

*Trade and Famine in Classical Antiquity*. Edited by Peter Garnsey and C.R. Whittaker. Cambridge Philological Society, Supplementary Volume, no. 8. Cambridge 1983. 127 p. £ 30.00.

Famine in antiquity is largely uncharted territory. A basic question on which this volume tries to shed light is: how far did famine or food shortage generate trade? It contains a number of papers which were presented at the Ancient History section of the eighth International Economic History Congress, held in Budapest in 1982, and constitutes a sort of pendant to "Trade in the Ancient Economy" (1983), also partly co-edited by Garnsey and Whittaker. Needless to say, famines may easily give rise to the trade and transport of staples. But did staples travel in significant quantities and over long distances? J.-P. Morel's contribution (*Le céramique comme indice du commerce antique (réalités et interprétations)*) is concerned to undermine some common assumptions about long-distance trade in staples. Also Y. Garlan (*Le commerce des amphores grecs*) warns about methodological pitfalls open to those who tend to jump too quickly from amphora findings to trade-patterns. The remaining contributors are also equally divided between Greek and Roman history. M. Jameson and P. Garnsey deal with the famine in the Greek and the Roman world, the first providing a general study of famine centred on the Greek world, the second a case study of the institutional response to food shortage in the largest and best-known ancient city, Rome. Their general conclusion, that there is no or very little evidence of general shortages, may surprise and provoke the general reader. When Garnsey concludes that the supply of food to Rome was essentially just a logistical problem, he perhaps somehow diminishes the political importance of Rome's grain supply. The other contributions are also interesting. The most substantial paper of all, Keith Hopkins' 'Models, ships and staples', is a wide-ranging reassessment of categories of trade, relative transport costs, and the involvement of the wealthy in shipping during the Late Republic and Early Empire. On the whole, this volume is a very welcome and stimulating collection of papers on ancient trade, and offers the reader an opportunity to put into perspective the cautious criticism of Sir Moses Finley's fundamental works.

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*Giorgio Camassa: L'occhio e il metallo. Un mitologema greco a Roma?* Università 10. Il Melangolo, Genova 1983. 111p. Lit. 10.000.

Il presente libro cerca di rintracciare, nell'universo mitico greco-romano, il mitologema di una figura o collettività mitica che intrattiene una relazione privilegiata col mondo dei metalli e del fuoco, è caratterizzata da forza e astuzia, e, al contempo, presenta una particolare conformazione degli occhi a manifestazione delle proprie capacità divinatorie (la monoftalmia, la trioftalmia o la cecità che, come anomalia visiva, non rappresenterebbe che una variante nel paradigma). Tali figure sarebbero almeno i Ciclopi, i Calcedonii, la semimitica gente di Calcedone (e, insieme ad essi, il famoso *mantis* greco Calcante), Ceculo, il fondatore di Preneste, Caco, l'antagonista di Eracle al Foro Boario, e Coclite,