

l'editore non si sia interessato del frammento 16 dei Sasernae (Varro, rust. 1,2,27) che a parere di tanti studiosi è così problematico. Sotto il No 17 l'editore cita *multa item alia miracula apud Sasernas invenies* (ibid. 28). Ma si tratta di un "frammento"?

La parte più importante consiste nei frammenti di Magone di Cartagine, in tutto 66, tra cui tuttavia molti incerti.

Nella sua prefazione l'editore ammette di aver avuto delle difficoltà con la scelta del materiale (VIII-IX). Secondo me o si doveva tener conto di tutti i frammenti che si collegano all'agricoltura o ci si doveva limitare ai casi più sicuri. *Paavo Castrén*

*Res publica.* Texte zur Krise der frühromischen Tradition. Lateinisch/griechisch und deutsch. Ausgewählt, übersetzt und erläutert von *Rudolf Till*. Die Bibliothek der Alten Welt. Artemis Verlag, Zürich und München 1976. 396 p. Fr. 58.-.

If one happens to lose the dustcover of this book, where the contents are set out, the reader may be rather puzzled over the purpose of this collection, which is without any introductory comment and whose title can be understood in several ways. This work has collected fragments hitherto difficult of access and passages illustrating the cultural and political life in Rome especially in the second century B.C., for which time our direct historical sources are incomplete, and in which there occurred far-reaching influences on the development of Roman society.

Till has done excellent work in the selection, translation and commentary of the passages. One may be occasionally disappointed at first with the method of editing and with the commentary, but on a second reading, everything seems well deliberated and to the point. What is printed is clearly only the tip of the iceberg, of a vast and profound knowledge of literature, language and history. I would have preferred a few more inscriptions, perhaps also more Polybius, but I agree that the ease with which one can find a translated edition of Polybius is sufficient reason to omit many otherwise important passages. It would perhaps have been helpful if the commentary had given fuller references to other passages not included in the collection, but important for the questions raised.

My more serious criticism concerns the picture which the reader is given of second century Rome almost exclusively on the basis of literary, in other words idealizing, sources. Statesmen and generals, idealistically and authentically Roman, objects of the nostalgia in the following centuries, once again march by. But where is the economic revolution, where the social crisis, where the rise of imperialism, where the political controversies and murders. The cover promises: "Makabre Bilder vom Verfall römischer Lebensart beschliessen die Auswahl." I did not succeed in finding them.

*Jorma Kaimio*