

of Rome, is the result of the combined effects of many causes primary and derivative, some of the latter being traceable to origins entirely divorced from others. The conditions interacted and aggravated each other or themselves so as to accelerate the result. In this model, as the author points out, an "original cause", however minute it be, may have a great bearing on the ultimate effect if it has had enough time to "snowball" in interaction with the other primary and derivative causes. As the author's conception of the working of causes and effects is this, he does not strive for a genetic or historical exposition but has felt free, as he says, to use any material illustrative of Roman conditions, regardless of the century whence it came. — The two questions, "Why did the Roman Empire decline, disintegrate and vanish?" and "Why did it last so long?" are answered in thirteen essays, as the author calls them, covering as many aspects of Roman civilization. These aspects contain the "causes" most commonly propounded in the "monistic" theories. In two concluding chapters the questions, "Why did the Eastern half survive the Western?" and, "Why did ancient art, literature, science and philosophy decline?" are examined. — The author devotes the fullest presentation and the most pages to the economic policy and public finance in the Roman Empire. In the Introduction he expresses his fear that he has allowed his political philosophy to become too clear: this is true. The book is a vehement criticism of the "Romans" and their "government" conducted from the viewpoint of a believer in rationalism, utilitarianism and economic liberalism, in fact, it is an impressive list of violations against these ideals by the Romans and their government. — The author is well acquainted with the literature dealing with his topic. Ancient authors and legal texts are the main primary sources used. Accurate references to sources have been left out, intentionally, because of the purely interpretive nature of the book, as the author states.

Tapio Helen

Emilio Peruzzi: Origini di Roma. I. La famiglia, 1970, 167 p.; II. Le lettere, 1973, 211 p. Patròn Editore, Bologna. Lit. 20 000.

There is no preface in this strange work — by the way, no indexes, and no bibliography, either — so we do not know how many more parts can be expected and, above all, what the purpose of the work is. In modern research into Rome's oldest history, there is a trend which endeavours to show that much that is true can be discerned in the annalistic tradition of Rome's first centuries. One would not be surprised to read in a half-popular book: Livy and Dionysius of Halicarnassus are right! But firstly, Peruzzi's work is not half-popular, it is extremely serious and scientific; and secondly, it does not try to show that Livy is right, it shows what the oldest Roman society was like, because it assumes every word of Livy and Dionysius is true. In the first part, we can follow the birth of the Roman name system and the development of certain social institutions; in the second volume, we are initiated into the Greek origin of Roman writing, the state of Roman literature in the age of kings and the antiquity of certain political institutions.

The ancient authors mean everything to Peruzzi; he ignores what Livy himself says in his preface of the chances of obtaining trustworthy information about the oldest times. He ignores what modern archaeological research has to tell of old Rome; but – a typical feature of the work – just when you are least expecting it, he presents archaeological finesses to support his theories. He ignores the modern research of religion, mythology, social institutions; his world is – like that of the Roman annalists – completely Rome-centric. He ignores all critical research of the oldest Rome from Niebuhr to Gjerstad, he ignores the most important onomastic research, except in irrelevant questions, where you find him referring to a Rix. There is much in this work which is worthy of publication: it does not in all respects disagree with the critical research of our time; Peruzzi knows his literary sources well. But the whole makes you wonder: from what century does this work come?

Jorma Kaimio

Dinu Adamesteanu: La Basilicata antica. Storia e Monumenti. Di Mauro Editore, Cava dei Tirreni 1974. 241 p., 227 tav. Lit. 33.000.

I nuovi scavi archeologici della Basilicata vengono pubblicati ora, in veste addirittura lussuosa, a cura del Soprintendente alle antichità dell'area, prof. Dinu Adamesteanu. Nessuno meglio di lui poteva fare questo libro, anche per la sua lunga esperienza in qualità di direttore dell' Aereofototeca dello Stato, dipendente dal Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione e dal Ministero degli Interni. Queste due funzioni gli hanno permesso di essere il miglior interprete dei problemi archeologici della Basilicata. Si tratta di un libro di divulgazione scientifica che, in quanto tale, corrisponde perfettamente ai fini che si è proposto, anche se lo studio del materiale non è ancora completo. Quest'opera ha il pregio, piuttosto frequente nella pubblicistica italiana odierna, di unire il rigore scientifico al carattere divulgativo. Molto belle anche le fotografie, tra cui numerosissime e di particolare interesse quelle aeree, il cui uso in campo archeologico è ancora piuttosto raro, in quanto richiede una specifica preparazione interpretativa. Peccato soltanto che l'impaginazione presenti in qualche punto dei difetti.

È auspicabile che questa serie abbia una continuazione, avendo la scienza bisogno di opere di questo genere.

Paavo Castrén

Il territorio veronese in età romana, Convegno del 22–23–24 ottobre 1971. Atti. Accademia di Agricoltura, scienze e lettere di Verona, Verona 1973. 778 p., numerous illustrations and a general bibliography.

This volume is a collection of twenty-eight papers delivered mainly by Italian scholars at a colloquium on the region of Verona in Roman times. Most of the articles deal with the archaeological remains of the area, pottery, glass, coins, burial monuments, buildings and roads. The contribution of this book to the background history of the economic and material development of Verona and its en-