

suddividendone la presentazione in "La città tra età imperiale e tarda antichità" (pp. 393–6); "I secoli V e VI" (pp. 396–9) e "Conclusioni" (pp. 399–401). Dopo aver ricordato i principali studi ed aver lamentato l'insufficienza documentaria, passa a presentare la documentazione di scavo attualmente disponibile, non senza aver posto in risalto l'attività portuale del sito come elemento di continuità. Pur considerando quella di *Paestum* una situazione di strisciante difficoltà e di anticipata frattura della struttura urbana romana, conclude optando per una mutazione d'uso e per una diversità di modi di occupazione, piuttosto che per un abbandono completo.

Completa i lavori la "Tavola Rotonda" (pp. 411–27) con due interventi, l'uno di Eliodoro Savino, su "Continuità e trasformazione del tessuto urbano prima della conquista longobarda" (pp. 413–9); l'altro di Paolo Delogu, su "Ricerca archeologica e riflessione storica: una problematica esaurita?" (pp. 421–7), che coordinando i risultati, inquadrandoli in un contesto storico ed in una problematica più generali.

Teresa Strocchia ha curato "l'Indice dei nomi di persona e di luogo" (pp. 429–50).

Laura Chioffi

*Ager Veleias. Tradizione, società e territorio sull'Appennino Piacentino (con nuova edizione e traduzione della Tabula Alimentaria di Veleia).* A cura di NICOLA CRINITI. La Pilotta Editrice, Parma 2003. ISBN 88-7532-071-3. 387 pp. EUR 18.

Nicola Criniti, the author of *La tabula alimentaria di Veleia* (Deputazione di Storia Patria per le Province Parmensi, Parma 1991), confesses in the introduction (Premessa) to this work that he never would have thought producing another book on Veleia, but the enthusiasm of others made him return to the subject, and the results are collected in this book. "The others" are mainly responsible for the new research on Veleia published in the book, whereas Criniti himself has used the occasion to publish a new critical edition and translation of the *tabula alimentaria*.

As seems natural in the Italian academic tradition, the works are detailed ad nauseam, but somewhat lacking in analytical depth. The chapter starting the book, Tiziana Albasi's and Lauretta Magnani's "Una storia infinita: scoperta, tradizione, fortuna di Veleia" is a detailed account of the archaeological history of the site of Veleia and the complicated history of the *tabula* itself. The data presented is very relevant to anyone wanting to study Veleia's antiquity, since it tells what has been done by whom and when, but the chapter itself is more interesting for anyone interested in the development of the attitudes towards the past in modern Italy.

Luca Lanza's "historical reading of an ancient site" is a fascinating read. In it, Lanza describes the urban form and the major structures of ancient Veleia, with an unashamedly narrative style, where the narrative is structured around the logical flow of the analysis in a spatially organized and socially interpreted city-space. In other words, Lanza's description follows a logic that is both natural and well structured, and by this logic, it betrays our assumptions of spatial relations and social order.

Ilaria di Cocco describes her research project where she is using GIS to analyse the material in the *tabula alimentaria*, trying to reconstruct land usage patterns, locations of the

pagi, etc. The research sounds promising, but in this book, di Cocco presents only a textual description of the analysis of the locations of the pagi with a crude map showing her new interpretations for the locations of the seven pagi. One would expect someone working with GIS to be able to produce a somewhat better map than this.

In his contribution, Marco Cavalieri studies the evidence of bronze items in the Veleian territory, and based on this, presents a model to explain the bronze production on a larger scale. In his model, production was itinerant in the sense that instead of transporting the final products, what moved around were the masters having the skills to work bronze, and thus, the sporadic appearance and disappearance of bronze production at various sites. The model is intriguing, and is comparable to later medieval practices.

Gianluca Mainino presents a socio-political analysis of the institution of the *alimenta* by introducing comparative material from a letter of Pliny the Younger and other relevant material. His contribution is part of a larger work, as he notes, but still manages to give a lucid image of an operation that was, in the end, profitable to all parties involved – the Emperor, the local land-owners and the recipients of the *alimenta*.

The next chapter, by Caterina Scopelliti, is actually an onomasticon of Veleia. In addition to the material present in the *tabula*, Scopelliti has also collected all local names from other inscriptional sources and literature, and also includes in the list also the names of the properties listed in the *tabula*, with owners and references to neighbouring properties. Most of the information is, of course, present in the *tabula* itself, but is here presented in a more accessible and usable form and this is an useful reference for anyone looking for persons active in this region.

Next in the book is the new, revised edition and translation of the *tabula alimentaria* by Nicola Criniti with an apparatus criticus at the end. Basically, Criniti just confirms his earlier work, but uses the occasion to correct some minor errors.

In the end, the three appendices by Cecilia Barbieri and Nicola Criniti contain a list of historical and epigraphical sources on the *ager Veleias*, a list of the editions and translations of the *tabula alimentaria*, and a bibliography of Veleian studies from 1900 to 2000. The book concludes with a collection of maps by Luca Lanza.

In addition to the onomasticon and the edition of the *tabula*, the main interest in the book lies in the few longer chapters in the beginning of the book, especially Lanza's. All close with a bibliographical note, providing the reader with ample references for further research. One can hardly call this study ground-breaking in any way, but it is a good introduction to the potentials of the *tabula alimentaria*, although the contributions stay clear of actually using the material in the *tabula* for anything.

One still has to wonder, though, how it has been possible to produce a book where the text looks so horrible. The layout itself is acceptable, although the pages are often crowded with too much text, too long lines and too small distance between the lines. The paper is of good quality, but the fonts look messy and unclean. It seems as if the whole book had first been printed with a bad printer, then photographed or scanned and sent to the press. Also, some of the images have been digitalized very unprofessionally, and the resolution has been much too low. The numerous maps of the site and the region really should have been redrawn. There is only one photograph of the whole *tabula*, on p. 360, but it is much too small, and even the detailed photo on the next page is only illustrative. Considering the very acceptable price of the book and the amount of visual material printed at the end of the book,

one wishes that the editor had decided to include a complete photographic record of the tabula in it, too, even with a slight increase in the price.

*Harri Kiiskinen*

*The Cambridge Economic History of the Greco-Roman World*. Edited by WALTER SCHEIDEL – IAN MATTHEW MORRIS – RICHARD PAUL SALLER. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2007. ISBN 978-0-521-78053-7. XVI, 942 pp. GBP 120.

It is impossible to approach a monument like this as an ordinary book. After all, this is a book with many of the biggest names working with the economic history of the Graeco-Roman world taking part in a joint effort to update the outdated views many general accounts still present of the level and nature of economic activity in the Classical World.

The book begins (Part I. Determinants of economic performance) by analyzing some central constituents of economic activity. Robert Sallares on Ecology, Walter Scheidel on Demography, Richard P. Saller on Household and gender, Bruce W. Frier and Dennis P. Kehoe on Law and economic institutions and Helmut Schneide on Technology set out to define the common characteristics defining economic activity in general in their particular instantiations of Graeco-Roman Antiquity. It is clearly their intention to provide the "big picture", the common framework the Classical World shared. There are two sides to this approach: on one hand, it is worthwhile for the reader to get an introduction to some of the very defining features of the Classical World, but on the other hand, this kind of approach often leaves little room for change and development – a problem tackled differently by different contributions. Saller has chosen to separate Greek and Roman cultures in his presentation, whereas Sallares' view of ecology is so static that one is left to wonder whether there was any environmental or climate change at all.

The rest of the book is organized around periods and temporal regions, with the exception of Classical Greece and the Early Roman Empire. The past is not a democratic thing, and whereas for most periods and regions, the texts are scarce, and archaeology provides the fullest material, these two places and periods are the traditional battle ground for scholars, since the interplay between literary sources, increasing analyses of the archaeological material and the very specialized evidence of the inscriptions provide ample grounds for varying interpretations.

In the second part (Part II. Early Mediterranean economies and the Near East) the contributions are divided according to a very traditional sequence: John Bennet on the Aegean Bronze Age, Ian Morris on Early Iron Age Greece, Michael Dietler's *The Iron Age in the western Mediterranean* and Robin Osborne on Archaic Greece follow the periods of a very traditional view of history, but the addition of Peter R. Bedford's *The Persian Near East* expands the view well into this often ignored Empire.

The third part (Part III. Classical Greece) is divided into three chapters, describing the patterns of production (John K. Davies), distribution (Astrid Möller) and consumption (Sitta von Reden) – a structured approach that is used also in the sixth part (Part VI. The Early Roman Empire), where in addition to production (Dennis P. Kehoe), distribution (Neville Morley) and consumption (Willem M. Jongman), there is also a chapter on the state and the