

*The Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, ed. by R.G. Collingwood and R.P. Wright. Volume II: *Instrumentum Domesticum*, Fascicule 6, ed. S.S. Frere and R.S.O. Tomlin with contributions from M.W.C. Hassall. Oxford 1994. 102 p., 8 pl. ISBN 0-7509-0536-0. GBP 35.00.

The new fascicule of RIB – *Instrumentum domesticum*, containing dipinti and graffiti on amphorae and mortaria as well as inscriptions in white barbotine, on coarse ware and Samian barbotine, is put at the disposal of research, in the customary reliable manner. It has been compiled by S.S. Frere with the assistance of R.S.O. Tomlin on the bases of the archives of R. Wright. The fascicule contains finds up to 1986. Apart from drawings to each inscription in the text, some important pieces are reproduced in photographs at the end of the volume. An index of sites facilitates the access to the material from a geographical point of view. Other references will be available upon completion of the volume. Nevertheless, this is a further piece of evidence for a fuller view of Roman life in Britain.

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DAVID RIDGWAY: *The First Western Greeks*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1992. xvi, 180 p. ISBN 0-521-42164-0. GBP 32.50 (hc) / 10.95 (pb).

This important book is the 2nd, revised and up-dated, edition of the author's *L'Alba della Magna Grecia* which was published in 1984 by Longanesi & C. Milan. The primary changes have been made in chapter 1 Mycenaean prologue, chapter 2 The Euboeans at home and abroad, chapter 7 Campania, Latium vetus and Southern Etruria in the ninth and eighth centuries, and chapter 8 Etruscan epilogue. A new final section has been added called Notes for further reading. The illustrations are identical with those of the previous edition. The rest of the contents are as follows: chapter 3 Pithekoussai: an introduction, chapter 4 Pithekoussai: the cemetery in the Valle di San Montano, chapter 5 Pithekoussai: the non-funerary sites, and chapter 6 Pithekoussai: status and function. The aim of the author is "to acquaint a wider audience with an archeological project that could hardly be more revolutionary: the effective discovery and excavation of the first Greek establishment in the West". In this task he has succeeded very well.

With the new and better excavated sites our information on the Mycenaean presence in South Italy and Sicily occurring from the Middle Helladic period (16th to 15th century) to the Late Helladic IIIC period (1200-1050) has increased considerably (p. 4 ff.). It now seems to be apparent that a dominant quantity of the imported material can be dated to the LH IIIA period (1400-1300) which shows an increasing Mycenaean activity towards South Italy in general, while on the contrary in the next period LH IIIB (1300-1200) there are many changes of emphasis, as, e.g., imports to southeast Sicily decrease but those of the Aeolian islands as well as those along the Ionian coast of the modern Calabria and Basilicata increase. This stage of Mycenaean contact with Italy is in perfect harmony with the Mycenaean palace civilisation in Greece and it is contemporary also with the Mycenaean presence in Crete, the Dodecanese, Egypt, Cyprus, Anatolia and the Levant. Altogether, the excavated sites in Italy cover a Mycenaean engagement which was in existence for more than 500 years between the 16th and the 11th centuries.