

*Ricerche a Pompei. L'insula 5 della Regio VI dalle origini al 79 d.C.* I: campagne di scavo 1976–1979, a cura di Maria Bonghi Jovino. II: tavole. Bibliotheca archaeologica 5. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1984. 424 p. & 184 tav. Lit. 600.000.

Documentation and research on Pompeii has in recent years increased, and brought to light delightful and welcome results; the other side of the coin is, however, the fact that this activity grows from the consciousness of what we are losing. The gradual destruction of Pompeii, not least by "tourist erosion", every day gives the sense that these are the last days of Pompeii. These deplorable circumstances increase the value of such work as the photographic documentation of the paintings and pavements *in situ* in the years 1977–1980 realized by the Istituto centrale per il catalogo e la documentazione (ICCD). The photographs were unfortunately not taken in colour, and the pictures so far printed have been in black and white. Although this is a shortcoming, on the other hand, it increases the importance of the "Häuser in Pompeji" campaign, on which the first volume has already appeared (V.M. Strocka, *Casa del Principe di Napoli VI* 15, 7–8, 1984).

The other area of increasing activity in the research on Pompeii, the excavations taking place under the AD 79 earth level, do not have the same atmosphere of emergency. The excavations have, however, been keenly anticipated for the fact that, apart from sporadic attempts which have not matched the methods of modern stratigraphy, some excavations of A. Maiuri and the work of H. Eschebach's group in the Casa di Ganimede (RM 89 [1982]) have remained the only ones to provide archaeological evidence on pre-Roman Pompeii and the origins of the city. This problem is not without wider interest as it concerns the question of Etruscan influence and the extent of this influence, on which many divergent opinions have been presented. The aim of the excavations by the group of archaeologists led by M. Bonghi Jovino has been to provide the missing archaeological evidence. The present volume is not the final report, but presents the results of excavations which were carried out in Insula 5 of Regio VI during the years 1976–1979.

The choice of this particular site seemed most fruitful in view of the aim to clarify with relatively limited excavations the problems connected with the urban development of Pompeii in Hellenistic times (especially in the II c. BC), and in particular the problem of the presence of Etruscans in the archaic period in Pompeii. This solution as well as other choices concerning the excavations and their publishing which are briefly presented in the "Premessa" (p. 21–25) seem justified.

The introduction is followed by a survey of the excavation history of the insula (p. 27–36) after which the present excavations (p. 37–68) and the material recovered (p. 69–356) are dealt with. Ceramics, of course, dominate the material found. The conscious tendency to adhere to existing typologies, avoiding the creation of new types, is a positive feature. Only the "ceramica grezza e depurata", so far unsystematized, has been classified completely *ex-novo*. Of other material the wood remains prove to be of particular interest. The scarcity of bones is somewhat strange, however. Comparisons to the animal remains excavated from the Casa di Ganimede, a treatment which remains the only other equally systematic study in this field (in Pompeii), would have been interesting. Another

deplorable feature of the relatively limited excavations is the small number of coins found.

In general, the material is treated diligently. My only objection concerns the reconstruction proposal of a *pinax* (Pl. 168,2; 172,2) which is said to represent two pecking birds (p. 320). The bird to the left cannot have had such an unnaturally long body as represented in the drawing (Pl. 168,2). The three fragments showing parts of a bird cannot all belong to the bird to the left as represented in the photograph (Pl. 172,2), and the fragment showing the tail is at any rate in the wrong position. The fragments are, in fact, from three different birds. If they were all in the same *pinax*, it was probably broader than as it is represented now, or one of them – probably the one showing the back – comes from another similar *pinax* (a pendant perhaps). Otherwise the treatment of the fragments of wall paintings is reliable, though the use of the above-mentioned catalogue of the ICCD might have helped to find a greater number of more precise parallels.

The "Osservazioni conclusive" are divided to "I dati di scavo relativi al periodo arcaico e sub arcaico" (p. 359–371) and "I dati di scavo relativi al periodo ellenistico" (p. 373–385). In the first part the problem of the presence of the Etruscans is presented in the framework of previous studies (dealt with on p. 359–360). The stratigraphic unit from the end of the VII c. BC to the last quarter of the VI c. BC attests the presence of Etruscans and the fact that urbanization begins with them. Interesting is the observation on the wood remains showing the presence of a beech-wood in the archaic period within the city. The much discussed Etruscan column is suggested to be *in situ* and dated between the third quarter of the VI c. BC and about the middle of the V c. BC. Of particular interest is the view of its votive character. As to the Hellenistic time, it seems that the insula is not systematically occupied before the end of the III c. BC. The remains allow three habitation units to be distinguished.

As an excavation report the book is very legible, to which its exceptionally well executed printing further contributes. The indexes are useful and the illustration (part II) is abundant and of good quality. This is true for both drawings and photographs of which those in colour are especially welcome. It is indeed about time we had colour photos as well as good and pleasant-looking printing in scientific literature as well.

All in all the work shows that valuable information can be gained with less extensive and less expensive excavations.

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*Ursula Höckmann: Die Bronzen aus dem Fürstengrab von Castel San Mariano bei Perugia. Staatliche Antikensammlungen München, Katalog der Bronzen, Bd. 1. Verlag C.H. Beck, München 1982. XIV, 203 S. 70 Taf. 3 Beilagen DM 268.-.*

Dieses Buch bildet den ersten Band des Katalogs der Bronzen der Staatlichen Antikensammlungen in München. Die hier vorgelegte Sammlung umfasst mehrere bekannte antike Kunstwerke wie die Fragmente der Verkleidung des berühmten etruskischen Sitzwa-