

C. Vibius Herostratus (un nuovo nome per l'onomastica romana) e Vibia C. l. HARRESIS (tramandato così, starà per *Haeresis*).

*Heikki Solin*

*The Birth of Europe. Archaeology and Social Development in the First Millennium A.D.* Edited by Klavs Randsborg. *Analecta Romana Instituti Danici. Supplementum XVI.* "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1989. 191 p. ITL 95.000.

This volume contains the papers read at an international archaeological symposium on the development of Western Europe during the first millennium organised by the Danish Academy, the British School and the Swedish Institute in Rome (January 1987). The approach combines material evidence, written sources and social anthropology in order to gain new insights on problems of the development of early Europe: (1) the relations between the socio-political organization and its economic basis, (2) the interaction between societies of similar or different type, (3) the development of the main social formations of the millennium, (4) the changing conditions of living in Europe during the period, (5) the changes in mentality and cultural norms in these societies. The volume is divided into six sections: (1) Introduction, by K. Randsborg; (2) The Roman Empire and Barbarian Society, with contributions by A. Carandini, D. Manacorda – E. Zanini, W.J.H. Willems, U.L. Hansen, J. Ilkjaer; (3) Settlement archaeology in Roman Period Europe, by G. Barker, E. Fentress – F. Cambi, F. Kaul and S. Hvass; (4) In the Aftermath of the Empire, by H. Steuer, H.J. Hansen and U. Näsman; (5) The Rise of Western Europe, by C. Wickham, T. Mannoni, G.P. Brogiolo, R. Francovich and A. Andrén; and (6) Conclusions, by R. Hodges. The studies thus extensively cover a large number of central themes of current research. The reader would have appreciated indexes and a comprehensive bibliography in this otherwise useful volume.

*Outi Merisalo*

KLAVS RANDSBORG: *The First Millennium A.D. in Europe and the Mediterranean. An archaeological essay.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1991. ISBN 0-521-38401-X, GBP 30.00 (hard covers) / ISBN 0-521-38787-6, GBP 10.95 (paperback).

Klavs Randsborg's book centres on material archaeological sources as "testimony not only to techniques and economy but also to interpersonal relationships ranging from

the exchange of products to the communication of norms and ideas" (p. xv) in the first millennium A.D. The author, a well-known and widely experienced archaeologist, is well aware of the exciting challenges presented by this period, what with the limited written sources and the exponentially increasing archaeological evidence to be interpreted. After sketching the main types of this evidence in the Introduction, Randsborg outlines the historical framework, the physical conditions in first millennium Europe, rural and urban settlements, production and exchange, society, culture and mentality, to conclude with a chapter on the relationship between archaeology and historiography. We have here a stimulating overview of the present state of the art, to be recommended to both beginners and more seasoned scholars.

*Outi Merisalo*

*Looking at Greek vases*, eds. Tom Rasmussen and Nigel Spivey. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1991. 282 pp. GBP 35.00 (hb), 10.95 (pb).

I cannot praise enough this wonderful book on Greek vases, created by some of the great names in the field of Greek pottery, well known from their by now familiar monographs in their respective fields. In this book they have crystallized some specific points of their themes giving as a result a highly delightful reading experience, with up-to-date information and good bibliographic references. The different groups of Greek pottery are presented in chronological order; there is also an article on different approaches to a vase, either by attributing vases to painters or by interpreting what was painted on them. There is also a compact introduction to the potter's workshop, shedding light on the more technical side of the vases. This is, however, not a book for a complete beginner as the scant illustration takes for granted a certain amount of previous knowledge. A book providing an overview of Greek vases from the geometric period up to Hellenistic times has been very much needed. Now that we have it, looking at Greek vases has become even more pleasant for those interested in Greek art. Who would have courage enough to edit a counterpart on Roman or Italic pottery?

*Leena Pietilä-Castrén*

*Quaderni di archeologia etrusco-italica*. Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. Istituto per l'archeologia etrusco-italica. – Vol. 20. *I Volsci. Archeologia laziale XI,1*. Undicesimo incontro di studio del Comitato per l'archeologia laziale, 1992. 193 p.