

ures (chapter 5). In Boeotia (chapter 6), komasts are the most common human figures in blackfigure vases. The dancers are also often shown in a humorous pose, which may confirm "... the coarse and gluttonous reputation of the Boeotians in antiquity" (p. 151). But in addition there are images that are more serious in mood, which may indicate a processional or sacrificial context (p. 175). Moving away from the Greek mainland, the komasts appear in East Greek vases and other media (chapter 7). The images differ from the mainland tradition as they present strong local variants. Some dancers in Chian images wear earrings, a typical male ornament in the East, some wear turbans as well as wreaths. In Clazomenai, in turn, the dancers have long beards and hair on ponytail. But, "the bottom slapping gesture links the dancers of Ionia to each other, and...to their fellow Greeks elsewhere" (p. 221). The last region under study is the West, in a handful of vases especially from Etruria and from Sicily (chapter 8). Going through the analysis of the pictorial motives in each region mentioned above, I would have enjoyed having the regions mentioned in the plates now the individual vases are provided only with the museum and inventory number. The reader has to go back and forth in the pages when wanting to compare the images according the regions. Smith pulls the strings together in chapter 9. It is noteworthy that while the komast dancer can be identified by his typical pose and gesture in many regions, there are major differences in the contexts, details and attributes, each telling something about the local cultures. This underlines the vital importance of analysing the sources carefully and not to put them all in one basket and claim a "universal Greek komast" in this case.

Although there has been a growing interest among scholars to study ancient dance in the last decades, it is still an area with too little detailed and thorough studies. It is, by the way, one area that has no uptodate basic monograph that would take into account the ancient sources and modern theoretical discussions of dance in general. Smith has, on her part, done a great job by providing a systematic revision and an update of the images on black figure vases. This study also points out many relevant themes and aspects to be dealt with in further studies on ancient dance, such as religion/cult, gender, status, sexuality, just to name a few. Those who know only the very basics about Greek vasepainting and/or about studying dance will find this book an excellent read, a fundamental study of one of the many important features in Archaic Greek culture.

*Manna Satama*

*Highways, Byways, and Road Systems in the Pre-Modern World.* Edited by S. E. ALCOCK – J. BODEL – R. J. A. TALBERT. Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester 2012. ISBN 978-0-470-67425-3. XX, 289 pp. GBP 85, USD 102.20.

Tracing routes of human movement before paved roads were built is a difficult task: paths or dirt roads are preserved in only particular environments and written sources are also often incapable of answering these questions. This volume edited by Susan Alcock, John Bodel and Richard Talbert is based on papers presented in 2008 in a conference which tackled the problems of studying human movement globally and from a variety of points of view: sociological, religious, economic and logistical, among others. The chronological scope is also very wide ranging from the first millennium B.C.E. to the 20th century C.E.

The book contains fourteen chapters which are organized by geographical regions. The first four papers feature Asian cases from the 4th century B.C.E. until the early 20th century. These are followed by three chapters on the Americas, one on Africa and one on ancient Persia. The last section concerns Roman roads apart from the last chapter, which is about communication networks in Jewish history. The geographical division works quite well although a thematic organization could also have been applied as can be seen in the introduction.

The Asian section starts with a chapter on the transmission of Buddhism in the difficult terrains of South and Central Asia. Jason Neelis discusses a variety of source materials from literary sources to graffiti, drawings and archaeological finds in tracing the routes of a spreading new religion. The major routes were not necessarily always employed and the natural shortcuts and byways used in the transportation of goods also served the early missionaries. Michael Nylan's chapter on Classical Era China demonstrates the impact of the achievements of the Mediterranean cultures on the study of Chinese history – there seems to be a need to demonstrate that Chinese history matches that of the Mediterranean and this has extended to the study of postal systems and distribution of written messages. However, Nylan's analysis of the available sources reveals that literacy might have not been as widespread as scholars previously thought. Nanny Kim's chapter describes the effect of private effort in road networks in 16th to 20th century China. Confucian ethics required the local elites to contribute to the local infrastructure – a phenomenon also familiar from Roman culture. The only chapter on Japan by Constantine Vaporis discusses roughly the same time period as that dealt with by Kim and the development of the Gokaidō Highway Network. Travel was controlled by local authorities, but although restrictions were applied to the movement of people, these were often evaded and Japanese travellers were able to move on the roads and got to know their country better than ever before.

The arid landscapes of the American Southwest have never been very hospitable to human habitation, but nevertheless present rather spectacular archaeological evidence for both human settlement and movement. James Snead discusses the remains of paths worn into the tuff bedrock as well as staircases carved into the steep slopes from the first and second millennium C.E. Pueblo and Chaco cultures. The Central American jungles inhabited by the Ancient Maya are a complete contrast to the previous landscape, but the remains of the *sacbeob* causeways handled by Justine Shaw are no less impressive although relatively little is known of their building and use histories. The third chapter on the Americas moves further south to the Inca territory, where Catherine Julien discusses the development of the imperial landscape around Cuzco.

Pekka Masonen demonstrates the importance of trans-Saharan routes for connecting the different parts of the African continent with each other as well as with the outside world. The routes were used probably for thousands of years before the Arabs settled in North Africa and connected with the existing trading routes. Pierre Briant's chapter is on logistics of the Achmenid Empire covering huge distances from the Indus valley all the way to the Mediterranean. The routes are traced by using ostraka and letters documenting the provision of rations for travellers. Adam Silverstein discusses the communication routes used by stateless Jews during the Talmudic and Islamic Periods. This is achieved by analysing correspondence concerning religious matters which needed to be transmitted e.g. between rabbis. In the Talmudic period the ways of getting a letter from one Jewish community to another were rare, but during the Islamic period the region was united and this enabled the movement of people and ideas.

The chapters on Rome begin with Roman Egypt and Jennifer Gates-Foster discusses the significance of roads in the preservation of cultural memory. The Pharaonic period left its mark in the landscape in imagery carved in the buildings and rock surfaces along the main routes through Egypt. The same imagery was also adopted in later graffiti as a reminder of the past. Bruce Hitchner's chapter aims at evaluating the efficiency of the Roman road networks in test cases from Roman Gaul and Africa. The good trunk roads were certainly of great importance in most regions for supplying them with goods as well as for trade of their own products. However, they could also cut more remote regions off from cultural and economic influences by directing movement away from secondary routes. Richard Talbert's paper discusses the awareness of the Romans themselves of the interconnectedness of their road networks or rather, the probable lack of it. Relatively little evidence exists to prove that the Imperial administration would have perceived the empire-wide significance of the roads. Michael Maas and Derek Ruths's chapter concerns the Late Antique period and development of the administrative regions at that time. They compare clusters created based on road networks and dioceses formed in the 4th century C.E. and the overlap is considerable.

The volume demonstrates how efficiently all kinds of traces of road networks and human movement can be employed in the analysis of different kinds of societies. The cross-cultural point of view is refreshing and encourages the reader to look further into studies outside his/her own field of expertise.

*Eeva-Maria Viitanen*

*Giuseppe Tomassetti a cento anni dalla morte e la sua opera sulla campagna romana. Atti del convegno di studi (Roma, 6-7 dicembre 2011). Miscellanea della società romana di storia patria LX. A cura di LETIZIA ERMINI PANI – PAOLO SOMMELLA. Società Romana di Storia Patria, Roma 2013. ISBN 978-88-97809-40-4. 234 pp. EUR 35.*

Era un'idea felice di organizzare un convegno a celebrare il centenario della morte di Giuseppe Tomassetti, quel noto personaggio che ha svolto un lavoro appassionato, capillare e importante per la conoscenza della campagna romana (nel senso ampio della parola). Ecco il contenuto del volume degli Atti: Rita d'Errigo, La riflessione storiografica di Giuseppe Tomassetti sulla bonifica dell'agro romano; Giovanni Maria De Rossi, Giuseppe Tomassetti fra topografia antica e topografia medievale; Cristina Carbonetti, Giuseppe Tomassetti e le fonti scritte; Luisa Chiumenti, Giuseppe Tomassetti a cento anni dalla morte e la sua opera sulla Campagna Romana; Fernando Bilancia, Materiali e metodologia nella ricerca storica della Campagna Romana di Tomassetti; Elisabetta Mori, Ritratto inedito di Giuseppe Tomassetti archivista; Susanna Passigli, La svolta del "Tomassetti": la sua Campagna Romana come cerniera fra topografia descrittiva e topografia storica; Francesca Romana Stasolla, Temi e metodi della topografia medievale nella Campagna Romana; Sandro Carrocci – Marco Vendittelli, Proprietà fondiaria, organizzazione produttiva e società cittadina (secoli XII-XIII); Laura Asor Rosa, Cento anni di storia del territorio: la Campagna Romana di Tomassetti, la Carta dell'Agro romano e noi.

Ai lettori di questa rivista interesseranno soprattutto le numerose note del Tomassetti su iscrizioni antiche edite e inedite, raccolte durante i suoi viaggi nel Lazio, piene di nozioni importanti.