

Burnham and Wacher's book is intended to cover the so-called small towns of Roman Britain and to provide a full discussion of the subject in the light of the evidence from fieldwork, excavations and aerial archaeology. A general view is given of the problems of the field, the origins and development of this type of town, the internal morphology, special functions, economic functions, potential cities, minor towns, religious and industrial sites, minor defended and undefended settlements. The change and continuity of these sites is discussed, and a concluding chapter lists perspectives on future research. Excellent photographs and maps illustrate the volume.

*Outi Merisalo*

CATHERINE CLARK: *Ironbridge Gorge*. English Heritage. B.T. Batsford Ltd, London 1993. 143 p. ISBN 0-7134-6737-1 (cased) / ISBN 0-7134-6738-X (limp). GBP 14.99.

PATRICK OTTAWAY: *Roman York*. English Heritage. B.T. Batsford Ltd, London 1993. 125 pp. ISBN 0-7134-7082-8 (cased) / 0-7134-7083-6 (limp). GBP 14.99

MICHAEL PARKER PEARSON: *Bronze Age Britain*. English Heritage. B.T. Batsford Ltd, London 1993. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7134-6801-7 (cased) / ISBN 0-7134-6856-4 (limp). GBP 14.99.

The English Heritage Series, which is intended for the general reader, provides accessible introductory accounts by eminent archaeologists of different historic monuments of Britain with rich illustrations, good lists for further reading and useful glossaries.

*Outi Merisalo*

*Cristianismo y aculturación en tiempos del Imperio Romano*, ed. Antonino González Blanco y José María Blázquez Martínez. Antigüedad y cristianismo VII. Monografías históricas sobre la Antigüedad tardía, director Dr. D. Antonino González Blanco. Universidad de Murcia, área de historia antigua, Murcia 1990. 667 p. ESP 5000.

The institute of ancient history at the University of Murcia launched in 1984 a new monographic series, Antigüedad y cristianismo, for the presentation of new studies on the history of Late Antiquity. The yearly publication includes each time studies on a special theme. The volumes which have been published so far deal primarily with local history, but, except for the volume in question, the other parts of interest to those who study the history of the Late Roman Empire are the third volume published in 1986, Los

Visigodos Historia y Civilización, the fifth monograph from the year 1988, Arte y poblamiento en el SE peninsular durante los últimos siglos de la civilización romana, and volume VI published in 1989, Las pizarras visigodas: edición crítica y estudio.

The seventh volume of the series Antigüedad y cristianismo includes the papers that were given in October 1988 in Madrid during the congress whose general theme was *Christianity and Acculturation in the Roman Empire*. The editors, A. G. Blanco and J. M. B. Martínez have chosen a plain outline for the publication. The articles which treat the history of Late Antiquity more generally are placed in the beginning of the book (pp. 11-71). Other papers from the congress (pp. 73-578) are arranged chronologically starting from the first century A.D.; the last chronological heading includes the sixth century A.D. and the following period. The congress papers are followed by brief archaeological news items from South-Eastern Spain, including mainly publications of North-African lamps found in the area (pp. 581-603). Archaeological news is followed by a scientific annotation (pp. 607-624) which includes a select bibliography of the publications discussing the development of Christianity in Late Antiquity and the influence of the pagan culture on the Church Fathers and Christianity. The book reviews are presented on pages 627-637.

The concluding chapter (pp. 641-667), Los forjadores de la historia tardoantigua, is dedicated to Professor Johannes A. Straub on his eightieth birthday in 1992. A. González Blanco has gathered a list of the publications of Professor Straub (pp. 641-647). The book ends with a Spanish translation of Straub's article "Reichsbewusstsein und Nationalgefühl in den römischen Provinzen. Spanien und das Imperium Romanum in der Sicht des Florus" that was originally published in 1978 in the volume no. 25 of *Jahrbuch des römisch-germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz*.

Most of the articles in the publication *Christianity and Acculturation in the Roman Empire* discuss the period from the fourth century A.D. onwards. The majority of the 45 congress papers are, of course, in Spanish, but there are four articles in French, one in English, and another in Italian. All papers are provided with an English summary. The general subjects are history, philology, especially patrology, history of art and archaeology of the Late Roman period. From among the specified themes presented in the publication could be mentioned the influence of pagan literature on the texts of the Church Fathers, the influence of the heretics on Christianity, pagan and Christian ascetism, and the position and role of women in the works of St. Augustine. Art historical aspects are presented in the papers that discuss mythological mosaics destroyed by Christians, mosaics with mythological representations in the Eastern churches, and pagan iconographical tradition in the Byzantine Empire. Archaeological material, the results of excavations, and literary testimony play an important role in the interpretation of the reutilization of Roman material in Christian places of worship and the possible

connection of Christian centres of worship and ancient water cults The Emperor Justinian is the object of two separate studies that shed light on Justinian's religious legislation and church policy, and on the Christianization of the Empire in the age of Justinian.

*Arja Karivieri*

STEPHEN WASS: *The Amateur Archaeologist*. Batsford Ltd, London 1992. 160 pp. GBP 14.99.

Mainly the title of this book roused my interest. My suspicions were plentiful: Yet another Indiana-Jones-Wanna-Be writing to other Indiana-Jones-Wanna-Bes. Fortunately I was quickly proved wrong. Stephen Wass is a professional writer, there is no doubt about it.

Wass describes the field of archaeology as an open ground where everybody interested can and should make a contribution. He gives some flamboyant examples of highly respected amateurs including himself. In England the situation seems to be quite different from other countries. The abundance of ancient sites and the enormous amount of data no doubt leaves room for so called amateurs to become scholars, but the question rises, are they amateurs anymore? Archaeology as a discipline includes an enormous amount of different theories, models and philosophical constructions, e.g. in the system of classification, not to mention the overwhelming amount of artefactual material. It is very hard to master it as a hobby.

The best part of the book is no doubt the most professional depiction of different field survey methods. For a beginner they might cause some blur but for an experienced fieldworker they are essentially invaluable. Wass really knows his techniques.

The warnings that Wass offers for those who have never been on an archaeological dig are most useful and informative. Nevertheless the techniques of an excavation are not so highly refined in reality as Wass claims. I wish everything would be done as Wass describes.

As a whole *The Amateur Archaeologist* is a very entertaining, somewhat meticulous and highly recommendable book for all readers interested in or working with archaeology. The Further Reading appendix is very useful and the list of useful addresses is a blessing. Anyhow, anyone who adds *The Bluffers Guide to Archaeology* to his or her references really deserves some credit.

*Esa Mikkola*