

*Out of Rome. Augusta Raurica/Aquincum. Das Leben in zwei römischen Provinzstädten. Aquincum/Augusta Raurica. Élet a Római Birodalom két városában.* Hg. Römerstadt Augusta Raurica/Aquincumi Múzeum Budapest. Zweisprachige Ausgabe: Deutsch/Ungarisch. Verlag Schwabe & Co. AG, Basel 1997. ISBN 3-7965-1040-X. 337 S., 314 Abb. CHF 45. DEM 54. ATS 390.

The exhibition catalogue *Out of Rome* presents two provincial cities in the Roman empire, Augusta Raurica and Aquincum. These two cities are located in two different countries: Augusta Raurica on the northern border of Switzerland, in the canton of Baselland, and Aquincum in Hungary, as it was the Roman forerunner of Budapest. There are, however, several similarities. Both cities stood on a river, Augusta Raurica on the Rhine and Aquincum on the Danube, and both were originally built on the border of the empire. There has been a Roman fort in both.

Augusta Raurica, however, lost its position by the second century AD, when the northern border of the Roman Empire was moved further north. The city became a less important provincial centre, but it kept its importance in the road network and as a centre for provincial trade. In Late Antiquity, when the northern border of the Empire was again moved to the Rhine, Augusta Raurica gained in importance. Augusta Raurica was originally founded as a civil colonial town, but it was not changed before the early fourth century into a military centre, *Castrum Rauracense*. Aquincum was from the beginning a military base, and in AD 106 it became a *municipium*, and received civilian structures. Aquincum continued to flourish until Late Antiquity as the provincial capital of Pannonia Inferior with political importance, and several emperors visited the city. Both cities gradually lost their importance by the Middle Ages, when the ruins of the Roman period were utilized as quarries by the local people.

The exhibition catalogue is divided into six chapters: an introduction, contacts with Rome, description of the two cities, and finally, specially chosen material groups are discussed and compared to the Roman equivalents. The first chapter presents the history of Augusta Raurica and Aquincum. The second chapter discusses architectonic constructions in the Roman cities. The military character of the city had its influence in the architecture of Aquincum. The two amphitheatres that were used for gladiatorial games were popular among soldiers. The worship of Mithras was widely spread in the Roman army, and Aquincum as a military centre has preserved several Mithraea. In comparison, not a single Mithraeum has been found in Augusta Raurica, though some archaeological finds point to the existence of the cult of Mithras in the city. Both cities had, however, typical Roman houses, baths, and workshops that were so important for the inhabitants.

*Die Stadt als Lebensraum* throws light on the everyday life of the inhabitants in these cities, decoration of the houses, textile industry, fashion, and the uniforms of the soldiers. The fourth chapter, *Markt –Wirtschaft*, presents a bronze workshop in Augusta Raurica, a ceramic workshop in Aquincum, and the monetary system in both cities. An important section is the discussion on the *villae rusticae* and their role in the economy of Augusta Raurica and Aquincum. The chapter *Im Zeichen der Vielfalt: Religion und Kult* shows the rich variety of Roman religious practice, where Roman, local, and Oriental divinities were worshipped side by side. The last chapter is dedicated to cemeteries, burials and grave offerings in these cities.

The two teams, in the Römerstadt Augusta Raurica and in the Aquincumi Múzeum Budapest, have done a great job with the exhibition and the exhibition catalogue. The project took seven years to complete but the result is all the more excellent and very informative for all interested in Roman provincial studies. These two cities, Augusta Raurica and Aquincum, tell us a lot about life in Roman military camps and provincial cities. The results are interesting in showing the similarities as well as differences in the history and archaeological remains of these cities that once lay on the border of the Roman Empire.

*Arja Karivieri*

*The Cambridge Ancient History. Volume XIII. The Late Empire, A.D. 337–425.* Edited by Averil Cameron and Peter Garnsey. Cambridge University Press, 1998. ISBN 0–521–30200–5. xvi, 889 p. USD 150.

The first edition of *The Cambridge Ancient History* closed with volume XII in A.D. 324. The new edition adds two further volumes to cover the period up to A.D. 600. This has undoubtedly been a very felicitous decision, and the first of the new volumes is an outstanding achievement. Why the boundary mark between it and the last volume has been set at A.D. 425 (rather than, say, the end of the Theodosian dynasty around 450) is nowhere justified, but it is probably as good as anything else. Naturally, the discussion in individual chapters often has to break the precise time limits, especially towards the third century, for which we do not yet have a new edition of volume XII. The balance between the chronological and thematical sections seems optimal to me. The views of individual writers have not been harmonized, again a lucky choice (and it might have been impossible anyway), as a deliberate attempt to create a solid consensus would have been highly misleading in view of the many uncertainties which remain.

A few details appear to have been misleadingly presented or at least should have been argued more convincingly. Here is a brief list of examples: the legend of Map 1 is rather unhelpful and seems to have been taken from some other map (18); the statement that Athens escaped devastation by Alaric is highly questionable in view of recent archaeological evidence (115); I also wonder if we can say that Alaric's sack of Rome was "a final act of rage and despair" (did he know that he would soon die?) (128); I am not convinced that the *Testamentum Porcelli* had anything to do with soldiers (230); the *solidi* and pounds of gold have been confused in Olympiodorus' account of medium-rich senators (300); the extent to which the church attracted to itself "men of the first rank" in the fourth century seems exaggerated: at least it is difficult to see what positive role such a sharp-tongued troublemaker as Jerome could have had in the secular administration (365); the name of A. Enmann, the discoverer of the *Kaisergeschichte*, is twice misspelt, in each case differently (684, 831). However, all these are just marginal points and in no way diminish the great value of the work as a whole.

This volume canonizes the new perception of late antiquity which has been developing over the past decades. The contemporary school of thought refuses to see the Later Roman Empire as a period of decadence and argues that the apparent decline is only an anachronistic teleological interpretation of the facts (because we know that the Empire finally fell). Instead, it maintains that the agricultural production did not diminish, cities