

*Rimini antica: Il lapidario romano.* A cura di *Angela Donati*. Musei guide 1. Comune di Rimini, Assessorato alla cultura, Musei della città. Rimini 1981. 200 p.

This is a presentation of the epigraphical material in the new *Lapidario* of Rimini. And the limitations of the book spring from this. It does not contain the whole body of inscriptional material from Rimini, but merely the stones put on view in the museum. Because the book is designed for the general visitor, the texts have been translated into Italian, and the most common terms explained, from *acroterio* to *vico*. There is no index and no concordance, though a considerable number of the inscriptions have been discovered since the completion of CIL XI.

Despite this, *Angela Donati*, *ordinaria* of epigraphy at the university of Bologna, can be given credit for a competent piece of work. The introductory chapter illustrates the history of Rimini in the light of epigraphy and traces the development of funeral stones. The illustration of the different types of tombs on p. 30 is excellent. The inscriptions, 68 in number, have been divided into chronological groups. Each stone is represented by a good quality photograph on the right-hand side, accompanied by transcription and commentary on the left. Unfortunately, the author uses only two types of sigla, () for abbreviations and [] for supplements. Consequently, there is some confusion in cases in which unclassical linguistic forms have been similarly transcribed, e.g. No. 65 *Nunnuric(a)* for *Nunnurice* on the stone, otherwise duly commented on by the author.

In her comments, preceded by a description of the physical appearance of the stone, the author pays great attention to dating, using palaeographical, linguistic, formulaic and historical criteria. In some cases, dating may of course be conjectural. Although intended for general consumption, the author's comments have interest for the specialist, also.

The book is a commendable attempt to make epigraphy accessible to the Latinless and 'unclassical' public.

*Iiro Kajanto*

*Friedrich Bodenstedt: Die Elektronmünzen von Phokaia und Mytilene.* Tübingen (Wasmuth) 1981, X, 390 p., 74 Pl., 2 maps.

In 1976 *Friedrich Bodenstedt* published his remarkable study 'Phokäisches Elektron-Geld von 600—326 v.Chr. Studien zur Bedeutung und zu den Wandlungen einer antiken Goldwährung' (cf. *Arctos* 13 [1979] 186), a pioneer presentation of the commercial realities and the market area of two enterprising trading centres joining hands in a monetary union, which seems to have lasted almost 200 years (521—326 B.C.). Now, five years later, we get a corpus of the electron coins, about

3 000 in all, of these two mint cities, supplemented by an impressive apparatus providing us with the means for a historical evaluation of the coin evidence.

In the previous book the endeavour systematically to establish the metallic composition of the coins proved highly rewarding for a general classification of the issues. This time the results are confirmed and elaborated through a comprehensive study of the specific gravity of the coins. The alloys appear to be the fundamental chronological criterion; alloy I 625/600—522 (Phokaia only), alloy II (521—478 B.C.) and III 477—326 B.C., the two latter periods comprising the duration of the monetary union.

The historical framework and the dates of the individual issues (123 at Phokaia and 105 at Mytilene) are analysed and presented with impressive thoroughness.

The identification of the individual engravers responsible for the creation of the coins is of considerable importance for a picture of the working of the monetary union. Twenty six masters are identified and characterized and approximately dated. From the point of view of the monetary union and the alternating issuing of coins, it is interesting to find the same hands creating coins at Phokaia as well as at Mytilene.

This is, then, an important book, a model in its methodological approach, in its presentation of the material and in its way of making highly specialized material available to the historian. The usefulness of the book is enhanced by ample statistical data, tables and indexes.

*Patrick Bruun*

*Antike Diplomatie.* Herausgegeben von *Eckart Olshausen* in Zusammenarbeit mit *Hildegard Biller*. Wege der Forschung, Bd. 462. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt 1979. VI, 451 S. DM 86.—.

Die Absicht der Editoren im vorliegenden Sammelband ist, eine Gesamtübersicht über die antike Diplomatie zu geben — oder besser, weil die Antike keine festen aussenpolitischen Organisationen kannte, über die Frage, wie die zwischenstaatlichen Beziehungen in der griechischen und römischen Mittelmeerwelt hergestellt und unterhalten worden waren. Als Forschungsbericht hat der Band die Aufgabe, angesichts der Unvollständigkeit des Bildes, das wir von der antiken Diplomatie haben, zu weiteren Forschungen auf diesem Gebiet anzuregen. Die Unvollständigkeit des Bildes führt der Band sehr gut vor Augen. Das Buch enthält 15 Beiträge, von denen nur 4 Originalbeiträge von 1977 sind. Die Beiträge stellen die verschiedenen Seiten der antiken Diplomatie zwar ungleichmässig dar, bieten aber ein gutes Bild von der Reichhaltigkeit des Themas. Der Band ist auch für den Sprachwissenschaftler lesenswert.

*Jaakko Frösén*