

Anche se non ne parla molto nel presente volume, è bene ricordare che Tomassetti si è occupato molto della documentazione epigrafica. Mi sia pertanto permesso di toccare brevemente l'argomento epigrafico per quanto concerne gli appunti presi da Tomassetti e in parte confluiti nella sua grande opera sulla campagna romana. Scelgo a mo' d'esempio la città della romana Antium e il suo vasto territorio: circa *CIL X 6653*, T. in *Campagna romana 2*, 316 dà un importante contributo per quanto riguarda la collocazione dell'iscrizione in età moderna; egli è l'unico testimone dell'epigrafe dedicata ad Aurelio Vero da nessun altro vista (ma T. la spiega male come eretta da *Laurentes Lavinates* in onore di un Augusto); a *EE VIII 649* (vista anche da Lanciani) T. dà integrazioni un po' avventurose, attribuendo il testo a Nerone; il frammento pubblicato in *Camp. Rom. 3*, 316 sembra l'epitaffio di un legionario, di cui sarebbe bello sapere come lui e sua moglie siano arrivati a vivere ad Anzio (il testo dice nella stesura data dal T. *ro[---] viro [---] mil(iti) leg(ionis) II [---]*); in *Camp. Rom. 2*, 316 T. presenta un frammento che egli non cerca di spiegare, ma forse si tratta di una dedica che un anonimo offre *cenam cultoribus et hominibus* (tuttavia, poiché T. spesso legge male, forse sarà meglio astenersi da congetture troppo azzardate); a p. 316 di *Camp. Rom.* T. presenta un'iscrizione di *CLAUDIA C. F. (inedita)*", frammento interessante che sembra assai antico; *CIL X 6729*: le osservazioni del T. sono importanti per fissare la storia del testo in età moderna; a p. 316 di *Camp. Rom.* viene offerto una lapide "inedita di *IULIA MATR...*, trovata nel pavimento di una casetta isolata", forse epitaffio di una Iulia Matrona; a p. 315 di *Camp. Rom.* si parla del sarcofago di un *P. SABIDIUS*", ma purtroppo non se ne trovano tracce.

*Heikki Solin*

VIRGINIA L. CAMPBELL: *The Tombs of Pompeii. Organization, Space, and Society*. Routledge, New York 2015. ISBN 978-1-138-80919-2. XV, 355 pp. USD 140.

Pompeii is more famous for the way the living conditions of its inhabitants in 79 C.E. were preserved than for how its dead were venerated. The tombs and cemeteries are there, however, grouped outside the city walls and flank the roads leading out of the ancient city – approximately 200 of them. Like most aspects of Pompeii, the tombs have been a frequently discussed topic by scholars, but rarely as comprehensively as Virginia Campbell does in this volume. The book is based on her doctoral dissertation and Campbell's aim is to analyse the organization, spatial use and social relations related to the tombs – Are the burial areas around the city similar to each other or are there big differences? How do the administrative processes influence burial practices?, Do the burials reflect individual or group behaviour, and is there something that is unique to Pompeian burial practices?

The book is divided into two parts: the first contains five main chapters in addition to the introduction and conclusion and the second part is a catalogue of tombs. Chapter 2 deals with research history and a description of various aspects of death in the Roman world in an admirably brief format. Chapter 3 contains an analytical description of the evidence concerning funerary habits in Pompeii. Chapter 4 discusses the epigraphic evidence related to burials. The space used for burials is analysed in Chapter 5 and the final Chapter 6 handles the self-representation contained in the tombs and the inscriptions. The catalogue of burials describes the archaeological and epigraphic

evidence with a fairly large number of ground plans and black and white photographs illustrating the catalogue entries. The catalogue is followed by two appendices listing boundary markers and those funerary inscriptions which cannot be placed in a context.

The organization of the book works quite well and the chapters are pleasant to read. The catalogue is organized by listing the burials according to the geographical area starting from the Porta di Ercolano in the northwest and ending with Porta di Nocera in the southeast. It is somewhat frustrating that the ground plans of the tombs are featured only in fairly small-scale general ground plans and that details such as the placement of the inscriptions are not altogether clearly indicated on the plans or in the text. Some of the plans could also have been produced in larger size as now many of the fine lines disappear almost completely and labels are almost too small to read. The photographs are in general readable, but sometimes some kind of image processing would have been beneficial. The confusing reference system is probably the most negative thing about the book – and probably not Campbell's fault: there are Harvard style references inside the text as well as quite a few end notes after each chapter. Each chapter contains its own bibliography. In addition, the catalogue has its own bibliography – consequently the purpose of the "supplemental bibliography" at the end of the book remains somewhat unclear. Surely one bibliography covering the whole book would have served the reader better than this awkward system? The space saved by that arrangement could perhaps have been used to print larger plans. Furthermore, one wonders when the original dissertation was finished as the bibliographies appear rather thin on publications which have appeared after 2010.

Chapters 4 and 5 on the funerary and epigraphic evidence of Pompeii analyse the characteristics of the main burial areas with an emphasis on monumental tombs. The road leading to Herculaneum and in the direction of the Via Appia is deemed probably the most important burial area with regard to visibility and prestige. The analysis of the chronological distribution of tombs, their locations, types and what is known of the deceased is quite interesting and indicates temporal changes in the burial habits of Roman Pompeii. The *columellae* or head stones shaped like busts are a Pompeian burial specialty which indicate the places of the funerary urns. This chapter could have benefited from including and discussing the criteria for dating the tombs, which are now presented only in connection with the catalogue, and the often problematic datings are not sufficiently discussed. Distribution maps could have been used to supplement the text in addition to the tables – simple maps would have argued for some of the conclusions more effectively than the verbal explanations.

The text *formulae* used in Pompeian funerary inscriptions are similar to those known from elsewhere in the Roman world, but also feature some local trends such as not using dedications to the *Manes*, which is so common elsewhere. Another particularity is the use of the phrase *ex decreto decurionum* in a funerary context, which has been interpreted as indicating a gift from the local *ordo* which would have enhanced the status of the deceased. After examining the contexts of the inscriptions with that formula, Campbell arrives at the conclusion that it signifies a permit to use public land for a burial. In addition, Campbell analyses the un-epigraphic *cippi* found in connection with twenty burials and is able to confirm their use as boundary markers and possibly as markers for places where future tombs could have been built.

Chapter 6 discusses the aspect of self-representation through three case studies: burials built by a *familia* instead of a *gens*, Eumachia, and a married couple with separate tombs. The first

case illustrates the relationship between freedmen and patrons and reveals that freedmen commemorated their former owners more often than was expected based on evidence elsewhere in Roman Italy. In the case of the individuals, it seems apparent that their social status and class do not always correlate with how elaborately or modestly they were buried. Eumachia had a modest tomb, but her memory was kept alive by the magnificent public building on the forum. The married couple consisted of upwardly mobile freedmen and they chose to represent themselves in a very traditional manner, as husband and wife buried in separate tombs.

The special circumstances of Pompeii afford an excellent opportunity to examine details of everyday life and death of the city's inhabitants and Campbell's analyses display this once again. One also feels that much more might be said as Campbell's analytical part is relatively short when compared to the extensive catalogue. Her results accentuate admirably the local trends in burial customs and epigraphic habit as opposed to what has been determined to be the usual case based on evidence e.g. in Rome.

*Eeva-Maria Vitanen*

SIMON JAMES: *Excavations at Dura-Europos 1928–1937. Final Report VII: The Arms and Armour and other Military Equipment*. Oxbow Books, Oxford 2010. ISBN 978-1-84217-371-8. XXXII, 304 pp. GBP 39.95.

The book is a reprint of a 2004 work which built on Simon James's doctoral thesis from 1991. The value of the book can hardly be underestimated and it does justice to Dura-Europos and the unique archaeological assemblage which was recovered from the site. The book is divided into three main parts. First, James offers a good discussion of the discovery of the site, the context of the excavations in the late 1920s and 1930s and their importance. He has done his best to reconstruct the story of Dura-Europos and especially the dramatic Sassanian siege in the 250s, which put an end to its existence. This sets the stage for the second part, the presentation of the complete assemblage of the finds from the site grouped in categories by function and type. The assemblage is wonderful as it presents a complete catalogue of the finds and is as such a mine of information regarding the Roman army. It is also almost unique as the arid conditions in Dura-Europos have also preserved leather, wood and textiles. The similarities of some of the equipment recovered from the site with paraphernalia from other reaches of the Empire are interesting and give support to the idea of a military culture and identity forming around producing certain forms of equipment. The individual finds are well presented and the discussion offers perspectives and insights regarding unique artefacts such as the interesting wood and rawhide shields (items 635–637).

The third part is a detailed discussion of the depositional processes and the composition of the assemblage. It also offers a basis for estimating the extent of information on Roman soldiers that we can actually glean from the assemblage. Unfortunately, the assemblage is mostly unstratified, and despite the best efforts of James in interpreting the notes of earlier French excavators, we do not have a very good knowledge of, e.g., what pieces of equipment in fact form a set of accoutrements.

The book offers a spectacular amount of information – the rich variety of the finds makes them primary sources that just cannot be overlooked. The quality of the illustrations, as well as the