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The Edinburgh Companion to Ancient Greece and Rome. Edited by EDWARD BISPHAM, THOMAS HARRISON and BRIAN A. SPARKES. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh 2006. ISBN 978-0-7486-1629-9. XII, 604 pp. GBP 120.

As is stated in the "Introduction", the book under review here – ably edited by Edward Bispham, Thomas Harrison and Brian A. Sparkes – is intended as a reliable, accessible and up-to-date source of practical reference for students of classics and ancient history, and one which their teachers may also find valuable. It aims to impart basic information, clearly and concisely, and to introduce its target readership to the contrasting perspectives and methods of the various disciplines that are concerned with the world of ancient Greece and Rome (p. ix).

It is certainly no easy task for a reviewer to do justice to a volume consisting of 70 chapters by 57 different hands. It is inevitable that the focus will be on the organizational structure of the book at the expense of the efforts of the individual contributors. But, let it be noted at the very outset of this assessment that the authors, drawn mainly from the UK (presented on pp. 582–587), in most cases have succeeded in providing concise but well-informed overviews of the topics assigned to them.

The book is organized in four main parts, the first of which, "Part One: Classics and the Classical World", is further divided into three broad sections (A–C). Section A, "Classics and the Twenty-First Century", consists of eleven chapters providing an overview of the history of Classical Scholarship (ch. 1, pp. 3–8) as well as more detailed presentations of the main areas of current research: "History", "Archaeology", "Religion", "Economy", "Gender", "Philology and Linguistics", "Literature", "Philosophy", "Art History and Aesthetics", and "Classical Legacies", the study of the transmission and reception of classical culture (chs. 2–11, pp. 9–63). Section B, "The Regions of the Ancient World", comprises three chapters dealing with the "Ancient Near East" (of the pre-classical era), "Iron Age Europe" and the Classical World (chs. 12–14, pp. 67–83). The last one, entitled "Regions of Antiquity" and authored by Nicholas Purcell, is a superb discussion of conceptual geography in antiquity as well as in modern historical scholarship (pp. 78–83). The six chapters of section C, "Periods", provide chronological surveys of the historical developments during the various periods of classical antiquity, conventionally conceived, from "The 'Dark Age' of Greece" to "Late Antiquity" (chs. 15–20, pp. 87–120).

The topics covered by the fourteen chapters constituting "Part Two: Material Culture" (chs. 21–34, pp. 123–274), are more varied than some readers would expect from such a title. Ranging from the geographical setting itself, in the chapters "Landscape" and "Sites and Features", through "Buildings and Architecture" to "Gems, Jewellery and Glass" at the other end of the scale, the subjects of this part of the book do not only include marine archaeology (in a chapter thus entitled), arts and crafts such as "Sculpture", "Painting, Stucco and Mosaics", "Pottery and Metalwork", "Dress and Textiles" and "Arms and Armour", but also "Coinage" as well as, even more notably, "Papyri", "Manuscripts" and "Inscriptions" as historical documents.

In most standard introductions to the study of the Ancient World, such categories are dealt with in a separate survey of the written sources. There is no such survey in this book, but the written heritage (including formal literature) and other forms of immaterial culture is the subject matter of the third part.

The twenty-five chapters that make up "Part Three: Texts and Genres" (chs. 35–59, pp. 277–444) discuss the whole range of literature of classical antiquity beginning with poetry. After two chapters on epic (Greek and Roman), two on tragedy, two on drama, two on lyric poetry, there are discussions of "The Novel", "Letters", "Rhetoric", "Literary Criticism", "Grammar and Linguistics", "Philosophy", Greek and Roman historiography (in separate chapters), "Geography and Ethnography", "Mythology", "Christian Literature", "Science and Mathematics", "Music", "Medicine", Greek and Roman legal texts (separately) as well as of "Technical Writing" (agriculture, architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, mechanics, warfare and encyclopedias). There is not, as might have been expected, a discussion devoted specifically to metre in connection with the overview of Greek and Latin poetry, but such a feature is included in the last part of the volume.

"Part Four: Essential Information and Systems of Reference" contains eleven thematically, and typologically, very varied contributions (chs. 60–70, pp. 447–581). It is difficult to avoid the impression that we are here dealing with leftover texts that did not fit into the structure of the previous sections of the book. However, this is not to say that these contributions are not essential features of a book that aims to be a work of reference on the ancient world. The chapters on "Politics", "Names and Naming Systems", "Writing Systems", "The Ancient Calendar" and "Metre" constitute thorough treatises of their topics whereas the remainder of the contents is made up of tables, lists and maps: "Measures, Weights and Money", "Time-charts", "Maps" (containing nine maps), "Glossary of Ancient and Modern Terms", "Resources" (featuring information on libraries, museums, classical societies, classical departments in British universities, reference volumes and other literature on various aspects of the classical world, as well as websites, software and databases) and "Abbreviations".

Each chapter of the book is accompanied by a bibliography of further reading, which enhances the book's value as an introduction to classical studies. However, it can be observed that titles in languages other than English are heavily underrepresented. It should also be noted that the book is profusely illustrated with well-captioned, black-and-white photographs, line drawings and figures, but there is no list of these illustrations.

This accessible and attractively produced book, representing an outstanding effort to present the materials and methods of classical scholarship in one single volume, deserves many readers and is a must for every scholarly library.

Kaj Sandberg

Saggi in onore di Paolo Verzone. A cura di DARIA DE BERNARDI FERRERO. Hierapolis, Scavi e ricerche 4. *Archaeologica* 137. Giorgio Bretschneider Editore, Roma 2002. ISBN 88-7689-201-X; ISSN 0391-9293. 286 pp., 280 figg. nel testo. 280 EUR.

A Paolo Verzone, emerito del Politecnico di Torino, scomparso nel 1986, è stato dedicato, in occasione del centenario della nascita (2002), il quarto volume della serie "Hierapolis di Frigia.