

MARIA TERESA PALEANI: *Le lucerne paleocristiane*. Monumenti Musei e Gallerie Pontificie, Antiquarium Romanum, Cataloghi 1 (a cura di Francesco Buranelli). "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1993. ISBN 88-7062-815-9. ITL 150.000.

Maria Teresa Paleani has undertaken the great task of publishing the first scientific catalogue of the Antiquarium Romanum of the Vatican Museums, presenting the Early Christian lamps preserved in the collections of the Antiquarium. When Provoost (1970) published his typology of lamps found in the catacombs of Rome, he did not provide a complete inventory of the objects. In this book Paleani has made the classification and commentary on the lamps of the Antiquarium following Provoost's typology and added some critical notes as well as made the typology more up-to-date.

Paleani publishes 72 lamps which she dates between the third and the seventh century A.D. She has chosen to call all these lamps Early Christian since most of the lamps have Christian motifs. The lamps that have mythological representations she has interpreted as representative of Christian re-use of old motifs, explaining her choice by the supposition that the traditional Roman iconography was interpreted as purely decorative by the Christians who used the traditional motifs to fill the lamp disk.

The catalogue is exhaustive, with a thorough discussion about each lamp, decorative elements and good bibliographical notes. A useful table for corresponding types in earlier published typologies is presented on p. 85, followed by discussion on pp. 86-98. The author has preferred not to create a new typology but to use Provoost's typology, and to add one type from Deneauve's typology in her presentation (type VIII B) because this lamp type did not occur in Provoost's publication. However, only six of Provoost's types were related to the lamps of the Antiquarium Romanum, and Paleani has chosen to follow in her publication a chronological sequence and not the order used by Provoost.

Short chapters in the book are dedicated to the formation of the collection of the Antiquarium Romanum, to production marks, and final remarks. Comparative tables at the end present lamp inventory numbers and corresponding pages in Provoost's article where the lamps have been cited. Important additions are an index for the places, museums and collections that are mentioned in the text, and another for the proper names.

Perhaps most useful in Paleani's study are the new datings which derive from her typological and iconographical analyses of the lamps, as well as from comparisons with similar and analogous lamps, some of which come from a well-known excavation. The author has used, in a praiseworthy way, the decorative motifs of Terra Sigillata Africana, and the dates suggested for these motifs, as comparison for the lamps decorated with similar motifs.

Paleani suggests new dates for Provoost's types as well as discusses their relation to the North African products. An important observation is that the type Provoost 9 (Hayes II, Atlante delle forme ceramiche X and XI) is not documented in the catacombs of Rome where the absence of the type is almost total. The author explains this by the

late date of this type which could be the reason why these lamps have been found more often on the surface of the necropoli and in the habitation areas.

In brief, this publication is important for everyone interested in the North African lamps of Late Antiquity, and for those who want to obtain more information about their importance for the local lamp production in Central Italy as well as in other centres of the Mediterranean area in the same period.

*Arja Karivieri*

J. M. C. TOYNBEE: *Morte e sepoltura nel mondo romano*. Introduzione di Lidiano Bacchielli. Traduzione di Maria José Strazzulla. Società e cultura greca e romana 2. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1993. xv, 285 p., 92 ill., 30 fig. ISBN 88-7062-728-4. ITL 100.000.

FRIEDRICH WILHELM DEICHMANN: *Archeologia cristiana*. Traduzione di Alessandro de Lachenal e Rosa Taliani. Studia Archaeologica 63. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1993. 355 p., 194 ill. ISBN 88-7062-826-4. ITL 250.000.

Translations of such general works as Toynbee's *Death and Burial in the Roman World* (1971) and Deichmann's *Einführung in die Christliche Archäologie* (1983) are always welcome, not least because they can more easily find readers outside the professional circles in their language area.

In cooperation with a thoughtful publisher the occasion of a translation may also provide a good opportunity for the author to make corrections and amplifications to the work, as has happened with Deichmann's *Archeologia cristiana*, the usefulness of which is also guaranteed by an updated bibliography, an essential feature in a work of this kind.

*Pekka Tuomisto*