

*James Bowen: A History of Western Education.* Volume I. The Ancient World: Orient and Mediterranean 2000 B.C. - A.D. 1054. University Paperbacks 552. Methuen & Co Ltd, London 1975. 395 p. £ 3.-.

This is the first part of a three-volume enterprise which is to cover the history of western education from the dawn of history down to the present age. The author is not a classical scholar. Nevertheless, he has made use of the original sources, usually in translations. The chief merit of the book is in its presentation of the general outline of the history of education in the Mediterranean. For people with little knowledge of Antiquity, it may render considerable service. A classical specialist, however, cannot fail to notice inaccuracies and even misrepresentations of evidence, for example p. 177 that the Romans considered Varro their greatest writer, p. 193 that a handbook was called *introductio* in Latin, p. 196 that a *libertinus* could attain senatorial rank (his source, Suet. Claud. 24 says *libertini filius*, which is a different thing). These and others of a similar nature are perhaps minor blemishes. More seriously, his discussion of the social prestige of teachers during the Empire is confused and confusing. I am not competent to judge his possible shortcomings in the chapters on oriental and Greek education. Moreover, the author often dwells on irrelevant issues, especially in the Christian section. Instead of a brief outline of the history of Christianity and of Christian thought, a more detailed analysis of the Christian attitude to schooling would have been welcome.

*Iiro Kajanto*

*Alan Cameron: Circus Factions.* Blues and Greens at Rome and Byzantium. Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press 1976. 364 p. £ 16.50.

Prof. Cameron's new book is a welcome contribution to our knowledge of the religious, social, military and ceremonial role played by the "circus factions" during the Late Roman and Byzantine Empires. We have indeed no reason to doubt his interpretations of the institutional terminology and the comprehensive primary material concerning the heyday of the factions he deals with. He is also quite convincing in correcting the traditional view that the changes which took place during the five first centuries of the Empire would have been a sign of growth of popular sovereignty.

One might perhaps have expected that the origin of the "factions" and their role during the Republic and Early Empire would have been treated in as great depth as the later stages. Unfortunately this is not the case. There is no complete list of early documents (quite a few new relevant inscriptions have been discovered lately, for example, the interesting one published in *Acta Inst. Rom. Finlandiae* VI (1973) No. 81). And perhaps on too many occasions the author has based his comments on secondary sources such as Balsdon's "Life and Leisure at Rome".

"The story of the circus factions is long and complex, from

Romulus to the Crusades", as the author remarks (p. 309). The period from Romulus to Cassiodorus still remains open to further investigation, hopefully to be conducted by Prof. Cameron himself.

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*Herbert A. Cahn: Kleine Schriften zur Münzkunde und Archäologie.*

Herausgegeben von *Hans Christoph Ackermann, Ernst Berger, Carmen Biucchi, Martha Rohde-Liegle*. Archäologischer Verlag, Basel, in Kommission bei Philipp von Zabern, Mainz 1975. 172 p. DM 58.-.

This handy volume, containing a number of reprinted studies and articles in various languages by Herbert Cahn (from the period 1929-1974), was published in honour of the author on his 60th birthday. Cahn belongs to the very limited group of highly educated traders in classical antiquities, mostly to be found in Swiss centers for monetary activities, where banking is combined with numismatics etc. These firms are well known from their printed catalogues, edited by serious experts on classical sculpture, "toreutike", bronzes, coins etc. Cahn is responsible for a number of such catalogues (of considerable value to students), which attest to the existence of important private collections of classical art objects, as well as for their circulation. - Trading in museal objects of this kind is practically unknown in Scandinavian countries.

Cahn is a well-known scholar, who has produced a large number of learned works, but with a penetrant for numismatics, in evidence in the selection of studies presented here, never deviating, however, from the established patterns of art history. The stamped figures on coins are never monetary symbols alone, but miniature works of art, reflecting the contemporary full-sized art of the epochs in question.

The author tackles the difficult question of Apollo's uncertain Eastern origin, and of the god's oldest manifestation, in a study on the lion as one of his earliest attributes. In the author's opinion the Anatolic sun-god, long before his transfer to Aegean Delos and to mountain-locked Delphi, and before the creation of his Greek name, was accompanied by lions. Evidence is provided by the often reproduced ivory sculpture of Ionian origin - excavated from the Holy Road in Delphi - and dating from the late 7th century, showing a man and a lion rampant. Cahn adds some bronze - *ex voto?* - lions of Phoenician origin (Tyros). Bow and arrows, respectively tripod and lyre, are all late attributes of the fully hellenized Phoebus Apollo.

An analysis of attic vase-painting is carried out in two short studies, one of them dedicated to the late Gisela Richter.

Of special interest are his comments on early Attic coinage where a series of archaic coins (owls) are presented in close relation to their respective parallels in contemporary sculpture and vase-painting. The pictures illustrating this instructive study are well chosen.

The author's aptitude in the tricky field of numismatics is demonstrated in a study on little known early Tarentine coinage