

suitable for students and everyone who is beginning to take an interest in ancient history but it is also recommended for teachers and historians alike, as a thought-provoking and up-to-date discussion of historical ideas. This book is a good example of proving Callimachus' thesis, *mega biblion, mega kakon*, right.

Marja Vierros

PETER WILSON: *The Athenian Institution of the Khoregia. The Chorus, The City and the Stage*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2000. ISBN 0-521-55070-X. XV, 435 pp. GBP 70.

This book is divided into three main parts: I. "The Institution"; II. "The *khoregia* in action: Social performance and symbolic practice"; and III. "Beyond Classical Athens". The notes are at the end of the book along with six appendices, a bibliography, and three indices.

Part I (which includes chapters 1. "Private wealth for public performance" and 2. "Organisation and operation") concentrates on the mechanics of the institution of the *khoregia* in Athens and handles issues like, e.g., the number of *khoregoi* needed at the public festivals of Athens and the tasks of these *khoregoi*. Part II (chapters 3. "Aristocratic style"; 4. "*Khoregia* and democracy"; and 5. "Monumentalising victory") discusses the sociology of the *khoregia*, i.e., subjects like the prestige and the ambitions of the *khoregoi* and the essence of the khoregic victory monuments they erected. Part III (chapter 6. "Challenge, change, diffusion") concentrates on the changes of the *khoregia* and its continuity beyond the classical Athens (both temporally and spatially).

There are 31 illustrations in this book. Most of the illustrations depict khoregic monuments but among them there are also some vase paintings which depict the *khoreutai* or the *khoregos* himself. The quality of the illustrations is excellent and they are all mentioned in the text which makes it easy for the reader to bring together an illustration with the author's comments and explanations of it. The appendices are short but full of information, the bibliography is long and imposing, and the indices are exact and easy to use (I found no typographical errors or misprinted references). In short, there is a lot to be praised in this book.

Vesa Vahtikari

PIERRE SÁNCHEZ: *L'Amphictionie des Pyles et de Delphes. Recherches sur son rôle historique, des origines au II^e siècle de notre ère*. Historia-Einzelschriften 148. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2001. ISBN 3-515-07785-5. 574 pp. EUR 100.

C'est une œuvre importante, qui rassemble toute la documentation se rapportant aux structures et à l'histoire de l'Amphictionie des Pyles et de Delphes. Cette institution tint une place unique dans l'histoire grecque, de l'époque archaïque jusqu'à la conquête romaine. Son importance résulte en premier lieu du fait qu'elle se vit confier l'administration du sanctuaire oraculaire le plus fameux du monde antique, sa