrated in a manner that is always suggestive, never pedantic. Illustrations are not numbered, and the reader is never directed to consult a specific image. Instead, carefully placed illustrations, along with frequent quotations from ancient authors located in the margins, invite the reader to reflect on the material and to make connections. It is an ideal format for arousing curiosity and for encouraging independent thinking. The book can be recommended without hesitation, then, to its target readership of students and 'general readers'.

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doi:10.1093/clrevj/bni333

THE WISEMAN EFFECT

D. Braund, C. Gill (edd.): *Myth, History and Culture in Republican Rome. Studies in Honour of T. P. Wiseman*. Pp. x + 358, maps, ills. Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2003. Cased, £40. ISBN: 0-85989-662-5.

The editors of this handsome volume of papers from the conference held in 2000 to honour Peter Wiseman's sixtieth birthday are well aware of the potential dangers of the *Festschrift*, and have succeeded admirably in producing what can best be regarded as a themed miscellany. These studies are diverse in their subject matter, but nevertheless combine to provide a fascinating and enriching account of the subject described in the title. The theme itself (myth, history, culture) and the diversity of Wiseman's own work both contribute to the volume's success: Roman myth, emerging from scholarly neglect, has come into the light in a climate where totalizing

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https://doi.org/10.1093/clrevj/bni333 Published online by Cambridge University Press