

The epigraphical aspect of Pompeian studies is represented, in addition to two brief articles by Prof. Pio Ciprotti, only by our countrymen, Dr. Paavo Castrén and Dr. Heikki Solin. This is perhaps due more to the nature of the colloquy – it was primarily concerned with the results of excavations – than to any neglect of epigraphy. But it is equally true that Finnish classical scholarship has some special claims on Pompeian epigraphy. The dissertation of Prof. Veikko Väänänen on the *latin vulgaire* of Pompeian inscriptions, 1937, has become a classic in its field. Again, the study of graffiti, which form the majority of Pompeian inscriptions, has for many years been a speciality of the Finnish Institute in Rome. Paavo Castrén, "L'ordo di Pompei in una nuova luce", gives a summary of the main results of his dissertation, which has appeared in autumn 1975. His contention that the *ordo* of Pompeii underwent radical changes towards the end of the town's history, is worth special attention.

Solin discusses a group of inscriptions which belong together both in time and place, "Die Wandinschriften im sog. Haus des M.Fabius Rufus". (Incidentally, he doubts, on good grounds as it seems, whether the house really belonged to M.Fabius Rufus). This very learned study, conducted with true philological akribia, suggests some interesting conclusions. Thus the skill of writing and the knowledge of literature and science seem to have penetrated even the lower classes. This, together with the paper of Prof. Packer, may serve to modify, to some extent, the popular ideas of ancient class society.

Iiro Kajanto

Luigi Dodi: L'urbanistica romana in Britannia. Tamburini Editore, Milano 1974.
152 p., 107 ill. Lit. 5000.

Luigi Dodi, professor of urbanistics in Milano, has published several studies on city architecture in the Roman Empire. His latest work deals with the urbanistics of Roman Britain. The book is divided into four principal chapters in which the author discusses the history of Romans in Britain, fortresses, military camps, settlements, and the towns these gave rise to. The abundance of interesting material this book is based upon has of course been dealt with in many special studies also in England. Dodi's discussion of it is not particularly comprehensive. Only the most important facts about the location, history, form, and remains of each Roman settlement have been given, with numerous illustrations, but, especially as to the photos chosen, not all of them of the same high standard. The sources and literature used are listed at the beginning and there is a separate bibliography at the end of each chapter. However, no detailed references to the sources can be found. A glossary on personal and place names is included. Even if the book gives us only a summary discussion of the vast material, it succeeds in telling us the basic facts about the origins of urban settlements in England during the 400 years of the Roman Period.

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