

abbreviated words in the same stamp may have been opened in a different way, not without too many errors). The same procedure is applied to brick stamps published under heading *Tegulae* in other volumes of *CIL*, thus artificially multiplying the number of the stamps and unfoundedly suggesting their use in *lateres* or in *tegulae*.

Three different terms are taken under the same title word TEGULARIUS (p. 213f.): the substantive *tegularius*, the adiective *tegularius*, *-a*, *-um*, and the substantive *tegularium*, which should be clearly distinguished.

It is questionable if it is correct to include under the heading TEGULA such stamps that have the name of the *figlinae* in feminine but without the word *tegula* (e. g. *CIL* XV 53: *Caep[ioniana sc. tegula] Euchar[i] Isaur[icae]*).

The sources used for the collection are not clearly stated in the introductions. The mention of "*CIL, AE, CVarr., Callender ecc.*" seems to point to the almost total omission of other publications, at least when it comes to the brick stamps. Only a small minority of new stamps published after Bloch's *Supplement* have found their way into *AE*, which is not the principal point of reference. The author should at least have had a look at E. M. Steinby, *Appendice a CIL. XV, 1, Bull. Com.* 86 (1978-79), 55-88, and works mentioned there on p. 56, including e. g. *Lateres Signati Ostienses* with about one hundred *inedita*; Id., *Indici with Aggiunte, completamenti e correzioni a CIL. XV. 1* (p. 31-50). They cover most of the material up to 1987, but naturally several new stamps have been published in various monographies and articles after that.

All in all, the part concerning brick stamps is in need of thorough revision. One might ask if the work would be more useful and coherent if the number of the terms included were increased and the passages quoted were mostly from literary sources. The *instrumentum* could be treated quite differently, viz. concentrating on the analysis of different word-forms and abbreviations without presenting all their appearances in stamp texts.

Pekka Tuomisto

A. DAMSGAARD-MADSEN, *Grækenlands historie indtil 336 f.Kr.* Aarhus Universitetsforlag / Aarhus University Press, Århus 1997. ISBN 87-7288-650-1. 206 s. DKK 198.

This History of Greece, in Danish, is a brisk presentation of the subject. From the Preface one learns that this is, in fact, a second edition of a book originally published in 1993; some differences between the two editions are noted *ibid.* (It is possible that the book has a longer history, for on p. 40 the Cyrillic alphabet is illustrated by the abbreviation CCCP, familiar to the older generation but probably unidentifiable to the student of today.) On the cover, the name of the book is rendered simply as '*Grækenlands historie*', the specification '*indtil 336 f. Kr.*' (that is, to the founding of the League of Corinth) becoming evident only to those who open the first page. This is, then, another of those histories of Greece which end with the aftermath of Chaeronea. In older times, this procedure could be justified by the fact that after 338, Greek history was seen mainly as a sorry tale of decline and decay (see S. Alcock, *Graecia capta* [1993] 3 with a marvellous

quotation from Grote), this allegedly rendering a narration of these times superfluous. On the other hand, it may be argued that even "classical" pre-338 Greece, admired and favoured by historians, was not a period without faults (note the summing up by the emperor Nero, a keen observer of historical evolution, of the main points of the history of Greece in its most happy period, "ἢ γὰρ ἀλλοτρίοις ἢ ἀλλήλοις ἐδουλεύσατε", *SIG*³ 814, line 16), and certainly many today would not expect a modern history of ancient Greece to stop with Chaeronea without some explanation being offered for this (what is said here on p. 11 does not really amount to an explanation). But it is true that although life went on in the Greek city states even after 338, the activities and operations of Alexander introduce new accents into Greek history which necessitate some modifications of the scope of the narration of the historian, and personally I have absolutely nothing to say against historians ending a history of Greece (as opposed to, say, a history of Greeks) at 338 (or 336) BC.

On the other hand, ending at 338 BC does not mean that what comes before this is accorded equal attention in this book. As the author says (p. 10), his main interest lies in the "classical" period, defined (on p. 11) as 600-300 (sic) BC, and this is certainly reflected in the result, for up to the beginning of the colonisation period the exposition is fairly brief (although not at all without interesting and instructive points of view), and some periods now much studied by archaeologists, such as the so-called "Dark Age" (mentioned on p. 11), are barely touched upon. Some aspects, most notably (and somewhat surprisingly) the linguistic situation depending on the existence of various Greek dialects, seem to have been omitted altogether. The narrative becomes more expansive with the onset of the colonisation period which is accorded fairly thorough attention. This part is followed by sections on archaic Sparta and Athens, these leading to a detailed description of the fifth century from the Persian wars down to 404. The interest of the author seems to become less keen at this point, for the fourth century is narrated rather hastily.

Thus, the main core of the book clearly consists of a description of Greek history in the early classical and classical periods. The result seems to me to be a competent and commendably succinct treatment of this subject. In addition to political history, various aspects of Greek life and society are also dealt with; we thus find sections on agriculture, economy, the position of women, various constitutions, etc. 'Cultural' aspects are also noted here and there (e.g., mention of sophists on p. 123), and some phenomena are criticised (e.g., pp. 117f.). Of course, limited space does not allow the author to dwell at length on these topics, and in some cases the exposition seems too brief to be of any real use (thus, e.g., p. 102 on "kvindelīg [female] homoseksualitat"). Furthermore, in the traditional (but also understandable) way the narrative is pretty much focussed on Athens and Sparta, so that places such as (say) Arcadia or Acarnania do not figure at all, except on maps, in this book. (On the other hand, the organisation of the Persian empire is described on pp. 69-71.)

The exposition is interspersed with diagrams, maps and quotations from ancient sources. The sources (with a very clear accent on the literary sources) are touched upon both in the beginning of the book and in the end in a section on the use of sources. There is also a section on "posterity's view of ancient (i.e., classical) Greece" and a 23-page commented bibliography. There seem to be few clear errors (but although Megara may

have had many contacts with the Peloponnese, it is not correct to say that Megara was located in the Peloponnese [p. 54]; and something seems to have happened to the Greek cities on the western coast of Asia in the lower map on p. 72). The conclusion must be that this is a handy and useful volume, especially for those in need of concise historical information on classical Greece.

Olli Salomies

RONALD MELLOR: *The Roman Historians*. Routledge, London – New York 1999. ISBN 0-415-11773-9 (hb), 0-415-11774-7 (pb). 212 pp. GBP 12.99 (pb).

The author of *Tacitus* (1993), Ronald Mellor from the University of California, Los Angeles, has written a useful general outline of Roman historiography, intended to be used as a textbook in universities. A similar textbook on Greek historiography, T.J. Luce's *The Greek Historians* was published by Routledge in 1997. Mellor's aim is to introduce Roman historians and their books in their political and literary context, in order to understand why and how these histories were written. He has succeeded in composing a concise and accessible survey, even though this compactness has its regrettable limits; the author sometimes makes annoying generalizations such as "the Romans were not by nature a speculative people" (p. 27).

In *The Roman Historians*, Mellor shows how we in fact remain dependant on historical reconstructions by a handful of Roman historians. Roman historiography has, for the most part, moulded our ways of perceiving and structuring ancient Roman history; Sallust, for example, has shaped our gloomy picture of the end of the Republic while it is to Ammianus Marcellinus that we owe the rather dark-coloured history of the fourth century. The central themes of Tacitus' narrative of the first century of imperial Rome, growth of tyranny and decline of Roman morality, tend still to dominate our views of the Principate; Tacitus, for example, divides the reigns of Tiberius and Nero into positive and negative phases which is still often taken for granted in modern research.

The Roman Historians introduces the origins of Roman historiography, Sallust, Livy, Tacitus, Ammianus Marcellinus as well as Roman biography (particularly Suetonius, *Historia Augusta*) and autobiography (especially Caesar). Mellor shows how the works of historians are connected with their own lives, e.g., how Sallust, after being driven from public life, channelled his own disappointment and bitterness into examining the political pathology of the Roman Republic. For Mellor, Tacitus is the greatest historian that the Roman world ever produced. He extols Tacitus' works with such words as 'psychological penetration', 'acute political analysis', 'moral grandeur', and 'literary genius'. Although Mellor admires Tacitus and Ammianus Marcellinus, he also shows some appreciation and understanding for the much despised 'salacious scandalmonger' Suetonius, calling him 'the ancestor of the modern scholar' with 'formidable research skills' for Suetonius used archives, acts of the Senate, pamphlets, histories, monuments, inscriptions and oral tradition. Mellor points out that because "the *Lives of the Caesars* is a book written by and for the equestrian ... class" (p. 152), such political issues as the loss