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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deal of biographical material, of most interest in preserving memories of earlier times at the American Academy and on site at Cosa, and some chapters of little academic value.

Nevertheless, there are other essays in the volume which merit attention. Cosa was founded as a Latin colony in 273 B.C. It has become central to debates about Republican Italy because of the extensive archaeological work which has revealed the layout of the town, and an extraordinary amount of information about the port and fishery complex. Survey of the *ager Cosanus* and the important villa at Settefinestre nearby has allowed us to see the town in its wider context, and to trace decline in the town, and then later in the countryside. It was also home to the Sestius family, who both played an important rôle in late Republican politics, and produced amphorae with the Sestius mark, found widely in the western Mediterranean and most particularly in important shipwreck contexts.

Appropriately, the volume begins with a discussion of the use of lamps in the complex chronology of Cosa. A. M. McCann revisits her account of the port and fishery sites, and adds the discovery of the late Roman shipwreck off the coast of northwestern Sicily, but there can be no integration of the two. By the late fourth century, as this ship sailed from Carthage, Cosa was effectively deserted, and it is in Africa that we find successful agricultural and economic activity. In the next chapter, E. L. Will uses the evidence of amphorae to define more closely the activities of the Sestii, which she sees beginning in the latter part of the third century B.C. She identifies the difficulty of Brown's hypothesized 'destruction' of Cosa in *c*. 70 B.C. by pointing out the continuation of amphora production into the 40s B.C. and beyond. We will learn more from E. Fentress's publication of the 1991–1997 excavations (*Cosa V*). The Sestii are also the focus of L. Richardson's more historical contribution. These three chapters are restatements of existing material, but interestingly fail to engage with the issues of the *ager Cosanus*, the relationship between the town and the growth of villa society, and the position of the Sestii within Roman political society.

V. J. Bruno's chapter on Cosa's relations with her neighbours has similar problems. B. has some useful microregional observations about navigation, which can be related to the contributions on ports by Purcell and Rickman in A. G. Zevi, A. Claridge (edd.), *'Roman Ostia' Revisited* (Rome, 1996). B. restates the argument over the relationship between the polygonal limestone walls at Cosa and Orbetello (both third century in this account), and has some thoughts on the relationship between the development of Cosa and the history of Etruscan wall-painting and architectural decoration, which are somewhat simplistic. The relationship between the Latin colony and its Etruscan neighbours remains difficult to assess. Specifically, whilst architectural decoration at Cosa seems to show affinities with Tarquinia, it is, as B. knows, worlds apart from the Telamon frieze with its overt savagery; and B. does not elucidate the meaning of the claims made in the François tomb about Etruscan contributions to Roman history in relation to the existence of a Latin colony in Vulcentane territory. Indeed, the problem of Roman colonization is glossed throughout; E. Bispham's account of Ostia in E. Herring, K. Lomas (edd.), *The Emergence of State Identities in Italy in the First Millennium BC* (London, 2000) suggests more sophisticated approaches to Cosa.

There are two artefactual chapters, one on a reconstructed lamp with a New Year's message (N. M. Goldman), and a fine and detailed study of a statue of Dionysus, which places it in a garden context and deepens our knowledge of the influence of Greek artistic models at Cosa (J. Collins-Clinton). Anyone interested in Roman building techniques will want to read E. K. Gazda's account of discussions of the use of hydraulic concrete from late antiquity to the current day; it is a mine of information,

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with a tremendous bibliography, and will be the starting point for future research. Most importantly, this chapter ends with a question mark over the standard dating of the main phase of Cosa's port and fishery development, suggesting it should be dated to after *c.*75 B.C., which would then impact upon the so-called destruction.

Other essays might not be expected in a volume on Cosa: a comparison of Hestia and Vesta (H. F. North); an Etruscan relief from Chiusi, in the American Academy collection, with banquet, funeral, and warrior-dance scene, a close match with another base in the DAI collection (L. Bonfante); an account of the Roman plaster in the American Academy collection (A. Laidlaw, with fine illustrations); and an account of the city planning of Alexandria (B. R. Brown). The volume is well produced, but inevitably suffers in comparison with E. Fentress (ed.), *Romanization and the City: Creation, Transformations, and Failures* (*JRA* Suppl. 38, Portsmouth, 2000), which not only reflects more deeply and sceptically on the roots of the modern picture of Cosa, but also contextualizes the artificiality of Cosa, and its economic success, within the wider Roman world.

University of St Andrews CHRISTOPHER SMITH

MEDICINE IN ROMAN AUSTRIA

R. BREITWIESER: *Medizin im römischen Österreich.* (Linzer archäologische Forschungen 26.) Pp. 177, 23 pls. Linz, 1998. Paper. ISBN: 3-85484-425-5.

The focus of B.'s monograph is 'Austria Romana', the territory corresponding to present-day Austria under Roman occupation (given the distribution of finds, practically exclusively the province of Noricum), but it also contains a brief overview of pre-Roman material. On the basis of palaeopathological material from sites in Austria, the average age, state of health, and mortality rates of the Bronze Age population and the Celts are discussed in some brief introductory chapters. In the Celtic period, it is in particular the presence of evidence for trepanation that is of interest, especially the only two skulls trepanned with the use of a drill to have been found in the Celtic world (Guntramsdorf and Katzelsdorf). For these, B. conjectures the possibility of 'technology transfer' connected with the Celtic invasion of Greece around 279 B.C. The find, near Munich, of a warrior's tomb containing surgical instruments may suggest that some Celtic doctors combined the two functions in the way of the doctors mentioned in the *Iliad*, but the absence of indigenous written sources makes it impossible to venture more than hypotheses.

The first, and longest, of the three central sections of the book deals with medical practice in Roman Austria: after brief outlines of the development of medicine in Rome and of medical services in the Roman army, the first topic to be discussed is that of military doctors in the area. The territory of what is now Austria was occupied under Tiberius and Drusus in 15 B.C., but trade connections between Rome and the kingdom of Noricum existed before that time, a particularly important article being *ferrum Noricum* (which Galen mentions as the best steel for scalpel blades). Apart from an inscription concerning a veterinary surgeon, only one piece of epigraphical evidence clearly relating to the army medical services has been found in Austria: the

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