

LAWRENCE J. BLIQUEZ. *Roman Surgical Instruments and Other Minor Objects in the National Archaeological Museum of Naples*. With a Catalogue of the Surgical Instruments in the "Antiquarium" at Pompeii by Ralph Jackson. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz 1994. ISBN 3-8053-1677-1. 238 pages, XXVII plates. DEM 135.

Lawrence Bliquez has studied the collection of Greco-Roman surgical instruments in the Naples Museum. He has used this material also in his other studies e.g. on gynecology in Pompeii. The value of this book for further studies on the Roman surgical instruments is great, because no earlier catalogue of this rich and unreplaceable material has been published. Most of the material originates from the Vesuvian area and especially from Pompeii. Therefore it can be dated to before A.D. 79. This is a remarkable advantage, which can be used, for instance, for comparison with instruments from other sites. Bliquez presents a comprehensive catalogue of the material in Naples museum. The catalogue includes physical description, measurements, inventory number(s), provenience, condition, photograph (or a drawing) and reference to literary or photographic documents of every item. There are a total of 323 items included in the catalogue. In the catalogue of the "Antiquarium" there are a total of 59 items. Ralph Jackson from the British Museum, who is also a well known author of several studies on the instrumentaria of Roman doctors, expresses succinctly the basic reason why this type of richly documented catalogue is so valuable: it is because of "The frightening rate of decay ..." (p. 200). In the book there is also an interesting essay concerning the Hercules/Aesculapius motif appearing on surgical tools (pp. 99-106).

The main aim in the study of the material is to have as exact a provenience for each item as possible. This is valuable, for instance, in studies concerning the number, "specialty" and various activities of medical practitioners in Pompeii. The instrumentarium found in the Casa del Medico Nuovo (II) is especially valuable because, as Bliquez states, "The Casa del Medico Nuovo (II) thus represents not only the most valuable surgical site find in the city of Pompeii but, to the best of my knowledge, in the entire Roman Empire." (p. 95). Unfortunately there are many problems in evaluating the value of different places where surgical instruments have been found e.g. missing or migrating inventory numbers. Therefore the best one can conclude is that there were several physicians (two of whom might have been veterinarians) practicing in Pompeii at the moment of the eruption of Vesuvius (pp. 78-98). Gynecology seems to have been one clearly established "specialty" among these practitioners. Considering the long duration (over 250 years) of the excavations in the Vesuvian area it is perhaps not surprising that so few of the items in the catalogue can surely or probably be given a definite, exact place of discovery.

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JEAN CHARLES BALTY: *Porträt und Gesellschaft in der römischen Welt*. Trierer Winkelmannsprogramme, 11 (1991). Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 1993. ISBN: 3-8053-1622-4. VII, 36 p., 20 pls. DEM 78.

J. C. Balty in this publication has gathered some facts and viewpoints concerning the relationship of Roman portraits to the contemporary society. The basis for this book