

*Sestinum. Comunità antiche dell'Appennino tra Etruria e Adriatico.* Atti del Convegno tenuto a Sestino (Arezzo) settembre 1983. Collana Volusenus. Testi e studi promossi dalla Biblioteca comunale di Sestino 2. Bruno Ghigi Editore, Rimini 1989. 272 p. ITL 45.000.

I testi di questo volume sono raggruppati sotto tre rubriche diverse. La prima parte è dedicata a Sestinum vero e proprio. Dopo una presentazione topografica (M. Luni) segue una presentazione del materiale archeologico: ceramica e laterizi (E. Catani e W. Monacchi), la terra sigillata (R. Mencarelli), i vetri (F.P. Maglie, con bellissime fotografie a colori. La tipografia del libro è generalmente di qualità altissima), le monete (G. Gori), la statuaria (M. Michelucci), e infine il contributo più lungo dove S. Stucchi tratta del monumento funerario ad edicola circolare di Sestino, databile all'età proto-augustea, con differenze nei particolari rispetto all'analisi di M. Verzar in *MEFRA* 76 (1974).

La parte seconda contiene studi di carattere più generale, ma sempre su Sestino: A. Donati tratta la produzione epigrafica, F. Cenerini scrive sulle famiglie notabili, e F. Galli presenta alcune novità epigrafiche. L'importante contributo di M. Corbier parte dalla nota iscrizione CIL XI 6016 = D 5758 menzionante tre fratelli Voluseni i quali *aquam adducendam ex d. d. c(uraverunt)*. A questo punto, bisogna rammaricarsi che i testi del convegno vengano pubblicati con un certo ritardo. Come l'autrice stessa precisa in un addendum, questo articolo, ma in una versione ampliata, è già stato pubblicato in *REL* 62 (1984) 236-74 sotto il titolo 'De Volsinii a Sestinum: cura aquae et évergétisme municipal de l'eau en Italie'.

Nella parte finale vari studiosi trattano di 'Culture antiche dell'Appennino', tra questi J. Šašel su 'La montagna romana: problemi e metodi della ricerca'. Gli altri contributi, spesso anche loro di interesse generale, sono di L. Bacchielli, C. Letta, V. Neri, A. Sabattini, G. Susini e L. Tondo.

*Christer Bruun*

*Paula J. Turner: Roman Coins from India.* Royal Numismatic Society, Special Publication No. 22. Institute of Archaeology, Occasional Publication No. 12, London 1989. VIII, 152 p.

The story of Roman coins from India is an old and important one. The first attested find (Nellore, South India) was made as early as 1786 and reported soon after in Calcutta in the pages of *Asiatic Researches* (2 [1790] 331f.). The total number of finds traced by Turner is no less than 75, and many further must have gone unreported. Classic studies in the field include Elliot's report of the Vellular hoard (1844), *Madras Museum Catalogues* (Bidie 1874, Thurston 1888, rev. 1894), and the pioneering study of Sewell

in JRAS (1904) 591-637. Sewell was already reconstructing the history of Indo-Roman trade according to coin finds, and later, in 1928, Warmington made an attempt to include the evidence from coins in his classic study (*The Commerce between the Roman Empire and India*). Among more recent contributions, we can note the numerous articles by P.L. Gupta and the long study on Indo-Roman commerce by M. Raschke (ANRW 1978). Now, Dr. Turner has given us a new critical and systematic account of the field (with a full catalogue of finds from India and Pakistan).

As a general remark it must be emphasized that in many respects the author has subjected her material to a more thorough analysis than her predecessors and consequently has arrived at many interesting conclusions. Firstly, it is always important to take into account major geographical and chronological differences. It is natural that there should be a great difference between southern and northern finds, but it is somewhat surprising to note that the meagre northern finds fail completely to bear out the existence of trade between the Roman and the Kushan Empire. It is possible that the coins which may have arrived in the north were melted down and used in local issues. In the south, there are two concentrations of finds, one in the Coimbatore district, other on the Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. The finds are mostly hoards, very few coins come from archaeological sites. Coimbatore hoards come from the neighbourhood of ancient beryl mines and also of the Palghat gap, the major trade route between Tamil Nadu and the western ports of Kerala. Most of the coins are from the first century. No similar hoards are reported on the eastern coast (the famous Arretine ware was not accompanied by coins). This points to the conclusion that during this period Cape Comorin was still not (or only rarely) circumnavigated by western ships. This is further supported by the fact that there are virtually no finds of Julio-Claudian coins in Sri Lanka. In Kerala, there should be similar hoards from the west coast, but their rareness may be explained by the fact that the coast with its important ancient ports is archaeologically very poorly known. On the other hand, the Andhra hoards, although smaller in their number of coins, also include later issues.

As to the beginning of the trade, we learn that Republican issues are rare and always found in connection with Imperial issues. A further important feature in the first century hoards is that they split up into two clearly separated groups consisting either of silver or of gold. The *denarii*, which are much more numerous than the *aurei*, are mostly issued by Augustus or Tiberius, and there is not a single silver issue attested in India from the period after the Neronian reform. The *aurei* hoards are slightly later, consisting mostly of the issues of Tiberius and Claudius. The examination of the wear condition of the coins showed that the *aurei* are mostly worn, while the *denarii* were generally buried in unworn condition. It seems that the gold coins were circulating in India and buried only occasionally. A large number of coins were probably melted down and used for jewellery.

One chapter deals with slashed coins and imitations. We learn that slashing was much less common than is often supposed. Slashed silver has been found in only two hoards, both situated in Andhra Pradesh, far from the concentrated finds of the Julio-Claudian

hoards. Turner's attempt to explain it by reference to the proximity of famous Buddhist sites with more or less aniconic art is perhaps far-fetched, as there were no real iconoclastic tendencies in early Buddhism, and even the tendency to represent the Buddha by means of symbols rather than in his own form was already becoming antiquated. On the other hand, it is important to know that the slashing of silver is both geographically and technically a wholly different feature from the slashing of gold.

Generally, the South India hoards fall into three groups: early silver, early gold and second century gold. Finds of early metal base issues are not attested, and even later copper coins are rare. As in indigenous coinage copper was commonly used, and issues in gold or silver were rare, Roman *aes* was probably not needed. Turner concludes that only a few, well-known types of Roman coinage were accepted and hoarded as bullion. In the first period of trade, which began or at least made considerable progress in the latter part of Augustus' rule, *denarii* were used. Their silver was much better than that used in local issues, and it is easy to understand why post-reform debased silver was no longer acceptable. But even before Nero's reform, c. A.D. 54/55, *aurei* were introduced into India and displaced silver. The reform affected less the gold as it was in any case accepted for its weight as bullion, although lighter coins made Indian commodities more expensive to traders, and this might have reduced the amount of trade. After Nero and until Trajan there is a gap, which seems to indicate a lessening of trade, but in the second century it was again conducted by *aurei*, and the geographical scope of the direct trade seems to have widened.

The hoards are very complex, and there are several exceptions to the main pattern. In addition to the Andhra silver hoards, there is the amazing Kottayam hoard on the west coast, found c. 1847 and never fully reported. It seems to have contained thousands of *aurei*, and Turner suggests the possibility that it was not a local trader's collection but a deposit by a western trader. Another mysterious hoard was apparently found recently in the Lakshadweep Islands off the coast. It seems to have contained a large number of Republican coins, and might be the first "shipwreck hoard" found in India.

The Catalogue gives every single find of Roman coins in India (and Pakistan) traced by the author. Types of coins found are listed and accompanied by the number of coins and their weights. If possible, a reference to standard works on Roman coinage is given for each coin. Details of finding are told and bibliographical references given. A second Appendix deals with "the present location of Roman coins found in India" as far as they are in Indian or British museums, and a third is dedicated to the rich collection of the Madras Museum. Eight plates serve as illustration. Most are taken from the Madras Museum collection and are arranged according to hoards. Each plate contains 17-40 coins, but in the text a reference is given only to a particular plate. For a layman, it is very difficult to find out, for instance, which of the coins in pl. VIII is the counterfeit *denarius* referred to in p. 38.

The bibliography seems to be rather full. But for Sri Lanka, in addition to earlier sources used (Codrington's *Ceylon Coins and Currency*, Memoirs of the Colombo Museum 1924), R. Walburg's dissertation (*Antike Münzen aus Ceylon*, Münster 1980) should have been noted. Fortunately for the author, Walburg's thorough analysis confirms Turner's conclusions as most of the coins there are late (4th and 5th century) coppers. Other omissions are S.E. Sidebotham's recent study (*Roman Economic Policy in the Erythra Thalassa*, Leiden 1986, cf. *Arctos* 1988, 237f.) and P.L. Gupta's stimulating article in *S. Mookerji Vol.* (*Chowkhamba Sanskrit Studies* 69, Varanasi 1969, 169-180). Also missing is the curious imitation of a Ptolemaic coin included in the Karivalamvandanallur find of *aurei*, briefly discussed in R. Nagaswamy (ed.), *South Indian Studies I*, Madras 1978, 105-108. The bibliography contains rather a large number of misprints, but fortunately there are few in the actual text itself. At the very beginning the date of the earliest attested find (Nellore 1786) is erroneously given as 1796. But these are minor defects. Dr. Turner has produced a very interesting monograph which must be taken into account in any future study of the eastern trade of the Graeco-Roman West.

*Klaus Karttunen*

*Serta Historica Antiqua II*. Pubblicazioni dell'Istituto di Storia Antica e Scienze Ausiliarie dell'Università degli Studi di Genova XVI. Giorgio Bretschneider, Roma 1989. VI, 305 p. ITL 350.000.

Ecco il secondo volume della nuova serie di *Serta Historica* dell'attivo Istituto di Storia antica dell'Università genovese. Contiene interessanti contributi riguardanti il campo più prettamente storico, ma abbondano anche articoli papirologici e soprattutto epigrafici, rappresentando l'epigrafia uno dei maggiori punti d'interesse di questo Istituto.

Non essendo possibile analizzare in modo più approfondito tutti i contributi, mi limiterò a scorrere sommariamente alcuni che mi sembrano particolarmente interessanti e di cui posso permettermi un giudizio più approfondito. Mennella e Desderi pubblicano, corredandole con fotografie, iscrizioni urbane che si trovano in raccolte liguri, e più precisamente ad Albenga, Finale Ligure, Genova e Gorreto. Questa pubblicazione è un'eloquente testimonianza della ricca presenza di epigrafi urbane in Liguria, e non sono le uniche (va detto per inciso che il Mennella ha testé pubblicato altre iscrizioni di provenienza urbana esistenti a Genova: *Epigraphica* 51 [1989] 230 sgg.). Tra i testi qui pubblicati si trovano anche alcuni inediti, ad es. un'interessante epigrafe paleocristiana di un *Caristio* (n. 10), il cui nome non ricorre con frequenza. – Nell'articolo della Angeli Bertinelli troviamo uno sguardo d'insieme su personaggi femminili in iscrizioni lunensi, per lo più inedite (nell'iscrizione che comincia *d.m. Syceni Erennie*, non si tratta di un'anticipazione del cognome come prenome, bensì di un'inversione del gentilizio e