

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

end of the fourth century B. C. He stresses that a careful topographical and paleo-environmental analysis is in key position in understanding the beginnings of Ostia. The town was situated in a strategically important position for it was not only organically connected with Via Ostiense but was also a link in the navigation line along the Tyrrhenian coastline. Adembri illuminates the importance of the port of Ostia during the Archaic period by surveying the import of the Attican, Etruscan and Faliscan ceramics to Ostia.

The articles of the third section discuss Ostia during the Imperial Period. Filippo Coarelli presents a hypothesis on the location of the *forum vinarium* that is mentioned in inscriptions but its location is not specified in sources. A study by Ricardo Mar analyses the role of sanctuaries in the cityscape of second-century Ostia. He sets the temple of Hercules, the sacral area of Magna Mater and the Serapeum in their urban context. In her innovative article on the economics of construction in Hadrianic Ostia, Janet DeLaine has calculated roughly how much labour, material and time was needed to build an *insula* and widens her assumptions even to the Hadrianic building enterprise in Ostia. The calculations are based on comparison with the construction business in Renaissance Italy and Georgian and Victorian London and on handbooks for building of the nineteenth century. The example used in Roman Ostia is the reconstruction of the *Insula* of the Paintings. On the basis of her estimations, DeLaine suggests that the construction of the second century could have been financed by either the Roman senatorial elite or commercial elites or even Ostian people themselves. The construction in Ostia is also treated by Patrizio Pensabene in an article on public and private building projects. The impact of the imperial construction was significant: roads, ports, canals (Fossa Traiana), bridges (Pons Matidiae), aqueducts (Aqua Traiana), theatres, baths and temples were built and restored. Carlo Pavolini shows how research on pottery found in Ostia can illustrate the relationship between the commerce of Ostia / Portus and the commerce of Rome in a viewpoint of long duration, "lunga durata". He, for example, establishes that there is more oriental material in Ostia and Portus in the fourth and fifth centuries than in Rome in the same period. Maria Letizia Lazzarini presents some examples of the numerous Greek inscriptions found in Ostia, and Lidia Paroli introduces excavations made under the *Casone del Sale* in order to illustrate the situation in late antique Ostia. The late antique layers of a warehouse, "magazzino doliare", found in the excavations, show marks of spoliation and gradual degradation. The degradation of *horrea*, store houses refers to a crisis in the middle of the fifth century and in the sixth century but Paroli insists (as did Meiggs) that in spite of an economic depression Ostia was not totally deserted in Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages.

One of the sections has been dedicated to Portus. Nicholas Purcell discusses Portus and Ostia, the ports of Rome, within the context of the development of the Roman system of coastline, termed in Latin as *ora maritima*. The whole landscape, coastline, islands, rivermouths and harbours, functioned as strategic strongholds and links in this system. Thus, Ostia and Portus cannot be called "the port of Rome" since the whole Mediterranean functioned as the harbour of Rome. Geoffrey E. Rickman and Stefano Coccia introduce new perspectives on Portus. Rickman sets Portus within the wider context of Mediterranean ports and the Roman *annona* system. The grain trade created the essential conditions for the other trade to flourish, too. Coccia reports on archaeological findings in Portus even from the eighth and ninth centuries which attest to the continuity of settlement in spite of

the economic crisis from the mid-fifth and sixth centuries onwards. The city of Rome was still a fairly important consumer centre which depended on import. Portus, however, was no longer used for storage but only for transportation of goods.

*Maijastina Kahlos*

FABRIZIO PESANDO: *Domus. Edilizia privata e società pompeiana fra III e I secolo a.C.* Monografie S.A.P. 12. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1997. ISBN 88-7062-968-6. 393 p. ITL 330.000. MARIO PAGANO: *I diari di scavo di Pompei, Ercolano e Stabiae di Francesco e Pietro La Vega (1764-1810)*. Raccolta e studio di documenti inediti. Monografie S.A.P. 13. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1997. ISBN 88-7062-967-8. 190 p., 11 ill. ITL 200.000.

Gli scavi di Ercolano e Pompei sono di eccezionale importanza anche per la loro relativamente lunga storia, sulla quale giustamente si è riflettuta in occasione del loro 250<sup>o</sup> anniversario, festeggiato con due convegni: dieci anni fa, nel 1988, per Ercolano e in quest'anno 1998 per Pompei. È doveroso augurarsi che questi anniversari servano a rinforzare ancora i tentativi di salvaguardare quello che si può. Nonostante – e allo stesso tempo proprio a causa – di tutto il lavoro fatto finora, rimane un'enorme mole di lavoro non soltanto nella salvaguardia, ma anche nel campo degli studi. Ciò è dimostrato tra l'altro dalle intensificate attività degli ultimi decenni, una testimonianza delle quali sono le pubblicazioni della Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei. La serie di monografie supera ormai una dozzina di volumi compresi i due volumi nr. 12 e 13 pubblicati l'anno scorso (1997), a cui qui si può soltanto brevemente accennare, senza la discussione più ampia che meriterebbero.

Il libro di Fabrizio Pesando sull'edilizia privata e sul suo ruolo nella società pompeiana tra il III e I secolo a.C. è una benvenuta sintesi di alcuni aspetti di una problematica altrettanto vasta che importante, e perciò molto studiata. La discussione corredata da un abbondante apparato di note, e la conseguente ricca bibliografia dimostrano che l'autore ha fatto un enorme lavoro nel collegare e ordinare tutta la grande massa dei dati dispersi in vari studi. Sia il lodevole tentativo dell'autore di cavarsela coll'alluvione informatica, che l'attualità della tematica, sono evidenziati dall'aggiunta di un "Aggiornamento bibliografico (1995-1996)" (pp. 385-393) con la discussione di alcuni studi pubblicati dopo la consegna del manoscritto (1995). Nella "Premessa" (pp. 5-9) si definisce scopo principale del lavoro riunificare quanto si conosce delle dimore private e "ricostruire quale fosse l'immagine di sé' che i proprietari desideravano proporre attraverso la propria dimora e in che misura questa si accordasse con l'immagine che la città trasmetteva con la propria organizzazione dello spazio e con i propri monumenti." Nell'introduzione (pp. 12-24) è dato un sommario sull'"Organizzazione dello spazio urbano". La maggior parte del libro è costituito dalla conseguente parte prima sulla "Tipologia edilizia e forme abitative" (pp. 27-218), articolata in un catalogo analitico-descrittivo di 32 case (nel "Sommario" a p. 3 le case indicate sono 31) classificate "seguendo un criterio tipologico strettamente collegato alla grandezza, alla forma e alla sontuosità degli edifici" (p. 24) in case ad atrio e peristilio (14 case), case ad atrio e hortus (8 case) e casette (9 case). La parte seconda sugli "Aspetti di *luxuria privata* a Pompei" (pp. 221-266)