La publication que Camodeca a ainsi menée à bien est à tous égards remarquable, et on ne saurait trop insister sur l’importance historique des tablettes de Murecine. Cet ouvrage doit être présent dans toutes les bonnes bibliothèques, et c’est désormais un classique de l’édition de textes épigraphiques, à mettre sur le même plan que l’excellent fascicule de K. Zangemeister.

Jean Andreau


The idea of bringing together a selection of papers by David Lewis goes back to 1987, but unfortunately he did not live to see the result as a printed book. Shortly before his death in 1994, Lewis asked P.J. Rhodes to make the final decision on what ought to be included in his selected papers. Most of the 38 chapters have been published before; those appearing here for the first time are Nos. 5 (The Athens Peace of 371), 21 (Aristophanes and Politics), 25 (The Financial Offices of Eubulus and Lycurgus), and 26 (The Dating of Demosthenes’ Speeches), each of them revised and edited for publication by Rhodes. Some other unpublished works of David Lewis are deposited in various libraries (p. 411). The earliest paper included in this volume (Ch. 22) dates from 1955, and it already shows what was to be among Lewis’ major interests: Athenian and Attic epigraphy. Not only was he a prominent editor of inscriptions (cf. IG I3, fasc. 1 from 1981), but during his more than forty years of scholarly activity, he also produced a wide range of important contributions to the history of Athens, her institutions and social life (a list of publications of Lewis is printed on pp. 400 ff.). Let it be noted also that “The Decrees of the Greek States” by P.J. Rhodes and David Lewis was published by OUP in 1997. The general index (pp. 414 ff.) facilitates the use of this valuable book.

Mika Kajava


This paperback edition is exactly the same as the hardback from 1997. Jonathan Hall has succeeded well in his difficult task of tackling ethnic identity.

The book is divided into six chapters and a conclusion. The first three chapters consist of different definitions of ethnic identity. They are essential for everyone, who is interested in ethnicity. Hall shows lucidly that ethnic identity is a variable which is always tightly knit to the social and mythological context. His interpretation of different myths of ethnic origin is very illuminating. The hero of these myths of ethnic origin is always coming from some other place, but, as Hall shows, this should not be interpreted straightforwardly as meaning genuine population movements. Instead the myths of origin were tools for the different cities to integrate themselves into a suitable political or socio-political situation.
The fourth chapter is a case study about the ethnic populations of Argolis. As an expert on Argolic history and even archaeology, Hall is able to give an intelligent treatment of the very complex situation of this area which was characterized, according to the literary sources, as being multi-ethnic. The author offers a detailed analysis of the different genealogies of the Argolid interpreting the "genealogical grammar", as he calls the complex patterns of genealogies. The fifth chapter on the relationship of ethnicity and archaeology is, perhaps, hard reading for some archaeologists. However, Hall offers the necessary tools for one wishing to say something about ethnicity on the basis of material culture.

The sixth chapter deals with ethnicity and linguistics. To a linguist, this chapter is problematic since Hall seems to show a genuine interest in this difficult subject. It is, however, very elementary, and, at best, brings forward extremely complex questions. Considerable work has been done during the last decade on areal and contact linguistics. It is evident that the author cannot but scratch the surface. The inclusion of tables of differences between Greek epichoric alphabets is a great help for the reader. The book is furnished with a good index and an ample bibliography.

Martti Leiwo


I imagine that most classical scholars already know that this Heidelberg bibliography is an indispensable tool for a vast range of ancient studies. The enterprise was started in the late 1980s on the initiative of Géza Alföldy, and the first part, by J.-U. Krause, appeared in 1992 with the title "Die Familie und weitere anthropologische Grundlagen". The project is now concluded with an immensely large collection of studies on social structures, conflicts, and mobility in Roman society. The material is arranged under four main sections (1. General treatments of various aspects of Roman social history; 2. Chronological part; 3. Systematic part; 4. Regional studies). The third section in particular is extremely extensive with material on administration, army, arts, commerce, criminality, education, emperor(s), entertainment, finances, handicraft, intellectual life, law and jurisdiction, mobility (regional and social), municipal life, patrons and clients, religions, Romanization, slaves and freedmen, societies, standard of living (clothes, diseases, living, necessities), taxes, etc.

The number of entries amounts to around 16,000 which have been critically selected from some 28,000. The reasonable stress on more modern material means that ca. 23% of the titles have been published in the 1990s, and only a little more than 10% date earlier than the 1960s. What is remarkable is that the editors affirm to have seen personally every title printed in the volume which can be taken to guarantee that the material is correctly divided between individual sections. In sum, a most welcome publication which will constitute a permanent supplement to the issues of l'Année philologique (as is known, the use of the latter is rather complicated and time-consuming for those who are seeking for references in the vast section focusing on "Civilisation").

Mika Kajava