

least senatorial orators, lost many of the traditional opportunities for displaying oratory in public on offer to their Republican predecessors; as a result, "the focus of competitive aristocratic eloquence turned inward, away from public audiences and toward other members of the aristocratic group", the Senate, rather than the Forum, now becoming "the primary audience judging an orator's success or failure" (p. 204). However, as pointed out by the author, this does not of course mean that the need for "vigorous, dramatic oratory" (p. 206) would have been nonexistent, especially in senatorial trials (much of the exposition here is based on Pliny). In addition, there were of course also civil courts dealing with minor matters (succession, property, etc.). The author has interesting things to say about the surge in prestige of the centumviral court, which for Pliny appears to be as important as an "arena for competitive reputation-building" as the senatorial court (p. 209). The paper finishes off with a section, based on the *Dialogus*, on the question whether a senator should prefer poetry to advocacy (cf. the contribution of Stein-Hölkeskamp) and on the role of recitation and declamation, the author e.g. observing that pursuing declamation did not (necessarily) mean abandoning "real" oratory (cf. p. 219 on Q. Haterius). This contribution also includes an interesting reference to *con- tones* during the Empire (p. 203 n. 14).

The book is rounded off by a recapitulation ("Versuch einer Bilanz") by U. Walter (p. 223ff.). Whereas similar contributions, often found at the end of conference publications, tend to merely repeat what is said in the preceding papers, in this case the author adds many points not made elsewhere in the book. This is an impressive contribution, and those who do not find the time to read the whole book should concentrate on this paper. The only thing I wonder about is the tendency of the author to quote word-for-word lengthy passages from the other contributions in his notes (e.g., p. 227 nn. 23, 24; 229 n. 36, etc.), although it is true that this may well be of use to those who in the future will use only an offprint of this paper instead of the whole book.

In conclusion, clearly this particular colloquium was planned with great care, as this book – its result – is not just a collection of miscellaneous articles but a collection of papers with a clear focus, often illustrating each other and in any case dealing with a subject of great interest. An index would therefore certainly have been desirable.

Olli Salomies

*The Emperor and Rome: Space, Representation, and Ritual.* Yale Classical Studies 35. Edited by BJÖRN C. EWALD – CARLOS F. NOREÑA. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-51953-3 (hb). XVIII, 365 pp. USD 99.

The spatial turn in the humanities has, like many other "turns" that preceded it, run through the usual phases of enthusiasm, energy, exploration, (partial) disappointment and consolidation. The current volume, now already a few years old, shows the hallmarks of the consolidation phase. An immensely distinguished cast (with the likes of Paul Zanker and Werner Eck) has been assembled to investigate the spatial dimension of the emperor's presence in Rome. Like the Republican nobleman, who sought to immemorialize himself and his family with *munificentia publica*, the Roman emperor would seek to leave his imprint on the city. In contrast, however, the emperor had not only vast resources at his disposal, but also the time, energy, and power to push through much larger

plans than his Republican predecessors, who had to make do with a temple or some such. The twelve chapters in this volume explore this theme through the expected explorations of public monuments and monumentalization (Zanker, Eck, Mayer), both as signs of the power of the emperor, his relationship with the people, and the prestige of the Senate. Other chapters present potentially more intriguing propositions, such as monuments whose addressants had since fallen from favor (Marlowe, Fittchen), or how a monumental building program could turn against its maker, such as Nero (Flaig). Two articles are somewhat more traditional topographical studies, exploring the history of a single monument or a building program (Packer, Boatwright). Some are interesting in pointing out the obvious, such as the momentous change that occurred when the Republican principle of having no standing army inside the *pomerium* was cast aside, and the massive barracks of the praetorian guard would stand as a reminder of the physical power of the emperor (Koorbojan). Two chapters present the curious phenomenon of the imperial funeral in Rome (D'Ambra, Arce).

The volume stands as a very interesting contribution to the historical topography of Rome and provides a view of the *Stand der Lehre* at this point. Evaluated as it is now, some six years after publication, it is clear that some of the novelty of the ideas presented has been dented with the passage of time. Many useful insights and interesting facts may be learned from all of them, but the chapters have a somewhat uneven quality. The illustrations are very numerous, however the over a hundred figures and photographs show a similarly uneven quality, as some are new, up to date, and high quality illustrations, while others are reproductions of often seen plans from general works. All in all, the volume is a worthwhile addition to the study of Roman topography.

*Kaius Tuori*

LEONARDO DE ARRIZABALAGA Y PRADO: *The Emperor Elagabalus - Fact or Fiction?* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-89555-2. XXXVIII, 381 pp. GBP 60, USD 99.

Varius Avitus Bassianus, or to give him his imperial name, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, has been known to later generations as the notorious and decadent Elagabalus or Heliogabalus (218–222). The *damnatio memoriae* after Elagabalus' death has left modern scholarship reliant on ancient historiography. This in turn has resulted in several studies on the subject of the credibility of the accounts of ancient historians during the last decades. One of them is Martijn Icks's *The Crimes of Elagabalus: The Life and Legacy of Rome's Decadent Boy Emperor* (I.B. Tauris 2011), which concentrates more on the *Nachleben* of Elagabalus.

The book under review is divided into six parts: "Exposition" (pp. 1–24) presents the methodology; "Explosion" explores the relevant historiography by Cassius Dio, Herodian, etc. (pp. 25–56); "Constitution" is an inquiry into Elagabalus' reign on the basis of epigraphy, numismatics, papyri and sculpture (57–161); "Speculation" presents a reconstruction of the events of Elagabalus' reign (162–259); "Findings in contexts" mirrors the results especially against the whole of the Severan period (260–84); and the final chapter "Appendices" presents a chronology of the reign and adds some further material in the form of lists (pp. 285–360).