many angles—technical, archaeological, historical, literary, social. It is too much to expect all of these to be studied adequately within any single book. Progress must surely depend on a step-by-step process, with separate studies concentrating individually on these various aspects, then followed by a work of synthesis. For a true picture of Roman water supply, this book is a foundation stone, not the complete edifice; but the complete edifice depends on such foundations, so one cannot fairly censure the work because it is not the same book that I would have written—a common error in reviews.

On its technical side, the book should be used with caution. As a compendium of literary evidence it is admirably comprehensive. Its detailed listing of *fistulae* will be a valuable tool for specialists. And for general classicists it raises topics and questions they will find well worth considering further.

Carleton University, Ottawa A. TREVOR HODGE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ROMAN BURIAL

J. PEARCE, M. MILLETT, M. STRUCK (edd.): *Burial, Society and Context in the Roman World*. Pp. xxiv + 272, ills. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2000. Paper. ISBN: 1-84217-034-1.

There is an ever-increasing interest in the archaeological remains of Roman burial and also in the search to integrate and interpret the varied evidence created by ancient funerary practices. In light of this, a conference was held in Durham during April 1997 and the resulting proceedings are published in this volume. The twenty-eight chapters cover many of the central issues in the study of Roman death and burial, and represent a range of approaches. The papers include, for example, studies of cemetery excavations, regional funerary customs, specific aspects of the rite of disposal, elements of grave furnishing, and the use of above-ground markers. Many of the papers relate specific case studies to wider themes such as social status, Romanization, ethnicity, and change across time. The geographic range of the volume is impressive. The focus falls on the North-West provinces of the empire, although there is a slight bias towards Roman Britain (six chapters) and in the later chapters towards Rome (five chapters); but other areas ranging from France to Asia Minor are well represented. This gives the rare opportunity to access in the English language what is being researched, where, and how.

The diversity of approaches, subject matter, and geographic range reflect the dynamic nature of such conferences, but represent some organizational problems when transferred to volume form. The editors are honest about the challenges, acknowledging that the volume contains different types of scholarship and different national traditions of study. In compiling the volume a 'liberal line' was taken on subject matter and this has perhaps led to a 'more diverse volume than might have been desired' (p. viii). Nevertheless there are valiant attempts to give the volume structure and to make it easy to use. The initial abstracts, provided in two languages, entail user-friendly summaries. The papers are then divided into five sections, each of which is provided with a brief overview of the contents and themes of the papers it contains. A strong first chapter by Pearce and an 'afterword' by Reece also go some way to tying the volume together. However, the diversity is also inevitably a weakness; some sections

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work less well than others; and some papers do not sit well with those that surround them or relate well to the overall theme of their allotted section.

The five sections explore the reconstruction of mortuary rituals; burial and social status; the dead in the landscape; burial and ethnicity; and religion and burial in the later empire. The sections on status and ethnicity maintain their internal coherency particularly well despite ranging widely in terms of geography and subject matter. The 'Burial and Ethnicity' section also demonstrates some interesting and differing national approaches to how evidence can be read and interpreted. Why the paper on burial in Asia Minor relates to a section entitled 'The Dead in the Landscape' is not made clear, and the cluster of chapters at the end of the book, focusing on evidence from Christian Rome, serves to emphasize that the centre of the empire is not well represented elsewhere in the volume.

Some of the most successful chapters are those that take a wide-ranging view of the available evidence in terms of type and/or region (Pearce, Martin-Kilcher, Struck, Esmonde Cleary, Quensel-von-Kalben). Others take a more polemical and challenging tone, suggesting new or different ways to both excavate and interpret data (e.g. Fitzpatrick, Tuffreau-Libre). Some provide careful and detailed accounts of excavations and finds, or statistically analyse material from a range of settings (e.g. Martin-Kilcher, Dexheimer, Murail, Schucany, Fasold, Quensel-von-Kalben, Meneghini and Santangeli Valenzani), while others provide more general, but still tantalizing, glimpses of evidence from a single site or region (Tranoy, Spanu, Riedel). But arguably the most striking contributions are those that provide very specific insights into the rites associated with death and burial, such as evidence for plant remains in cremations (Kreuz), the rituals associated with unmarried young women (Martin-Kilcher), and the use of glass and amulets to decorate early Christian graves (De Santis, Nuzzo).

Overall, this is a well-presented and well-organized volume, despite its inherent diversity. The editors have endeavoured to give the volume a structure, and even if this is not completely successful, the volume does succeed in capturing the essence of the original conference. The papers may be wide-ranging in terms of subject matter, approaches, and, at times, quality, but the volume provides many fascinating insights into the world of Roman burial which make it a useful tool to all interested in this area.

The Open University VALERIE HOPE

COSA

N. W. GOLDMAN (ed.): *New Light from Ancient Cosa* (Classical Mediterranean Studies in Honour of Cleo Rickman Fitch). Pp. xvi + 266, ills, pls. New York: Peter Lang, 2001. Cased, £38. ISBN: 0-8204-5141-X.

This volume began with a celebration of the achievement of Cleo Rickman Fitch, author with Norma Wynick Goldman of 'Cosa: The Lamps' (*MAAR* 39 [1994]), a colloquium shortly after the death of the dedicatee; it was then expanded into published form. The volume still displays its origin as a tribute to an important contributor to the Cosa project and clearly a much-loved colleague. There is a good

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