soltanto nel 1940; tuttavia i risultati delle indagini eseguite non furono mai resi noti.

L’autrice offre nel volumetto, dopo l’introduzione, un Catalogo dei reperti, tra cui una trattazione della Tabula Rapinensis (Vetter 218), seguito da qualche conclusione relativa al contesto storico. Auguriamo alla collana un buon proseguimento.

Heikki Solin


Un ulteriore volume della collana delle stipe votive. I materiali analizzati nel presente lavoro appartengono a un deponente votivo scoperto a Cuma nel 1911 durante indagini archeologiche condotte sulla terrazza inferiore dell’acropoli, rimaste inedite e pubblicate ora nel presente volume. All’introduzione segue il Catalogo, a cura di tutte e tre le autrici; il libro finisce con considerazioni sulla topografia dell’area sacra e sulla tipologia del culto dalla mano di Jannelli.

Heikki Solin


The countryside around Rome is currently experiencing a very lively research period. Many excavations and surveys provide new archaeological information on old and new sites, and even literary sources concerning the area have been reanalyzed. One of the most important types of ancient monuments found in the area is definitively the Roman villa, which has been documented in great numbers since the Renaissance period. We are getting close to the point where synthetic work is possible and even necessary. Marina De Franceschini (MDF) has in her cataloge of one hundred excavated villas found inside the borders of the modern city of Rome also tried to create a synthesis of the data she presents. She has a history of writing cataloges concerning Roman villas (Villa Adriana: mosaici, pavimenti, edifici from 1991, see also website: http://www.villa-adriana.net/ and Le ville romane della X Regio (Venetia et Histria): catalogo e carta archeologica dell’insediamento romano nel territorio, dall’età repubblicana al tardo impero from 1999). Thus, she is an expert in collecting and organizing data, which is also evident in the volume at hand, which has better organized, referenced and indexed information than is usually available in publications of this kind.

The book has been divided into three major parts. The first part contains the catalogue of the villas and it covers a little over half of the whole. The second consists of ca. 45 pages of short, analytical and synthetic chapters drawing some conclusions on various aspects of the villas. The third deals more or less with the same matters as the second part as it provides the indices for various materials and finds as lists – not in prose text as in the previous part. The book ends with a large section of colour plates reproducing the ground plans with various aspects (e.g., presence of cisterns, water channels, porticos, building phases) highlighted in color. The catalogue part is naturally equipped with a great number of photographs, drawings and maps. The locations of the villas have been presented only on a 1:80,000 scale map attached to the volume.

The aim of the book has been defined as the reconstruction of the typology and evolution of the villa in the territory of Rome (p. xiii). In order to achieve this aim, MDF has selected one hundred sites based on two criteria: location inside the modern city of Rome and existence of a sufficiently detailed ground plan. MDF considers the fairly limited number of such sites as a sufficient sample of all types of villas found in the area, but does not argue her case statistically. Additionally, the completely artificial limitation of the research area has little to do with the realities of ancient villeggiatura. She does not comment on the total numbers of known sites and the state of research in the area except to lament the poor state of excavation and documentation. This is a pity, as she has had to plough through a great deal of literature and archival material, and would have thus been in a perfect position to comment on the possible needs for further research. She could also have drawn conclusions on the formation processes of the sites, the way in which the material has come about, having read through a great quantity of excavation reports. These kinds of insights would have added greatly to our knowledge and understanding of the archaeology of this important area. The chapter presenting the principles and methods consists only of 3.5 pages of very general text, which I think is not sufficient.

The catalogued villas are presented in a consistent manner – one of the strengths of the book. There is a section for general information such as name, location, research history and date. This is followed by a description of the building techniques, installations connected to water, baths and agricultural production, decorative elements and finds. Then the text continues with a description of the building phases as well as conclusions on the character and structure of the whole site. Each entry finishes with a bibliography. The plans are, in general, reproductions of published ones with a minority of original plans. The maps seem to have been scanned and partially treated with some kind of computer-aided drawing program. Some of the scans are quite smudgy and difficult to read and the situation is not helped by MDF’s overlaid highlights by particularly in the black and white text section. The situation is better in the color plates. Most of the plans have been printed with north towards the top of the page, but there is also plenty of variation to this, which sometimes makes connecting plans to each other a bit difficult. The photos rarely contain any kind of information on direction and sometimes lack references to room numbers. Bibliographical data also show some gaps, particularly when it comes to integrating survey data with the excavated finds. MDF has not always bothered to check the survey records – which almost invariably exist at least in the eastern part of her research area (e.g., sites 17 and 33, among others). Despite these shortcomings, the general quality of the text is mostly better than in the original excavation reports due to the author’s insight based on her wider view of the data set.

What I would have perhaps wished to see in the descriptions is a more accurate system of indicating location. The way this data is given in the current Italian system is by using place names derived from roads, houses, farm names, etc. The exact location is indicated by distance along the road, by house/plot numbers and sometimes by direction and distance from major buildings. These are all unsatisfactory, as all can change and be forgotten. I would think that the hundreds of archaeological and epigraphical pieces found in