

purposes. Some of the existing twenty-two pieces had already been published before they were all included in Chioffi's own edition from 1996 (in: *Le iscrizioni greche e latine del Foro Romano e del Palatino*; Tituli 7 [nos. 15–17 were published by others]). However, this book is not mere repetition, for now the series of elogia are put in an historical and topographical context. Throughout her study, Chioffi interestingly follows the story of excavations and discoveries in the Forum area from the sixteenth century to modern times. At the same time, if the reader did not know it before, the (sometimes complete) uncertainty about the original collocation, or even the place of discovery, of individual fragments becomes manifest. Chioffi makes the point of underlining the topographic and the ideological relation between the Augustan fasti and the elogia (pp. 23, 25, 47, 50 ff.), and she finally comes to the conclusion that not only some Augustan elogia and a number of dedications to the princes Gaius and Lucius stood somewhere in the area between the Basilica Aemilia and the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina, but also the *fornix Fabianus* and the Augustan fasti should be collocated here. These may have been fixed to the wall of a "giano" (thus called by Ligorio in the sixteenth century) which in turn could be identified as an "avancorpo" or "padiglione" in the eastern corner of the portico of the Basilica Aemilia (for the possibilities of reconstructing such an edifice, see p. 52 f.). As for details, Chioffi's attribution of CIL I² 764 to Fabius Cunctator (p. 29–32; this fragment was already connected with the *fornix Fabianus* by Gatti, followed by Coarelli) is most interesting, though it necessarily remains unprovable. Equally puzzling is the attribution and dating of some other inscriptions, but it should be noted that Chioffi's proposals have been duly considered in recent research. The volume concludes with a selective epigraphic appendix (nos. 1–21) which exhibits inscriptions relevant to the subject, including some discovered outside of the Forum Romanum.

This is not quite easy reading for the inexperienced, and so a concise introduction to all the problems dealt with would have been useful. I also think that many readers would have welcomed a clear and detailed plan of the (eastern) Forum area. Generally, it is an enormous task to define and follow the nexus of history and topography in the Roman Forum, one of the most studied places in the Roman world. On many points, I cannot say whether Chioffi is right or wrong, but her ideas are thought-provoking. Having also worked on inscriptions from the Forum, I would say that Chioffi has an exemplary knowledge of her material. What makes the reading of her book so fascinating is not only the subject itself but also the lucid discussion of it.

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MAURIZIO FORA: *Epigrafia anfiteatrale dell'occidente romano IV. Regio Italiae I: Latium. (Vetera 11)*. Ed. Quasar, Roma 1996. ISBN 88–7140–090–7. 164 p., 59 ill. ITL 70.000.

This is now the fourth volume in the series *Epigrafia anfiteatrale*, the publication of which started in 1988 with volume I covering Rome, by Patrizia Sabbatini Tumolesi; this was followed in 1989 by vol. II, by G.L. Gregori, covering the Italian regions VI to XI, and in 1992 by vol. III, by M. Buonocore, covering the regions II to V and moreover Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. It seems, then, that the series is now complete for Italy; whether there is going to be something on the rest of the occident is unclear.

Not being a fancier of gladiatorial games myself, I must say that there have been moments when I have been wondering whether gladiators and gladiatorial games really merit an attention on this scale – republication with commentaries, bibliographies and photos of all the epigraphical texts which deal with, or at least refer to, this subject. My point here is that one could easily think of other subjects for which one would like to have similar corpora. It would, for instance, be nice to have a corpus of this kind of monuments in honour of senators or of municipal decrees. On the other hand, corpora of this kind do not just simply emerge from somewhere when needed; the existence of a collection like this is usually due to the interest and labours of a single scholar, and in this case the initiator of this project was Patrizia Sabbatini Tumolesi, who of course was a scholar known as the author of *Gladiatorum paria* (1980) and for her interest in amphitheatrical matters in general. (It is with sadness that one must register here that Sabbatini Tumolesi died at 49 in early 1995; cf. S. Panciera's commemoration on p. 7–9, with the bibliography of the scholar.) And in any case what we have here is most useful indeed, and not only for those interested in gladiators, for one finds here numerous interesting texts, with full documentation and photos, which deal with gladiators only in passing, for example inscriptions in honour of municipal notables mentioning munera.

As for the contents of this volume, after the usual introductory items there is the catalogue of the material; this is followed by a *Riepilogo e considerazioni generali* at the end, and we have very detailed indices. The catalogue begins (on p. 25–7) with a list, with explanations, of texts which have been excluded from the collection (e.g. CIL XIV 2628 = ILS 6208). Then follow the texts taken into consideration, of which there are altogether 49 (this number includes 12 excerpts from the *Fasti Ostienses*). They are presented under the following headings: I, *L'amministrazione dei munera*; II, *Munera e venationes. Lusus iuvenum*; III, *Gladiatori e scuole gladiatorie* (only one text under this heading); IV, *Anfiteatri e strutture annesse* (mainly texts referring to the building or to the restoration of amphitheatres). As I said, many of the texts presented are of a more general interest (this is reflected by the fact that many of them appear in Dessau's *Inscriptiones Latinae selectae*), and it is good to have them published a new with photographs (whenever available). In some cases the author can improve upon the text in CIL (e.g. no. 28 = CIL XIV 376), and the photographs do advance our understanding of the inscriptions (note how the photo of no. 35 = CIL XIV 2080 = ILS 6186 illustrates the "vulgar" features of the Latin text). The editorial work is of a very high quality, and all in all one can say that this is a very solid and commendable piece of work. (At times, it is true, one has the feeling that the author is perhaps a bit too meticulous in registering all the small mistakes other people – e.g. Russell Meiggs in his monograph on Ostia – have made in copying inscriptions from the CIL; but of course I know how hard it is to decide what to include in, and what to exclude from, an *apparatus criticus*.)

As for the *riepilogo*, this is a useful review of the material presented in the catalogue. The indices are, as mentioned above, quite detailed (there is even an index of *parole notevoli*), and thus most helpful to the scholar who wishes to get acquainted with the material. The *riepilogo* and the indices thus nicely round off an excellent book.

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