sample sizes provided even by the fuller papyrological evidence are notoriously innaccurate.

On points of presentation, it must be said that the book is not an easy read. The Harvard system of referencing does not suit the heavy citation demanded by papyrological evidence. Sentences are seriously split up with parentheses, making it difficult on occasion to follow lines of argument, and there is no systematic approach to the inclusion of evidence either in the notes or the text (compare 191 with 294). Footnotes seem the most appropriate form of citation. Finally, the maps are inadequate and have no scale, and images are sparse (Karanis is the obvious omission here).

A.'s book is certainly ambitious, and there is much of merit in it. The points above serve to illustrate the huge amount of material available, and perhaps to show that with such a vast topic, it is impossible to cover everything. However, there is a feeling that A. cannot resist the temptation to become entangled in theoretical approaches, but at the expense of describing how cities actually worked. But it is, of course, very easy for reviewers to be critical. The criticisms above are not meant to detract from what is a useful and important book, founded on a huge synthesis of ancient evidence and modern literature, for which A. is to be commended.

University of Leicester COLIN ADAMS

THE SPANISH ÉLITE

S. PANZRAM: *Stadtbild und Elite: Tarraco, Corduba und Augusta Emerita zwischen Republik und Spätantike*. (*Historia* Einzelschriften 161.) Pp. 388, maps. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2002. Cased, €76. ISBN: 3-515-08039-2.

Thanks to a substantial body of epigraphic material from the Iberian peninsula and the well-documented tendency of Spaniards to engage in public careers at Rome from a comparatively early date, the urban élite of the Spanish provinces have been attracting academic attention for some time. However, there is still much under-explored territory in this field and this work stakes a claim to an interesting corner of it. It seeks to understand the entwined evolution shared by each of the three provincial capitals of Spain with their leading inhabitants. Panzram focuses on the physical environment of the three diverse communities from the time of their foundation to the very end of the Roman period, concerning herself both with how material context affected the behaviour of the élite and how they in turn moulded that urban landscape to suit themselves.

An introduction lays down the theoretical basis of the study and a concluding chapter draws prominent threads and themes together. P. cites the influence of anthropology on her work and lays an emphasis on the importance of geographical context, something often highlighted in anthropological studies. Each of the three cities has a section devoted to it, subdivided into chapters which carry the reader through the evolution of the city and its élite inhabitants in chronological stages. There is a certain amount of narrative recounting the general physical, social, economic, and political development of the communities, but much space is also devoted to detailed discussion of specific buildings and institutions. In fact, the predominant emphasis is on archaeological remains and approaches to interpretation of them. In her

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introduction, P. makes it clear that the flowering of archaeological exploration of the Iberian peninsula in recent decades and, importantly, an increased speed of publication were the inspiration for this work. Her study makes full use of that bonanza. There is detailed discussion both of recent finds and recent theories on the urban structure of the three communities. This makes it all the more a pity that illustrations are restricted to large-scale city ground plans drawn from recent archaeological publications. Given the detail in which the cities' urban layouts are being discussed one could wish for more detailed plans of the main public spaces. There is no illustration at all of the architecture or architectonic elements discussed which leaves the reader to use their imagination or seek alternative sources of illustration. At least the detailed bibliography offers information regarding the latter option. This useful resource, along with the meticulous and heavily footnoted text, bear witness to the work's origins as a graduate dissertation, produced at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster. As a consequence of the combination of these factors, the book does not represent an easy read and can at times be downright heavy going.

These are minor criticisms, however, and there is much to be welcomed here. The work takes into account literary, epigraphic and archaeological material, bringing together a wide range of information, much of it more usually discussed in discrete contexts. It is a thorough and detailed work which explores a wide range of areas, including the development of each of the three communities, their physical structure and attributes, and existing prosopographical data. It thus provides a truly rounded account of the current state of knowledge of the relationship between these towns and their élite inhabitants. P.'s work is, in some senses, a Hispano-centric study, and it is certainly true that a pre-existing basic familiarity with the geography and history of Roman Spain will definitely assist the potential reader. However, for all its rather localized subject matter, this work will also be of interest to those investigating provincial élites and the structure of urban space in the wider empire due to the spirit in which the author approaches her topic. It is difficult to summarize the work's tenor as a whole, given the diversity of the subject matter. Although each was the capital of a Spanish province, the cities were very different: Tarraco, a third-century B.C. military foundation and capital of a vast and varied province; Corduba, a second-century B.C. foundation of uncertain origin and capital of one of the empire's wealthiest and most stable provinces; and Emerita, whose prestige as an Augustan colonial foundation struggled to balance the wildness and poverty of the province. P. takes what is broadly a 'compare and contrast' approach to the élite of the three provincial capitals. She resists the urge to homogenize their experiences, however. Each city and its leading citizens are presented as distinct. She contends that, influenced by a myriad of small differences in urban topography, regional geography, and provincial history, each city and its élite population developed in an independent direction, the city's fortunes moulding the behaviour of the élite and the élite creating the physical structure of the city to suit their own ends. The relative brevity of the concluding chapter reinforces this approach, since it becomes clear that P. is not seeking to present a single overall cogent thesis regarding the Spanish urban élites with this work, but is rather exploring what can be done with the available evidence. If there is any one big point that P. wishes to make, it seems to be that one that is equally applicable to the empire as a whole: the élite of urban communities can best be understood within the highly localized context of their specific community, its particular history, and its relationship with Rome.

Oxford LISA BLIGH

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