

This volume is one of those – still regrettably few – congress reports the publishing of which has certainly been justified. The theme of the congress was relatively limited and the scholars invited obviously had their heart in the matter. Thus the reader of this volume gets a good general view of the present stage of research in this particular field. It is surely not the fault of these scholars if the view is somewhat bleak. The extant sources are simply not only deficient but often contradictory as well. Indeed, nearly all of the participants seem to admit that their results are more or less hypothetical.

As the standard of all the contributions is high, perhaps it should be mentioned that besides the articles which fall under the common title there are also papers which deal with the *ius Italicum* and the privileges of the Roman soldiers in the provinces. The special problems of Asia, Africa, Bithynia, the Danube provinces, Gallia, Hispania, and Sicily have been discussed in separate articles. As the name of the volume implies most of the papers are exclusively concerned with the empire, but the Republican period in Gallia and in and around Carthago has also been commented on in a couple of articles.

One looks forward to more congress volumes of this type and scholarly quality – the many printing errors in multilingual publications are perhaps unavoidable – but preferably on more fruitful themes.

*Eeva Ruoff-Väänänen*

**Neue Forschungen in Pompeji und den anderen vom Vesuvausbruch 79 nChr. verschütteten Städten.** Herausgegeben von *Bernhard Andreae* und *Helmut Kyrieleis*. Verlag Aurel Bongers Recklinghausen 1975. 340 p., 270 ill., 1 map. DM 104.—.

This magnificent volume, financially supported by the Landesregierung of Nordrhein-Westfalen and by the Krupp corporation, contains papers read at the international colloquy on Pompeian studies held at the Villa Hügel, Essen, in 1973. Editors of classical publications, struggling with rising costs and diminishing funds, may envy Herren Andreae and Kyrieleis, who have been spared the usual painful obligations of cutting down articles and cutting out illustrations.

Photographs are indeed an integral part of the volume. The colour pictures of the recently excavated Villa Romana di Oplontis, Torre Annunziata, Nos. 2–36, are especially valuable.

The great majority of the contributions are dedicated to art history and to architecture. The paper of Prof. Alfonso de Franciscis, Naples, on the Villa di Oplontis referred to above, is naturally of special interest. A neglected but very interesting aspect has been taken up by Prof. James E. Packer, Illinois, "Middle and Lower Class Housing in Pompeii and Herculaneum". He comes to a conclusion that may be a surprise to many accustomed to the idea of sharp class divisions in ancient society, "Thus our brief survey of popular residences in both Pompeii and Herculaneum suggests that members of the lower classes of both towns lived in surprising comfort."

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.

*Kalevi Pöykkö*