

CINZIA VISMARA & MARIA LETIZIA CALDELLI: *Epigrafia anfiteatrale dell'Occidente Romano V: Alpes Maritimae, Gallia Narbonensis, Tres Galliae, Germaniae, Britannia. Vetera 14*. Edizioni Quasar, Roma 2000. ISBN 88-7140-191-3. 268 pp. EUR 46.48.

This is now the fifth volume of the interesting series of volumes dedicated to inscriptions referring to amphitheatrical matters, initiated in 1988 by P. Sabbatini Tumolesi (who unfortunately died unexpectedly in 1995). The first volume, by Sabbatini Tumolesi herself, was on Rome (but there is going to be another volume on Rome by S. Orlandi, "*Anfiteatri e strutture annesse*", with an edition of the inscriptions from the Colosseum; see the list of the publications in the *Vetera* series at the beginning of this book); the second volume (1989, by G.L. Gregori) was on the Italian regions VI to XI, the third (1992, by M. Buonocore) on regions II to V and on Sicily and the other islands, and the fourth (1996, by M. Fora) on Latium (part of region I). As Professor Gregori, now responsible for the series, observes in his interesting *Presentazione* (p. 7), the volume on the Colosseum (cf. above) and one on Campania are still missing, but both are "in preparazione" (no further details seem to be supplied anywhere on the latter volume). As for the provinces, this volume now covers the NW parts of the empire, and there is going to be another one on Spain (p. 7). Of further volumes (one thinks, e.g., of Africa) there is no mention.

But let us now turn to this volume. From the Contents page and from the Introduction, one sees that C. Vismara was responsible for the *Alpes Maritimae* and *Gallia Narbonensis* whereas M.L. Caldelli was responsible for the rest; accordingly, the material is presented in two chapters corresponding to this assignment of roles. Within the two chapters, the material is presented under four headings, The administration of *munera* (nothing on this in the *Narbonensis* chapter), *munera* and *venationes*, gladiators, amphitheatres. The net is cast wide; it follows that many inscriptions are included which, while containing information pertaining to some aspect of the subject, one would certainly not classify primarily as amphitheatrical inscriptions; thus we have honorific inscriptions mentioning, among other things, also *munera*, and we have inscriptions referring to building or restoration of amphitheatres. This is good news also for those epigraphists who do not normally deal with gladiators and amphitheatres, for it is important to note that this is not a collection of sources, but a scholarly edition: all texts are edited according to modern standards (the edition being in many cases based on autopsy) and furnished with commentaries (but not with translations) and (whenever possible) with photos. Accordingly, if an inscription of general interest happens to include a mention of something pertaining to the amphitheatrical world, one will find it here presented in a format normally superseding earlier editions. For instance, we have here (as no. 58) an edition of the so-called "Marbre de Thorigny" (*CIL* XIII 3162), with a photo and facsimiles and all (of course, in the case of this long and complicated text, the commentary does not include a discussion of every single detail). Further texts of general interest are, e.g., no. 6 (*CIL* XIII 697 from the amphitheatre of Arles) and no. 57 (*CIL* XIII 2949 = *ILS* 7049), the inscription on bronze in honour of C. Amatius Paterninus of Agedincum, a splendid character indeed. But, after all, this volume is dedicated to the amphitheatre and its life, and its main purpose is, of course, not to furnish editions of inscriptions of a more general interest but to collect the material on its subject and to

present it in a systematic fashion. This the editors have achieved and as a result we have a most competent edition of all the inscribed sources pertaining to the world of the amphitheatre from the provinces appearing in the title of the book. In addition to honorific and building inscriptions (cf. above), we have here, for instance, an inscription of a *negotiator familiae gladiatoriae* (no. 10 = *CIL* XII 727; it is notable that Dessau did not consider this inscription interesting enough to be included in his collection) and one of a centurion who had captured 50 bears (probably, as the editor says in the commentary, heading for the amphitheatre) in 6 months (no. 48); then there are, of course, inscriptions of various gladiators, some of them citizens, some of them not (cf. on this the *Considerazioni generali*, p. 176ff.), and (among many other types of texts) also inscriptions pertaining to the seats in an amphitheatre (no. 78, at Lugdunum; on no. 80, similar inscriptions from Paris, there is a useful discussion on their interpretation). No previously unpublished inscriptions seem to be included. At the end, there are various summaries, some of them in the form of tables, these being followed by very detailed indexes. This book is certainly based on solid scholarship. Let us hope that someone will make use of the material contained in this and the other volumes in the series in order to produce an entirely new study of amphitheatres and amphitheatrical life during the Roman Empire.

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SILVIA PALLECCHI: *I mortaria di produzione centro-italica. Corpus dei bolli. Instrumentum 1*. Edizioni Quasar, Roma 2002. ISBN 88-7140-219-7. 319 pp. EUR 48.

Gli studi epigrafici romani hanno fatto, durante diciamo l'ultimo mezzo secolo, enormi progressi. D'altra parte, alcuni settori della ricerca epigrafica sono ancora agli inizi. Particolarmente ciò può dirsi degli studi sull'*instrumentum inscriptum* (o come si soleva dire prima, *instrumentum domesticum*) che sta soltanto ora prendendo l'avvio. Era perciò felice intuizione di un gruppo di studiosi romani e di altre Università italiane, soprattutto di Bari e Siena, quella di cominciare ad occuparsi in maniera approfondita di questo settore degli studi epigrafici. Particolarmente importante si rivela la stretta collaborazione tra varie discipline quali epigrafia, archeologia e storia – solo tale stretta collaborazione può infatti permettere lo sviluppo degli studi riferentisi a questo genere di documenti epigrafici. Dopo anni di lavoro ecco il primo volume dedicato a un particolare gruppo di *instrumenta*, cioè mortai (altri volumi, come quelli sulle anfore, sono in avanzata preparazione).

Il presente lavoro fu originariamente discusso come tesi di laurea presso l'Università di Siena, preparata sotto la direzione di Daniele Manacorda che ha pure scritto una breve Presentazione all'inizio del libro. La Pallecchi, che è per formazione un'archeologa, maneggia bene, come si vede, anche la ricerca epigrafica. Con questo libro ha prodotto un ottimo esempio di come si devono pubblicare i vari generi dell'*instrumentum inscriptum*, che interessa non solo gli epigrafisti, ma anche – e forse soprattutto – gli archeologi, senza parlare dell'importanza che questa documentazione presenta per gli studi della storia e cultura romana in genere.

Il volume si apre con un utilissimo sguardo sulle menzioni del mortaio nelle fonti