

topografici che possedeva il Tibiletti, e non meno l'acutezza con cui sono stati trattati. Dopo aver letto questi due volumi - che per altro non sono unici del genere per l'Italia settentrionale dell'età romana - mi sono chiesto, quando l'Italia meridionale romana avrà un suo Tibiletti e colloqui così attuali e ben organizzati.

*Heikki Solin*

*Stanley F. Bonner: Education in Ancient Rome.* From the elder Cato to the younger Pliny. Methuen & Co Ltd, London 1977. XII, 404 p. £ 5.90.

Increasing attention has been devoted of late to the part played by education in ancient society. H.I. Marrou's *Histoire de l'éducation dans l'antiquité*, first edition 1947 has remained the standard work, well documented and clear in outline. The very extent of the subject matter has, however, somewhat inhibited any detailed discussion of the various problems. Stanley Bonner, reader in Latin at the University of Liverpool, has, therefore, performed a fine service in publishing an up-to-date book on Roman education. In its 333 closely printed pages plus 70 pages of references, indices, etc., it discusses Roman education from the early Republic up to the time of Trajan. One of the most intriguing problems of Roman education, its decline and fall during the closing centuries of Antiquity, is thus omitted. However, by restricting his subject, the author has been able to analyze exhaustively all the aspects of Roman education from upbringing within the family to rhetorical schools.

Parts II and III, devoted to the physical conditions of teaching and to the didactic methods, are especially rewarding. One may note that Bonner has a more favourable idea of Roman education than Marrou had. Though education was largely a matter of private enterprise and the contribution of the state almost nil, though there was no proper training of schoolteachers and no proper school buildings, the masters still succeeded in giving their pupils a rather thorough training in grammatical analysis, in the interpretation of poetry, in composing speeches, etc. During the Empire, standards fell. Explaining the reasons for this, the author may have been a little too modern in ascribing it largely to the growing remissness of the parents. Here, as with regard to many other aspects of ancient life, we are sadly ill-informed of the real conditions among ordinary people. The writers of the age, especially those with a moralizing tendency, usually wrote about the upper crust of society.

The book is very well documented throughout, though some readers would, no doubt, prefer to have the notes below the text. A number of well-chosen original illustrations enhance the readability of the work.

*Iiro Kajanto*

*Sylvia Diebner: Aesernia - Venafrum.* Untersuchungen zu den römischen Steindenkmälern zweier Landstädte Mittelitaliens. Vol. 1 (text), II (plates). *Archaeologica* 8. Giorgio Bretschneider, Roma 1979, 303 p., 84 tables of photographs. Lit. 90.000.

The present work is the enlarged version of a doctoral disser-

tation presented in 1976-77 at Göttingen. Analyzing the extant stone monuments, sculpture, tombs, etc., Sylvia Diebner attempts to define the cultural and socio-economic conditions, and especially the acceptance of external artistic influences at two provincial towns in Samnium, Aesernia und Venafrum.

The author's iconographical descriptions of the monuments and the expertise she displays in discussing them from the point of view of art history are praiseworthy. The major part of her material, comprising 92 items from Aesernia and 85 from Venafrum, is as yet unpublished. The material includes a number of inscriptions. Their presentation is on the whole acceptable, although she is clearly not as well versed in epigraphy as she is in art history. Thus the use of triplicate square brackets to show fragments already restored in CIL is clumsy. In my opinion, it would have been better to use a different type of fount in these cases.

Some points of detail. Is. 30 (p. 146), note (5): the explanation of the inversion of the cognomen is not convincing, and the reference to a book of the present reviewer is misleading; Is. 42 (p. 155): in addition to the lack of the filiation, the Greek cognomen, too, suggests servile origin; Os. 43 (p. 156): the father's name certainly includes the filiation (or more correctly, the libertination); Is 57 (p. 170): considering the prevalence of literacy even among the lower orders, it is unlikely that a *scrinium*, cut in relief on the tombstone of a member of the municipal elite, can be interpreted as a boast that he could read and write; Vf. 48 (p. 256): the fact that sons and fathers bear different praenomina should have merited an onomastic comment.

In the introduction (pp. 21-97), the author draws conclusions from the material. She points out that Aesernia was culturally and socio-economically on a lower level than Venafrum, and succumbed earlier to the economic and other decay that followed the heyday of the early Empire.

This kind of study, which has lately become fashionable, is important as a corrective to the excessive concentration devoted to the capital of the Empire. In many ways, such studies contribute to a more modern idea of the social and cultural history of Italy during the Empire.

*Iiro Kajanto*

*Marie-Louise Vollenweider: Catalogue Raisonné des sceaux, cylindres, intailles et camées. Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève. Vol II. Les portraits, les masques de théâtre, les symboles politiques. Une contribution à l'histoire des civilisations hellénistique et romaine. Vol. I: Text (XXI, 563 S., 10 Abbildungen, 8 Farbtafeln), Vol. II: Tafeln (144). Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 1979. DM 395.-.*

Gemmenforschung und kein Ende. In der Flut neuer Gemmenforschung, zu der die Verfasserin manchen schönen Beitrag geliefert hat, zeichnet sich dieses Buch besonders aus, vor allem aus dem Grunde, dass hier die Gemmen in einen grösseren politischen und geistesgeschichtlichen Zusammenhang gesetzt und dadurch interpre-