

*Scavi del Palatino I: l'area sud-occidentale del Palatino tra l'età protostorica e il IV secolo a.C., scavi e materiali della struttura ipogea sotto la cella del tempio della Vittoria.* A cura di PATRIZIO PENSABENE e STELLA FALZONE. Studi Miscellanei 32. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2001. ISBN 88-8265-119-3. XXXIII, 290 pp., 62 figs., 100 plates. EUR 233.

In the past couple of decades, the Palatine hill has been a stage for much archaeological activity. Many large-scale excavations have been conducted on its slopes and the project on the southwestern slope by 'La Sapienza' university of Rome is one of the longest and largest ones. This volume, edited by Patrizio Pensabene, director of the excavations, and Stella Falzone, also a major contributor to the volume, is just one of the numerous publications on the project, but at the same time, the first of the final publications of the materials. The earliest structures and materials in the area are, quite suitably, the subject of the book.

The volume is divided into two parts, the first presenting the structures and the building history of the area and the second the artifacts found in the excavations. The main subject in the first part is the 4th century BC underground structure found under the cella of the temple of Victoria, but it could also be called an inspiration for a re-evaluation of the results of the previous and current excavations concerning the archaic period and even earlier signs of activity in the area. The book begins with Pensabene's interpretative and synthetic chapter looking at the findings in the light of other similar finds and myths. Then the results of the excavation are presented. The last two chapters deal with protohistoric and archaic development of the area based on all available data.

The arrangement of the texts in the first part was, for me, the greatest problem in this very interesting and well-written book. The fact that Pensabene's interpretative chapter precedes the presentation of the actual archaeological findings was, at least for me, a little bit confusing. It was hard to grasp what Pensabene was actually trying to say because the materials he was interpreting in the light of other similar finds and myths were still unfamiliar. A more conventional approach, that of briefly presenting a general research history, then the materials from the trenches and the re-evaluation of all the evidence for the area might have required more editing and mixing of the tasks of the various writers, but for the reader, this solution would have been easier to follow.

The reassessment of the earlier evidence has long been needed and it is a useful contribution to the study of the Roman topography at its early stages. Successfully assembling the archaeological puzzle from earlier – and mostly poor – documents is always an admirable task. Claudia Angelelli and Stella Falzone have looked at the evidence concerning the huts – four in number according to the authors – and the possible burials before the 6th century BC. Paola Battistelli has studied the evidence for the developments from the 6th to the 4th centuries BC.

Almost half of the book is devoted to the study of the various types of pottery found in the excavation of the round hypogeum. The mid-Republican pottery is perhaps not the best-known aspect of Roman pottery studies so this comprehensive presentation will be valuable for many students of the period.

Despite the slightly confusing arrangement of text, this volume presents interesting and valuable information. The text is also supported by many drawings and

photographs of good quality. All in all, a good addition to the many excavation reports from Rome.

*Eeva-Maria Viitanen*

*La via Appia. Iniziative e interventi per la conoscenza e la valorizzazione da Roma a Capua.* A cura di L. QUILICI e S. QUILICI GIGLI. Atlante tematico di topografia antica - ATTA 11 (2002). "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2003. ISBN 88-8265-228-9. 174 pp. EUR 80.

Il volume accoglie gli Atti dell'incontro di studio sulla via Appia, tenutosi a Santa Maria Capua Vetere nella Seconda Università degli studi di Napoli il 3 giugno 2002 e pubblicato con un'encomiabile celerità. Eccone il contenuto: S. Quilici Gigli, Premessa. La via Appia: l'impegno per la grande strada del Mezzogiorno; A. Esch, La via Appia e la sua fortuna; I. Insolera, Qualche considerazione e qualche problema; AA. VV., La tutela della via Appia tra norme e aspettative; R. De Filippis, La tutela e la valorizzazione della via Appia nella legge della Regione Lazio; R. Paris, La via Appia nel territorio di Roma. Tutela e pianificazione; A. M. Reggiani, La via Appia: interventi di valorizzazione nel Lazio; L. Quilici, La valorizzazione della via Appia al valico di Itri; M. G. Ruggi d'Aragona - V. Sampaolo, L'Appia dal Garigliano al Volturno; C. Blasi, La via Appia: un complesso sistema integrato di archeologia e natura. Dunque una mescolanza di studi storico-archeologici con altri dedicati alla tutela e conservazione. Sotto questo rispetto il volume costituisce una specie di corollario ad altri volumi sull'Appia usciti in questi ultimi tempi (ad es. L. Quilici, *Via Appia*, 1989; *La via Appia*, a cura di S. Quilici Gigli, 1990; *Via Appia. Sulle ruine della magnificenza antica*, 1997). Per i lettori di questa rivista interessanti sono per es. le considerazioni di Esch sulla storia dell'Appia durante i secoli tra l'Antichità e il Medio Evo e i cambiamenti del suo percorso (un esempio classico è che nell'Alto Medio Evo si abbandonò il rettilineo all'altezza di Velletri e fece salire la strada nella città stessa). Né sono privi d'interesse i resoconti più 'archeologici' quali quello del Quilici e quello concernente la parte campana della strada.

*Heikki Solin*

ERNESTO DE MIRO: *Agrigento. I. I santuari urbani. L'area sacra tra il tempio di Zeus e Porta V.* Vol. 1: *Testo*, Vol 2: *Figure e tavole*. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2000. ISBN 88-8265-048-0. 354 pp., 133 figs, CLXV plates. EUR 380.

The Greek temples of Sicily have been the focus of much scholarly attention, both in the field and in many publications. The volume by Ernesto De Miro is a result of both kinds of work. De Miro himself has been active in Sicilian archaeology since the 1950s and has been responsible for many of the excavations featured in this book. The final initiative for making the book came from the excavations in 1990s which added the earlier information in a significant way and somehow required a fuller analysis of all available