

*Ancient Rome and India. Commercial and cultural contacts between the Roman world and India.* Edited by Rosa Maria Cimino. Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente, Rome, Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi 1994. xviii, 264 p., 12 colour and LXXX black and white plates.

One can only regret not having been able to see the exhibition, shown in Delhi and Rome, for which this volume is a catalogue. But fortunately we have at least this catalogue. In 64 brief chapters the diversity of Indo-Roman relations is presented in a way, which, though succinct, is still often able to give new perspectives. The archaeological evidence pertaining to Indo-Roman commerce is fully surveyed without forgetting the afterlife of Western techniques and motifs in Indian art. An appendix lists separately Roman coins found in India and the *bullae* imitating them. Indian products used in Roman medicine, cuisine and cosmetics are listed in separate chapters. A number of chapters discuss Indo-Greek history and archaeology and the subsequent Gandhara art. Every chapter is furnished with a separate bibliography. The bulk is written by Dr. Cimino, a well-known scholar of Indian art history, though 18 other, Italian, French and Indian scholars have contributed. Numerous illustrations give a good idea of the exhibition and illustrate well the text. With a few exceptions their quality is very good; only the maps have suffered from excessive reduction. At worst this is seen in plate XXXIII, supposedly showing locations of the *bullae* found in India, where no such location can be actually discerned. There are many misprints, but actual errors are rare. Here it suffices to point out two. There is no reason to believe that Indo-Babylonian trade described in the Baveru- Jātaka should belong to the pre-Achaemenid period (p. 38 & 80). The famous Vienna papyrus containing a transaction *made* at Muziris was not actually *found* at Muziris, as claimed on p. 173, a place whose exact location is still unknown.

Klaus Karttunen

*Prosopographie und Sozialgeschichte. Studien zur Methodik und Erkenntnismöglichkeiten der kaiserzeitlichen Prosopographie* (Kolloquium Köln 24.-26. November 1991). Hrsg. v. Werner Eck. Böhlau Verlag, Köln Wien Weimar 1993. VII + 448 S. ISBN 3-412-04393-1. DEM 88.

Die rund zwanzig in diesem Band versammelten Beiträge wurden erstmals bei einem internationalen Kolloquium 1991 in Köln vorgetragen. Lobenswert ist, daß die Vorträge nicht einmal zwei Jahre später schon gedruckt erschienen sind. Der Veranstalter (zusammen mit Klaus Wachtel) und Herausgeber Werner Eck weist in seinem Vorwort auf den zweiten Teil des Titels hin: es sollte bei diesem Treffen wohlbekannter Forscher, mit einer Ausnahme versierter kaiserzeitlicher Prosopographen, nicht so sehr um neue Ergebnisse, sondern um methodische Fragen, um Erkenntnismöglichkeiten der sozialgeschichtlich angelegten prosopographischen Forschung gehen. (Der Beitrag der Prosopographie an der politischen Geschichte der Kaiserzeit gehörte demnach nicht zur eigentlichen Tagesordnung und wird nur im Beitrag von H. Halfmann über die Senatoren aus dem Osten gestreift.)