

data, in itself very lucid, is made very approachable by the help of indexes to sources, of proper names and of subjects.

*Maarit Kaimio*

*The Imperialism of Mid-Republican Rome.* Edited by William V. Harris. The proceedings of a conference held at the American Academy in Rome, November 5-6, 1982. Papers and Monographs of the American Academy in Rome XXIX. Rome 1984. 194 p. USD 16.50.

This volume includes the proceedings of a colloquium held in Rome in 1982 and contains the papers by the six principal contributors with various comments by other attendants. The book opens with a paper by Harris: 'Current Directions in the Study of Roman Imperialism' which is in effect a reply to reviewers of his book, 'War and Imperialism in Republican Rome'. Next Musti discusses economic and political aspects in Polybius, mostly on the basis of his views already discussed in his 'Polibio e l'imperialismo romano'. Then Gruen who – as we know also from his 'The Hellenistic World' – returns to the old view that Roman policy in the middle Republic was not aggressively imperialistic and that in the war declarations Rome would have given more emphasis on economic than on political and military viewpoints. Gruen is one of the few exponents of this view today (cf. Gabba's discussion, e.g.). After Gruen comes Harris again, who in 'The Italians and the Empire' argues against Momigliano, who had suggested that Polybius underestimated Rome's relationship to her Italian allies. Gabba speaks of the mass of Roman plebs as enthusiastic supporters of expansionist politics in the middle Republic, and Linderski gives acute observations on the ideological contents of the views of Roman imperialism taken by Mommsen, Holleaux, T. Frank, De Sanctis and Fraccaro. In the last paper Clemente discusses the relationship between economy and politics from the viewpoint of the senatorial aristocracy.

*Heikki Solin*

*J.F. Gardner: Women in Roman Law and Society.* Croom Helm, London - Sydney 1986. 281 p. GBP 9.95 (paperback ed. 1987).

This is a satisfying and useful book on a theme that certainly needed treatment on this scale, and, since the price (of the paperback edition, at least) seems quite reasonable, it should prove to be quite a success. There is perhaps more *law* than *society*, but since there seems to be more to be found in the

existing literature on the social aspects of women's life than on the legal aspects (quite a lot of studies on ancient women are now listed by J. Képartová in LF 111 [1988] 35-8), I think the author was right in concentrating on the former.

Books on Roman law were and often are "written by and for lawyers", as the author rightly says (p. 2), which sometimes means that they are not really useful for the normal classical scholar. Here, on the other hand, we have a clear and readable exposition of all the legal niceties by a scholar who not only knows them but also recognizes that law stems from, and has some effect on, social reality. It is quite apparent that any classical scholar not deeply versed in legal studies, and not only those with interests in the historical position of women, will learn a lot from this book.

Most of the things said in this book are not, of course, strictly speaking new; it is rather the point of view that is new. But this does not mean that this book is only a compilation of Roman legal writing referring to women, with some additional material taken from other ancient writers, inscriptions and papyri; whenever she notes a problem the author does not refrain from a new discussion (see, e.g., p. 170ff. on the *lex Voconia*).

The book concentrates on the period 200 B.C. - A.D. 300. The exposition is not diachronical, but different subjects (*tutela*, marriage, inheritance, slavery etc.) are treated separately. There is one small weakness in the book: though the author insists on not writing for lawyers only (and succeeds in this), the subjects that are dealt with are mainly the same subjects that bothered the ancient lawyers. Accordingly, a lot is said on money and property, though dowries, inheritance etc. probably did not mean very much to the lower classes (this was pointed out by D. Cherry, CR 37 [1987] 264), while some interesting themes are treated only in passing or not at all. Take, for example, adoptions by women (e.g. Suet. Galba 4,1 *adoptatusque* (Galba) *a noverca sua Livia*). The author notes a similar case on p. 180, but does not take it any further. Nevertheless, the "testamentary adoptions" by women seem to have played a definite role in Roman society since the late Republic.

In a book like this there are inevitably some minor blemishes, but let me merely point out that far too much is made on p. 249f. of the inscription from Casinum AE 1975, 197, which is said to show that a "women's cooperative" (consisting of four freedwomen) operated a brothel for the visitors to a sanctuary of Venus (though it should be noted that the author follows here the quite fantastic and unacceptable article on this inscription by R. Schilling reported in AE 1980, 216). Finally, the index is somewhat disappointing, since there is no index locorum.

*Olli Salomies*