

absolutely delicious quotation of sociological nonsense from the book under review); or p. 522, 'Frequently the book draws its information from the tepid tap of recent distillations, and not from the spring of the original masters' (note also, e.g., the observation on *corruptelae*, p. 307).

All papers reproduced here have been furnished with addenda inserted in the text within brackets; in the end (p. 609ff.), there are about 30 pages of *addenda et corrigenda* to papers in vol. I. The volume is rounded off by very detailed indexes. This is a great book which should be found in every respectable library.

*Olli Salomies*

*A Companion to the Roman Republic*. Edited by NATHAN ROSENSTEIN – ROBERT MORSTEIN-MARX. Blackwell Publishing, Carlton 2008. ISBN 978-4051-0217-9. XXX, 737 pp. GBP 100.

A few years ago, I noted that the Republic is noticeably less covered than the Empire when it comes to scholarly works offering broad and comprehensive presentations of individual periods in Roman history (*Arctos* 38 [2004] 260). The relative dearth of such publications is no longer obvious. After the book edited by Harriet Flower (*The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic*, Cambridge 2004) this is the second multi-authored volume on the Roman Republic, of the now current companion format, to have been released in the world's most accessible language within a time-span of just a few years.

Like its predecessor, this is an anthology by an international team of experts, drawn mostly but not exclusively from the Anglosphere. The book is aimed primarily at a readership consisting of undergraduate and graduate students (p. xxviii), but in providing authoritative and up-to-date overviews of many central themes it constitutes essential reading for anyone professionally associated with its subject. There is a strong emphasis on methodology, more specifically, on how Roman republican history is currently being studied. Recent developments which are highlighted both explicitly and through frequent references include both the ongoing archaeological study of the Apennine peninsula and the increasingly sophisticated approaches to textual sources. Another ubiquitous objective is, evidently, that of introducing students to the many debates currently going on.

The volume is made up of twenty-nine numbered chapters distributed across eight sections. Part I, *Introductory*, offers five chapters on the evidentiary basis for republican studies, a material which is constituted of written texts as well as of physical remains. In the first chapter, "Methods, Models, and Historiography" (pp. 3–28), Martin Jehne deals with the fundamental conceptual frameworks and the many big issues in a highly readable discussion, which effectively provides an overview of all of the research history from Mommsen to the present day. This discussion is followed by two very good presentations of central source categories: "Literary Sources" by Edward Bispham (pp. 29–50) and "Epigraphy and Numismatics" by Mark Pobjoy (pp. 51–80). In the fourth chapter the focus is shifted to the mute sources. "The Topography and Archaeology of Republican Rome", a magisterial account by Mario Torelli (pp. 81–101), is followed by another very valuable overview by Simon Stoddart, "The Physical Geography and Environment of Republican Italy" (pp. 102–21).

In the second part, appropriately entitled *Narrative*, four chapters together provide a contiguous narrative of the political and military history of Rome from the founding of the

city to the assassination of Caesar: "Between Myth and History: Rome's Rise from Village to Empire (the Eighth Century to 264)" by Kurt A. Raaflaub (pp. 125–46), "Mediterranean Empire (264–134)" by Daniel J. Gargola (pp. 147–66), "From the Gracchi to the First Civil War (133–70)" by C. F. Konrad (pp. 167–89) and "The Final Crisis (69–44)" by W. Jeffrey Tatum (pp. 190–211).

Part III, *Civic Structures*, is dedicated to the fundamental structures of civic life. It is very fitting therefore, as a much-needed reminder of the importance of religion as an omnipresent and integral element of all private and public life in Rome, that the first chapter in this section is a treatise on the Romans' dealings with the divine: "Communicating with the Gods" by Jörg Rüpke (pp. 215–35). The formal legal and constitutional structures are introduced in two discussions by Michael C. Alexander, in "Law in the Roman Republic" (pp. 236–55), and by John A. North, in "The Constitution of the Roman Republic" (pp. 256–77). The last contribution to this section is "Army and Society" by Paul Erdkamp (pp. 278–96), a discussion which in the opinion of this reader would have been better placed in the following section.

Rather unexpectedly, considering the myriad of possible themes evoked by the title, the fourth part, entitled *Society*, comprises a mere two chapters: "Social Structure and Demography" by Neville Morley (pp. 299–323) and "Finding Roman Women" by Beryl Rawson (pp. 324–41).

In Part V, *Political Culture*, themes are found which could perhaps have been treated more efficiently, or at least in a more informative manner, in a section that would have encompassed the whole spectrum of topics with bearing on political life in the Roman Republic. Rather curiously, the section is devoid of a presentation of the constitutional setting (as the "constitution" is dealt with together with religion and law in the section on civic structures). Therefore it strikes me as thematically deficient, as it simply does not constitute a self-contained unit within the book. However, this is not to say that it does not provide rewarding reading. It must be stressed that each individual contribution is an eminent work of scholarship. John R. Patterson, in a piece entitled "The City of Rome" (pp. 345–64), presents the physical stage for political life within its larger urban and social contexts. Among the important themes he considers is the display of wealth, influence and distinction of the powerful through construction of houses and public buildings in the city, through various kinds of public entertainments and through the erection of tombs along the roads outside the city gates. Nathan Rosenstein, in the chapter "Aristocratic Values" (pp. 365–82), discusses the norms and values that underpinned political life. Alexander Yakobson, in his contribution "Popular Power in the Roman Republic" (pp. 383–400), revisits a problem which counts among the most hotly debated issues of recent decades, namely, to what extent the people, in their formally omnipotent electoral, legislative and judicial assemblies, were able to exert real power in a society traditionally seen as an oligarchy run by a small political elite. Following this, two more traditional themes associated with public life and political culture – "Patronage" by Elizabeth Deniaux (pp. 401–20) and "Rhetoric and Public Life" by Jean-Michel David (pp. 421–38) – are explored together with a discussion, by Anthony Corbeill, on the role and importance of physical appearance in political life: "The Republican Body" (pp. 439–56).

The sixth part, *The Creation of a Roman Identity*, contains very stimulating discussions on the essence of Romanness. Erich S. Gruen – to whom, incidentally, the whole volume is dedicated on the occasion of his 70th birthday (both editors are Berkeley alumni) – explores the mental boundaries of Roman identity, and the Romans' attitudes to foreigners, in a masterly

discussion entitled "Romans and Others" (pp. 459–77). Karl-J. Hölkenskamp, in the chapter "History and Collective Memory in the Middle Republic" (pp. 478–95), takes a fresh look at collective memory (a.k.a. cultural memory) in mid-republican Roman society, which is clearly one of the very fundamentals for a specifically Roman distinction. A similar quest for what is distinctively/essentially Roman characterizes the two following chapters on art and literature: "Art and Architecture in the Roman Republic" by Katherine E. Welch (pp. 496–542) and "Literature" by William W. Batstone (pp. 543–63).

The last section of the volume, Part VII, *Controversies*, introduces the reader to a series of especially hotly debated issues in current scholarship on the Roman Republic. Arthur M. Eckstein, in "Conceptualizing Roman Imperial Expansion under the Republic: An Introduction" (pp. 567–89), discusses Roman imperialism in the light of contending conceptual frameworks. The social consequences of rapidly changing patterns in the rural economy of Italy, and of the conquest and Romanization of the peninsula, are dealt with in the two chapters "The Economy: Agrarian Change During the Second Century" by Luuk de Ligt (pp. 590–605) and "Rome and Italy" by John R. Patterson (pp. 606–24). In the last chapter of the book, "The Transformation of the Republic" (pp. 625–37), the two editors address the developments which led to the Principate as an immediate continuation of the previous system (and not the "fall" of the Roman Republic, which is the canonical view). Though each and every contribution to this section constitutes a very good piece of scholarly work, I only wonder why they have been grouped together at the end of the volume, hidden as it were under a rather uninformative heading, and not assigned to any of the previous thematic blocks. At any rate, the necessity felt to identify a separate group of controversial issues seems somewhat odd in the light of the many discussions, throughout the volume, which document the normal presence of a wide range of contending interpretations.

This Blackwell Companion, which offers a very good overview of much of the evidentiary basis for and the current concerns of Roman Republican Studies, concludes with an extensive *Bibliography* (pp. 638–93) and a (General) *Index* (pp. 695–737).

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MICHAEL P. FRONDA: *Between Rome and Carthage*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-51694-5. XXVIII, 374 pp. GBP 60, USD 99.

Whereas much has been thought and written about the aftermath and long-term consequences of the Second Punic War in southern Italy, there has been considerably less attention paid to the regions in question during the very course of that conflict. Providing a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the whole area during those eventful decades, this volume constitutes a valuable attempt at filling that relative void in scholarship.

Though "southern Italy" is not absolutely self-evident as a geographic concept, and is not defined by the author at any point, the specific setting soon becomes clear enough. It is largely defined by Hannibal's presence in Italy and by the theaters of war after the Battle of Cannae. The whole political and military situation, and much of the historical background, is presented in a substantial "Introduction" (chapter 1, pp. 1–99), in which also the sources and the methodological problems are dealt with (pp. 5–13).