

finally by Augustus. In fact, the temple of Apollo was moved some metres in order to make space for the theatre proper, that is the theatre of Marcellus.

The political tensions and their settlement later between Augustus and C. Sosius, who actually began the rebuilding of the temple in 34 BC, probably had their drastic effect on many features of the building. The Sosian building was meant to be one of travertine covered with stucco, but after the battle of Actium in 31 it turned out to be a building of marble, or rather marbles, reflecting in this way the importance of Augustus' favourite deity. According to the author, it was still C. Sosius, who had the privilege of finishing the building at his own expense, even though the final touch was given in accordance with the ideas of Augustus. The dedication took place before the year 17 BC, and the new *dies natalis* was now the 23rd of September, nothing less than the birthday of Augustus. This building was to be the artistic proclamation and show case of Augustan policy.

After this major reconstruction, the building seems to have remained more or less intact into late antiquity. In the Middle Ages new constructions were built over it and even inside the podium. The architectural decoration and the collapsed columns remained more or less intact waiting for the excavators of the 1920s. The first publication by R. Delbrueck came out in 1903. The podium and the pavement were unearthed in 1937–38, when the material not only from the temple of Apollo but also from the surrounding neighbourhood was deposited in haste with little care for its provenance. It was Eugenio La Rocca's fortunate discovery and reconstruction of the pedimental sculptures in 1985 which led to the new studies on the site. The fruits of these studies are now presented by A. Viscogliosi in his monograph on the development of the architecture and sculptural decoration of the temple.

Of his excellent study I mention as a detail the Corinthian capital, pictured in fig. 64 and presented as a hallmark of the whole building. Its interpretation is full of Augustan political propaganda, providing clues to the divine ancestry and family connections of Augustus. The most challenging tasks for the author must have been, however, the reexamining and summing up the various strata of the podium and the reconstruction of the cella, beautifully supported by many drawings and photographs from old and new excavations. It is obvious that the author has been enjoying doing his research on this rewarding building. At the same time he has also managed splendidly to transmit to the reader a picture of this unique temple which is, despite its many foreign and borrowed aspects, a basically Roman building.

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MARTIN MAISCHBERGER: *Marmor in Rom*. Anlieferung, Lager- und Werkplätze in der Kaiserzeit. Palilia, Bd. 1. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Rom. Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden 1997. ISBN 3-89500-014-0. 190 S. DEM 68.

This is the first volume of the new series Palilia of the German Archaeological Institute in Rome. In the series monographs on the archaeology of Italy will be published. This publication is based on the writer's dissertation at the Freie Universität Berlin. In recent years a considerable number of studies on marble in antiquity has been published, partly because of the first three congresses of ASMOSIA (Association for the Study of Marble and Other Stones Used in Antiquity).

In this book both terms "marble" and "Rome" have been used in a wide sense. All kinds of polishable stones, white and coloured, are discussed. Geographically the study consists of Rome and its harbour towns Ostia and Portus, as well as the banks of the river Tiber between them. The main source material for the study is the different kinds of blocks of marble found in this area which have not been finished or used in antiquity. Many aspects of them are treated in the five chapters of the book but the most important is the topographical one. After the opening chapter on the history of the Roman marble trade, the other chapters are geographically divided between the three main areas where ancient marble blocks have been found. The transportation system is also discussed on the basis of the inscriptions. The first three chapters do not bring much new to the subject and the study relies quite substantially on the recent works of J.C. Fant. Unfortunately the author was not able to use fully the new study of P. Pensabene: *Le vie del marmo. Itinerari ostiensi* 7 (1995). The great contribution of Maischberger's book is the thorough study of the marble blocks found in the Emporium and especially in the northern Campus Martius in their archaeological context, using both the remaining blocks and various archives in Rome. The study is well written and gives new information not only on marble in ancient Rome but also on the topography of imperial Rome.

*Risto Valjus*

*'Roman Ostia' Revisited.* Archaeological and Historical Papers in Memory of Russell Meiggs. Edited by Anna Gallina Zevi and Amanda Claridge. British School at Rome, London, in collaboration with The Soprintendenza Archeologica di Ostia 1996. ISBN 0-904152-29-4. 308 p., including 54 line illustrations and 66 black & white plates. GBP 35.00.

*'Roman Ostia' Revisited* presents the papers of an international conference held in memory of Russell Meiggs on 3-5 October 1992. The British School at Rome and the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Ostia published the results of the conference as a useful introduction to the present state of Ostian studies. The articles - written in English, Italian, French and Spanish - vary from pottery and architecture to navigation and great port systems; the perspective is mainly archaeological, but epigraphical and historical viewpoints are also represented in this publication.

The first section is dedicated to Russell Meiggs, the legendary author of *Roman Ostia*. H. Bloch, Oswyn Murray and Maria Floriani Squarciapino introduce Meiggs as both an excellent historian and an extraordinary personality. Murray describes him as a practical historian with a positivist approach who wanted to find the past "as it really was" and as it really worked but who still was a much more sympathetic person than most of his positivist colleagues.

The succeeding articles reveal the history of Ostia from the Archaic and Republic period onwards until Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. Archer Martin, Benedetta Adembri, Fausto Zevi and Mireille Cébeillac Gervasoni discuss the most ancient phases of Ostia. Martin reports on the excavations of 1991 of the walls of the Ostian *castrum*, suggesting a dating for the *castrum*, at the end of the fourth century or the beginning of the third century B.C. In his article on the early phases of Ostia, Zevi also discusses the Ostian *castrum*, its dating and purpose. He supports the late dating of the *castrum* to not until the