

up-to-date description of Jewish history. But why is there no reference to the Diaspora, whose cultural and economic significance to Palestine is inestimable?

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*Roman Frontier Studies 1979*. Papers presented to the 12th International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies, edited by *W. S. Hanson* and *L. J. F. Kepple*. B. A. R. International Series 71, 1—3. Oxford 1980. 1111 p. £ 28.—.

1,900 years had passed from the time when the Romans embarked on the conquest of Britain north of the Tyne-Solway line to the 12th International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies which appropriately opened on the campus of the University of Stirling in September, 1979. About 80 papers were read, of which 77 were published last year in three substantial volumes comprising more than 1,100 pages in the B(ritish) A(rchaeological) R(eports) International Series (i—iii). BAR is a unique tool of research which merits serious attention among those interested in ancient history, archaeology, the history of art, classical philology and related subjects.

Archaeological (excavation) reports are notoriously laborious; consequently, even basic data are extremely slow in reaching the scholarly world. The Roman Frontier Studies 1979 illustrate the usefulness of these *limes* congresses in persuading responsible officials to account for the work of past years.

The congress section on Oriens and Africa (in Vol. iii, Nos. 56—67) and particularly the contributions dealing with the *limes Palaestinae* and the *limes Arabicus* is a case in point. For a century the intercontinental trade between the Mediterranean and Asia ('Rome beyond the Imperial Frontiers') has attracted attention. The Silk Route has been employed by way of a general explanation for political behaviour in the region between Iran and the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire regardless of the fact that positive evidence for the character and duration of commercial exchange on any one of the many branches of the network of caravan routes in the Middle East is entirely absent. If anything, Manfred Raschke's massive documentation in ANRW ('New Studies in Roman Commerce with the East' in Vol. II 9, pp. 605—1361) should teach us to be cautious. B. Isaac's ('Trade routes to Arabia and the Roman army', iii, pp. 889—902) assertion that, in the light of archaeological findings, the Petra-Gaza road went out of use after the establishment of the Arabian province is highly significant in this context. In other contributions the pattern and development of frontier defence is discussed; here the strategic thinking of the Romans, recently expertly analyzed by E. N. Luttwak (*The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*, Baltimore-London, 1976), is lucidly exposed.

Both the time and the location of the congress made Scotland one of the focal points of the proceedings. For this reason I would like to single out W. S. Hanson's highly rewarding summing up of our knowledge of 'The first Roman

occupation of Scotland' with a series of excellent maps, showing camp types, fort types and periodization of the Roman sites. Moreover, we are given textual criticism of Tacitus' *Agricola*, a new interpretation of the layers of burning, and, finally, a description of the evacuation of Scotland as "a hasty affair" against the background of Tacitus' conception of the conquered province as *statim omissa*.

The publication closes with contributions of a general kind such as 'The political significance of Augustus' military reforms' (Kurt A. Raaflaub, pp. 1005—1026), 'Urbanization and the north-west frontier of the Roman Empire' (W. Groenman—van Waateringe, pp. 1037—1044) to mention just two items.

As congresses tend to become ever larger, and more difficult to understand and follow, the importance of speedy publication of the reports is becoming increasingly important. BAR has set an example for others to follow.

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*The Seaborne Commerce of Ancient Rome: Studies in Archaeology and History.*

Edited by J. H. D'Arms and E. C. Kopff. *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*, vol. XXXVI. American Academy in Rome, 1980. 338 p., 52 plates. Lit. 42.000.

This collection is based upon a selection of papers read at an international symposium organized by J. H. D'Arms at the American Academy in Rome in 1978—1979. It is unfortunate that all the contributions offered at the symposium should not have been published. The editors preferred that the publication came out as soon as possible after the conference, even if this meant the omission of several important papers. The contents of the printed publication are as follows:

J. H. D'Arms, E. C. Kopff: Introduction; A. Carandini: Il vigneto e la villa del fondo di Settefinestre nel Cosano: un caso di produzione agricola per il mercato transmarino; A. Carandini: Roma imperialistica: un caso di sviluppo precapitalistico; L. Casson: The Role of the State in Rome's Grain Trade; F. Castagnoli: Installazioni portuali a Roma; A. M. Colini: Il porto fluviale del foro boario a Roma; L. Cracco Ruggini: Nuclei immigrati e forze indigene in tre grandi centri commerciali dell'impero; J. H. D'Arms: Republican Senators' Involvement in Commerce in the Late Republic: Some Ciceronian Evidence; E. Gabba: Riflessioni antiche e moderne sulle attività commerciali a Roma nei secoli II e I a.C.; P. A. Gianfrotta: *Ancore 'romane'*. Nuovi materiali per lo studio dei traffici marittimi; W. V. Harris: *Towards a Study of the Roman Slave Trade*; A. Hesnard: *Un dépôt augustéen d'amphores à La Longarina, Ostie*; G. W. Houston: *The Administration of Italian Seaports During the First Three Centuries of the Roman Empire*; D. Manacorda: *L'ager cosanus* tra tarda Repubblica e Impero: forme di produzione e assetto della proprietà; R. Meiggs: *Sea-borne Timber Supplies to Rome*; D. Musti: *Il commercio degli schiavi e del grano: il caso di Puteoli. Sui rapporti tra l'economia italiana della tarda repubblica e le economie ellenistiche*; R. E. A. Palmer: *Customs on Market Goods*