

and (3) the theme chosen for the discourses. In the two first respects, the congress of Orvieto leaves very little to be desired. The discourses and the discussions clearly reflect the very rewarding phase Italic studies have now reached, including the rich new evidence yielded by modern excavations and epigraphic finds. Even if the congress was called national, not many prominent names in the field of Etruscology or Italic studies, from Italy or abroad, are missing from the list of participants. But in the third respect, one cannot feel completely satisfied after reading the report. If the congress can be said to have any common theme at all, it is one which has been selected in such general terms that almost anything could have been and indeed was included. The organizers' main aim was obviously to discuss the theme of the uniformity or incoherence of Etruscan culture, the different cultural tendencies inside Etruria and between Etruria and the rest of Italy, especially in archaic times, and this is most interesting and profitable. But what we read is mainly reports or analyses of new finds, appropriate to and illustrative of the theme, but in most cases far too fragmentary. The important methodological aspects shine only dimly through some of the comments made. The comments of Torelli on p. 133-134 were in this respect nearly as profitable as the rest of the book put together (with the exception of the important paper of Gentili and Mansuelli 'Urbanistica dell'Etruria interna'), but they did not give rise to any further discussion; some of Pallottino's comments also try to point the discussion in the direction of methodological questions, but with no greater success. Thus it seems as though the opportunity afforded by a gathering of the most prominent scholars has been wasted; what they discussed among themselves and have now reported to us all, can be read elsewhere in a short time and in more elaborate studies.

*Jorma Kaimio*

*Alberto Albertini: Brixiana. Note di storia ed epigrafia.* Ateneo di Brescia 1973. 126 p., 8 ill.

*Giovanni Coradazzi: La rete stradale romana fra Brescia, Bergamo e Milano.* Vecchie e nuove prospettive. Ateneo di Brescia 1974. 107 p., 12 ill.

Ecco due importanti volumi per la ricerca del patrimonio monumentale del Brescese. Forse non tutte le considerazioni teoretiche permangono valide ad una critica attenta, ma la trattazione dei documenti nuovi o meno nuovi getta nuova luce sulla storia della regione. Specialmente utile appare la rielaborazione di alcuni documenti epigrafici.

*Heikki Solin*

*Focke Tannen Hinrichs: Die Geschichte der gromatischen Institutionen.* Untersuchungen zu Landverteilung, Landvermessung, Bodenverwaltung und Bodenrecht im römischen Reich. Franz Steiner Verlag GmbH, Wiesbaden 1974. X, 252 p. with 5 reproductions of maps and 3 photographs. DM 60.-.

A glance at the table of contents shows that Dr. Hinrichs has attempted to tackle a great number of very fascinating problems here. After reading the book one wonders, however, why the author wanted to cram all of them into this one volume. We have been given a very general picture of a great diversity of subjects, which, though they can be grouped under the above title, have very little in common.

In fact a thorough discussion of the scannation and development of the centuriation, for example, would certainly have been sufficient to fill the whole book: here they are hastily dealt with in a couple of chapters. Why has the author ignored the archaeological evidence from Marzabotto, Spina, and Felsina, for example, which were laid out on a regular grid pattern in the 6th century B.C.? This is all the more surprising as he suggests highly hypothetical

dates for the scannation of Reate, Venafrum, Sutri, Nepete, and Falerii in the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C., though it can equally well have taken place at the time of the triumviral assignments in the last century B.C. or even later, (see the appropriate references in the *Lib. Col.*). The subject is, of course, notoriously difficult, but then it is just inviting trouble to argue anything on the basis of mere assumptions, especially as some firm dates are in fact available. The case of Felsina would have been particularly interesting, as it was the site of the Latin colony of Bononia, and the Villanovan habitation at the site already seems to have followed the north-south axial arrangement. Neither is there any discussion of the areas of Cividale del Friuli, Forlì, and Forlimpopoli with centuriations of different orientations.

Shortcomings in the other chapters might also warrant mention. It is, indeed, a great pity that Dr. Hinrichs did not devote more time to preparing his book. In addition to the kind of omissions referred to above, a number of factual mistakes also mars the work. It is, of course, a lapse to write 'nachchristlich' instead of 'vorchristlich', but it is worse to call Aufidena an ally, when it was a praefectura (p. 30), and it is a serious blunder to argue in opposition to Frontinus that the Etruscans did not practise centuriation, since Frontinus has never said they did (p. 224). He merely stated that Etruscans laid their towns out on a north-south pattern — which is another thing — and the truthfulness of this statement is admirably attested by the excavations of the Etruscan colonies. How the towns in Etruria proper were built will only be known after they have been excavated. The great number of printing errors also seems to indicate that the author was somewhat harassed when working on this book.

*Eeva Ruoff-Väänänen*

*H. Russell Robinson: The Armour of Imperial Rome.* Lionel Lewenthal Ltd, Arms and Armour Press, London 1975. 200 p., 521 plates, 204 figures. £ 11.95.

An expert on ancient arms and armour, H. Russell Robinson, has recently published the results of his studies of Imperial Roman armour in this comprehensive and richly illustrated work. As far as one can see, the writer has created reliable typologies of helmets used by Roman legionary and auxiliary troops and their body armour. Some of his own reconstructions in particular are impressive and undoubtedly of great value for any classical scholar.

One is perhaps less impressed by the quality of some of the illustrations, such as the sketches made by Mr Robinson himself of monuments which could just as easily have been photographed (figs. 1, 14-18, etc.). Moreover, the quality of some of the photographs themselves leaves a great deal to be desired (plates 44, 154, 345-348, 407-410). Furthermore, the grounds on which the writer has based some of his datings are rather obscure. (That the gladiators "adopted the laminated arm-guard probably by the second half of the first century AD" cannot possibly be inferred from any of the Pompeian graffiti!)

Many of the helmets carry inscriptions recording the names of their owners and the centuries — or even legions — to which they belonged. These inscriptions have been cited by the writer in some cases only, although I should have thought they could have some value in dating the helmets, for instance, or in identifying the ranks of their owners. Moreover, many of these inscriptions have been quoted inaccurately by the writer, who does not reveal any profound knowledge of Latin onomastics or, surprisingly, of the way Roman soldiers recorded their names and ranks. An instance can be seen in the helmet illustrated in pl. 81-83 which in my opinion belonged successively to two soldiers, L. Cornelius and C. Atius (?), serving under the same centurion, Catulus.