

*Guglielmo Gatti: Topografia ed edilizia di Roma antica* (ristampa anastatica di tutti gli articoli pubblicati dal 1934-1979). Studi e materiali del Museo della Civiltà Romana 13. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1989. XII+406 p., ITL 400. 000.

For students of Roman topography and history it is a real pleasure to encounter the papers of Guglielmo Gatti (1905-1981) collected in one volume. Descending from a family of great names in the study of ancient Rome (his father was Edoardo Gatti, his grandfather Giuseppe Gatti, names that meet the eye repeatedly in the *Bullettino Comunale* and in other journals from the 1880s up to the 1920s), his own merits were not lesser. How many topographers, past or present, can show accomplishments comparable to those of Guglielmo Gatti: the removal of the *Forma Urbis* fragment purportedly showing the *Saepta Iulia* and the *Cohors I vigilum* from along Via del Corso and its correct location as part of the *Horrea Aemilia* in the Testaccio area (1934); the identification of the actual *Saepta Iulia* on fragments of the *Forma Urbis*, and subsequently the topographical location of the building (1937), and the location of the Crypta and *Theatrum Balbi* (1960; he dedicated several papers to this topic)?

As can be gathered from these mentions, the Severan Marble Plan of Rome was a longstanding interest of Gatti. In 1960 the fruit of many years' work appeared, when he with Caretoni, Colini and Cozza published the standard edition of the ancient *Forma Urbis Romae*. His contribution in that volume is not reprinted among the 23 different papers here included.

Among other questions to which Gatti devoted his energy is the Mausoleum of Augustus, of which he presented a reconstruction that still merits serious consideration. In the study of ancient monuments, Gatti rightly appreciated the importance of brick-stamps, which is shown by some papers. For instance, Gatti's study of the bricks found on the famous ships of Lake Nemi made possible their dating to the reign of Gaius. His contribution in Uccello's *Le navi di Nemi* (1940) is included here, containing also a presentation of the lead pipe stamps from the ships.

There can be no doubt that Gatti was an important scholar in his time and that he deserved to have his papers published, albeit posthumously. The question is of course, whether the papers have value besides their contribution to the history of Roman topography? The answer is a plain affirmative. Admittedly the imminent issue of the new and much enlarged "Topographical Dictionary of Ancient Rome" will provide scholars with easy access to much of the scattered discoveries of this century. Still, encyclopaedical entries can never cover all the aspects of a subject, and there will always be a need for returning to the sources. This is so not least in the field of Roman topography. The great upsurge of studies in the recent decades has created such an overgrowth of hypothesis and theories, that there is a risk of losing sight of the basic facts.

It is therefore most welcome to have the possibility of returning to Gatti's meticulous studies. They might well contribute to the debunking of current orthodoxies in the way Gatti himself did it. The correct identification of the *Horrea Aemiliana* in the fragments of the Marble Plan seemed so obvious that he could not believe nobody had spotted it before: "Se un Maestro di topografia romana quale fu Rodolfo Lanciani si era

accorto che le due planimetrie erano "simili" ma non aveva detto che erano la stessa cosa, evidentemente doveva esserci un valido motivo; e invece ... non c'era!" ("Io e la Forma Urbis. Confidenze autobiografiche" on p. 5).

The writings of Gatti contain more interesting observations and results than can possibly be mentioned here; the present writer found much of which he had so far been unaware. To mention just one case of general interest: Reference is often made to the *insula*-blocks discovered along Via del Corso (below present-day Galleria Colonna) - a rather unique feature in Roman archaeology and topography - but rarely does one come across anybody who can provide some real information on the subject. In fact it all goes back to Gatti's "Caratteristiche edilizie di un quartiere di Roma del II secolo d. Cr.", published in the not so accessible Quaderni dell'Ist. di Storia dell'Architettura of 1961, here on p. 283-300. The X Ripartizione del Comune di Roma has done Roman topography a real service by publishing this book (with forewords by Lucos Cozza and Gianlorenzo Gatti).

*Christer Bruun*

*Kjeld De Fine Licht (mit Beiträgen von John Lund und Jørgen Hansen): Untersuchungen zu den Trajansthermen zu Rom 2. Analecta Romana Instituti Danici, Suppl. 19. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1990. 125 p. ITL 75. 000.*

Some 15 years after De Fine Licht's first work on the Baths of Trajan the sequel now follows. Excavations carried out in 1981-83 on and near the great cistern, commonly called Sette Sale, are the main reason for its publication. Some excavation results, which are not repeated here but are occasionally referred to, were published in *AnalDan Suppl. 10* (1983) 186-202.

The first part of the book is concerned with previous studies, and also reviews the information contained in old drawings, paintings or photographs of the ruins. Almost thirty pictures, sometimes in colour, of ancient works of art enliven the discussion. They sometimes reproduce parts of the structures that have since perished (23).

The two main chapters are devoted to a description of the Sette Sale complex and to a presentation of the 1981-83 excavation results. A following briefer section is concerned with the dating of the complex. Brick-stamps indicate a Trajanic date. The author convincingly refutes (103 n. 44) the suggestion by J.C. Anderson, *AJA* 89 (1985) 409-509 that the construction begun under Domitian. The proof that the cistern is Trajanic, and that it was indeed part of the Imperial Baths, is however provided by a lead pipe stamp: THER[-] TRAIAN. The lead pipe itself has long since disappeared, but an impression of the stamp is preserved in the mortar of a wall (94f.).

This work is generally of a high standard. The description of the cistern is detailed and illustrated with several drawings. The author touches upon many questions of more general interest, such as the existence of constructions on top of the cistern (p. 45; for storage or administrative purposes, or staff housing?), and the water supply of the cistern, which had a capacity of 7,000 cubic m (45ff.). So far, chemical investigations of the