Before the discussion of the northwestern provinces, the focus returns briefly to Pompeii, where Alison E. Cooley discusses the survival of Oscan (pp. 77–86). Oscan epigraphy played a part in the city in the period preceding the colony of Sulla, and was "clearly a sophisticated practice". Even though, in the colony, Oscan epigraphy was almost entirely superseded by Latin, there are some instances of Oscan even from the last period of Pompeii. Cooley rightly points out that there is no reason to suppose that all Oscan inscriptions would have been destroyed at a certain point, as has been suggested. Using Joshua Fishman's classic terminology, she suggests a transition from "diglossia without bilingualism" immediately after colonization to "diglossia with bilingualism ... during the Augustan period, or at least by the time of the eruption". Not being a specialist in the history of Pompeii, I still think that the "diglossia without bilingualism" situation, if it ever was there, must have been a short-lived one.

Ton Derks and Nico Roymans’ paper (pp. 87–134) presents a type of support which not too many epigraphists may be familiar with, namely seal-boxes from the Rhine delta, especially from the civitas Batavorum. These seal-boxes are now "generally accepted as having been containers for wax imprints used to seal a range of items, and written documents in particular". The context here is mostly military, but not exclusively so. The seal-boxes are certainly thought-provoking material in the context of literacy. The catalogue of them, however, is longish – maybe a form of web-based publication could have been used?

The last three papers, by Jonathan H. C. Williams (135–149), William S. Hanson and Richard Connolly (151–164), and Roger S. O. Tomlin (165–179) deal with the less monumental, but the more interesting, epigraphy of Roman Britain. Hanson and Connolly’s research on the distribution of stili in British rural sites continues to explore the prerequisites for literacy, and forms a noteworthy parallel to Derks and Roymans’ paper. The same theme continues in Tomlin’s excellent discussion on curse tablets or ‘judicial prayers’, as the author calls them.

Greg Woolf’s afterword, “How the Latin West was won” (pp. 181–188), sums up the discussion. He makes some remarks worthy of consideration, such as “Latin was never as administratively or culturally central to Rome as Greek was to Hellenistic Empires” (p. 181). However, though some situations discussed in the volume support this statement, some may point in the opposite direction. Woolf stresses the need to analyze literacy more accurately, with the aid of concepts such as "military literacy", "monumental literacy", "commercial literacy", etc. The key to the emergence of the Latin West were the numerous innovations and transformations in writing practices.

Kalle Korhonen
good that this volume was produced by the most eminent authority on the area, M. G. Granino Cecere, who has been working, and publishing, on Latium vetus for years (cf. the reference to "continue perlustrazioni del territorio" in the Introduction). From the same introduction, one learns that about 90% of the photos were taken by the author herself, not by professional photographers; the result is, in any case (as far as I can see), impeccable. (There are also some instances where photos are furnished for monuments which no longer exist; e.g., no. 64.)

As Latium vetus consists of quite a few cities with an important epigraphical heritage, one will find here photos (and further most useful information, cf. below) of many important and well-known inscriptions (e.g., no. 48, the actor M. Aurelius Agilus Septentrio; no. 66, the lex collegii Dianae at Antinoi; no. 271, the senator C. Iavolenus Calvius, etc.; no. 430, the senator L. Annius Vetus [now in Palma de Mallorca; another L. Vetus in no. 636]). The number of texts presented here is 1,090, whereas CIL XIV seems to contain about 2,200 inscriptions from places other than Ostia. Taking into account that the total number of inscriptions in this collection (i.e., 1,090) also includes some 200 inscriptions published in the Ephemeris Epigraphica, the conclusion seems to be that around 40 per cent of the inscriptions in CIL XIV appear in this book.

But it is not only the photos which make this book useful, for the individual lemmas also include information of great value on the inscriptions (the measurements, the present collocation, etc.), and an up-to-date bibliography is also given. In fact, about the only thing that is missing is the text of the inscriptions itself (I have been wondering whether the texts should not have been added; then this book would, in practice, have replaced large parts of CIL XIV.) It is also to be noted that the readings of many inscriptions have been improved; these inscriptions appear in the "Conguagli" designated with an asterisk ("testo emendato"); there are also marks for "testo acceciato" and "testo diminuito"). For instance, CIL XIV 2831, the funerary inscription of a senator, C. Sessius Calpurnius Quadratus "Sittianus", is equipped in the "Conguagli" with an asterisk. If one looks at the photo (or at the note by Granino Cecere) at no. 428, one sees that the second cognomen is in fact not Sittianus (a name used by me a long time ago to show that this fellow came from Cirta, where Sittii are attested in abundance) but Silianus (the first instance of this cognomen, by the way; unfortunately, this new information does not seem to have found its way into the new fascicle of the Prosopographia imperii Romani). In no. 647, postulante in CIL XIV 2991 becomes postulanti and thus a new instance of an ablative ending in -nti. On the other hand, some inscriptions seem to have received an asterisk without being really entitled to this (e.g., CIL XIV 2319 = no. 182 has an asterisk, but I cannot see a difference between the text in CIL and the one to be read on the stone).

The presentation of the monuments starts from the ager Laurentinus and proceeds anti-clockwise to Fidenae and Aque (with some milestones at the end; within each city or some other subsection, the monuments are presented in a certain order depending on the form of the monument in question. Ficulea (to choose an example) thus starts with an "ara", this being followed by a "base", several "cippi", etc. This seems reasonable, although those used to finding, e.g., all senators in one place will have to face the fact that senators appear in quite a few different types of epigraphic monuments.

I observed some minor mistakes (for instance, no. 245 is said to be identical with ILS 880, no. 247 with ILS 994, no. 936 with ILS 1324, but there is something wrong here; in no. 949, the name should be P. Sulpicius Quirinius), but their number is negligible, and the overall impression is that of very solid quality. This is without doubt one of the most important epigraphical books published in recent years.

Heikki Solin


Fritz Gschnitzer is a leading figure in the field of Greek and Roman history and epigraphy. His work has been influential in the study of ancient cultures, and his publications are highly regarded. In his Kleine Schriften, Gschnitzer presents a series of essays that cover a wide range of topics in Greek and Roman history. The present volume includes two parts, the first focusing on Greek and the second on Roman history. The essays are well-written and thought-provoking, and they contribute significantly to the understanding of ancient societies.

As with many of Gschnitzer's works, the present volume is highly detailed and comprehensive. The essays are well-structured and easy to follow, and the use of footnotes and references is thorough. The book is also well-organized, with each essay clearly marked and numbered. This makes it easy for readers to find and reference specific parts of the text.

The essays in this volume cover a number of important topics in Greek and Roman history, including the role of women, the evolution of social structures, and the impact of political events on society. Each essay is well-researched and well-written, and Gschnitzer's style is clear and easy to follow.

Overall, this is a valuable contribution to the study of ancient history, and it is highly recommended for anyone interested in the field. Whether you are a professional scholar or an interested lay reader, this book is sure to provide insights and information that will enhance your understanding of ancient societies.
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Olli Salomies


In 1887 (new ed. 1911), Barclay V. Head published his famous Historia Numorum, a handbook that provided a general survey of the whole of Greek coinage. The present volume begins a completely new survey aiming to revise and complement Head's volume. The first part has now appeared under the general editorship of K.N. Rutter, in collaboration with several leading numismatists and historians. Its purpose is to "provide a clear account of the Greek and local coinages of peninsular Italy down to the Second Punic War", including also some later non-Roman issues in Italy, as those of Paestum. This volume will be of utmost utility for classical scholars, and it is to be hoped that other, similar volumes of equally high quality will continue the courageous enterprise of replacing the old and venerable Head.

Heikki Solin


Fritz Gschnitzer is a flourishing carrier of the Greek and Roman numismatic, epigraphical and historiographical studies. His works have long been a reliable source of information on the history of the Greek and Roman world, and his bibliography is an indispensable tool for any scholar interested in the field. His latest volume, Historia Numorum: Italy, is a comprehensive survey of the coinage of peninsular Italy, from the earliest times to the end of the Roman Empire. The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the Greek coinage, and the second with the Roman coinage. Each section is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the region of Latium, and the second with the regions of Campania, Apulia, and Magna Graecia. The book is illustrated with numerous photographs and maps, and is accompanied by a detailed bibliography and a comprehensive index.

The book is a valuable resource for any scholar interested in the history of the Greek and Roman world, and is highly recommended for libraries and individual scholars. The authors are to be commended for their thorough research and careful editing, and the book is a fitting tribute to the late Fritz Gschnitzer, one of the leading scholars in the field.