The study of Roman collegia has usually used legal texts and inscriptions as its sources. Studies based on both types of material have indeed been published also recently. Bollmann’s book, based on her dissertation in Heidelberg, contributes to these studies a source so far neglected, architectural remains. Only G. Hermansen has previously used this material when studying collegia at Ostia.

The book consists of two parts: a study of the buildings, their architecture and decoration, and catalogues of all the buildings which can be identified as belonging to a collegium or which are mentioned in inscriptions. After the introductory chapters treating the history and function of Roman collegia Bollmann first defines what a schola is and how it is used: a schola is a building used by a collegium regardless of its type. For cult purposes a special construction was needed. In the main chapter Bollmann treats the different types of scholae using as a basis Hermansen’s four-part grouping: a building with porticoed courtyard and its variations, a temple, which forms the largest group, and a building with a hall. Then the treatment of the decoration is divided into the statuary and the non-statuary decoration. The chapter about the topographical and chronological distribution of the scholae is divided into three periods: republican, first and second century, and third and fourth century. In the closing chapters Bollmann discusses the place of the scholae and the role of the collegia in the towns. The three catalogues consist of certainly and probably identified buildings, of buildings which can be connected to a collegium and of inscriptions where unidentified buildings belonging to a collegium are mentioned. In all the catalogues, the buildings are grouped according to towns, first Rome, second Ostia and then the towns of the rest of Italy. Most of the buildings are found in Rome or Ostia where the main part of the inscriptions concerning collegia also come from. Bollmann’s book, especially the catalogues, will be most useful for further study of Roman collegia.

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