

*Indoctum* dans les pp. 170 et 358 (et même dans les deux Index), *Remarks addressed to an illiterate book-fancier* dans la p. 296 et *Ign. bibl.* dans la p. 379.

Il s'agit d'un livre important pour l'histoire et l'étude des anciennes bibliothèques.

*Orestis Karavas*

HAZEL DODGE: *Spectacle in the Roman World*. Classical World Series. Bristol Classical Press, London – New York 2011. ISBN 978-1-8539-9696-2. 99 pp. GBP11.99 (pb).

The Bristol Classical World Series aims at providing up-to-date guidebooks to various aspects of the ancient world for students at late school and early university level. In *Spectacle in the Roman World* by Hazel Dodge, the series turns its attention to public entertainment, a large and complex field with connections to multiple aspects of the Roman world.

The book consists of seven chapters. The opening chapter presents briefly the most important types of source material. The four following chapters ("The Circus and Chariot Racing", "Gladiators and Gladiatorial Displays", "Animals and Spectacle", and "*Naumachiae* and Aquatic Displays") are dedicated to specific forms of spectacle. In the sixth chapter, Dodge discusses spectacle in Late Antiquity. The final chapter focuses on contexts and modern views of ancient Roman spectacles. All of the chapters are compact, well-written, and consistent in the presumed level of previous knowledge on the topic.

As the visual element was fundamental to spectacles, the numerous illustrations included in the book laudably support the treatment of the material. On the other hand, direct quotations of ancient texts (in translation) are given extremely sparingly. Brief guidebooks of this type tend to emphasize certain sections of their field at the expense of others. Dodge, perhaps unsurprisingly given her general research interest in archaeology, highlights the role of buildings. On the other hand, several forms of spectacle, such as various kinds of theatre, are essentially neglected. As there are introductions to ancient theatre readily available, this shortcoming is not particularly serious. However, a heavier emphasis on sources and methods would have benefited the publication.

Despite the considerable number of previous publications on spectacles and public entertainment, this new introduction by Dodge is a welcome addition. The compact form and precise scope make *Spectacle in the Roman World* a handy guide for a reader with little or no Latin, and only elementary knowledge of ancient Rome.

*Kalle Knaapi*