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 Agiliius Septentrio; no. 66, the lex collegii Dianae et Antinoi; no. 271, the senator C. Iavolenus Calvinius, etc.; no. 430, the senator L. Antistius Vetuus [now in Palma de Mallorca; another L. Vetus in no. 626]). 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 accresciuto” and “testo diminuito”). For instance, CIL XIV 2831, the funerary inscription of a senator, C. Scius 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 Sillianus (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 postulant[1], 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 Aquea (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 Quirinianus), 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.

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


The second Band, Historische und epigraphische Studien zur Alten Geschichte seit den Perserkriegen, umfasst Beiträge zur Geschichtsschreibung, zur griechischen und römischen Geschichte und zu griechischen Inschriften sowohl der klassischen, hellenistischen wie römischen Zeit. Ein kurzes Verzeichnis von Nachträgen und die Indices runden den Band ab. Die Beiträge sind in der ursprünglichen Form, wie sie in der Erstpublikation veröffentlicht wurden, wiedergegeben, was gelegentlich die Lesung erschwert (z. B. die Artikel aus dem Neuen Pauly 491-494). Das betrifft nur das Äußere, und
This book purports to be an introduction to the wonderful world of historical theory, aimed specifically at a theory-ignorant student of ancient history. The book arises from Morley’s (henceforth M.) own experiences with "theory," starting from his first meetings with theoretical thinking "marked by incomprehension, boredom and […] catastrophic performance…" His later involvement with theoretical thinking has led him to write this book as a repayment of "the intellectual debt".

M. starts his repayment in the first chapter ("Approaches: the problem of theory") by presenting the position of "theory" in current classical scholarship (obstructive and complicated) and then his own view of what theory should be (constructive and clarifying). Then he investigates the uses of generalisations and models from his position, trying to show how well-defined, systemically constructed models and the use of modern concepts can open new perspectives on old problems without necessarily falling into the trap of anachronism. He stresses the point that whatever we do, we still belong to our own time, and writing history by "letting the sources speak for themselves" is impossible, as the sources do not speak, but are read and interpreted by us and therefore, it is better for the historian to recognise the present-boundedness of his own concepts.

As a solution, M. argues for well-defined concepts and against the indiscriminate use of classical words; additionally, he spends some pages strongly defending Hopkins' model-based approaches to the study of taxation in the Roman empire and Finley's theoretical concept of the "consumer city." More than the results and contents of these studies, he emphasised their methodology, with models and defined theoretical concepts, and ends his final defence in stating that the final test for a theory "is not just whether it is persuasive but whether it is productive", i.e. it opens new discussions and novel ways of seeing the subject.

In the second chapter ("Ancient and Modern. The invention of the ancient economy") M. examines the way in which ancient economies have been studied during the last decades. This is perhaps the strongest chapter of the book, reflecting M's own interest in the study of ancient economy, presenting well the primitivist - substantivist - arguments and the ongoing effect of Finleyan concepts even in recent research.

The following three chapters are more or less a description of the important research subjects in the historiography of the late 20th century. In the chapter "The limits of the possible," in sections "materialism," "la longue durée," "demography, diet and disease" and "ecology" M. nominally presents an argument between the "idealistic" and "materialistic" approaches, where he (in favour of the materialist approach) presents the kinds of things that have been studied from the materialistic view that the physical environment is the controlling power over culture, ideas and thinking. He follows this theme through the work of Ferdinand Braudel up to modern ecology and studies on Roman demography.