

*maius*. The edict concerning the Paemeiobrigenses has since been published (G. Alföldy, *ZPE* 131 [2000], 177–205; F. Javier Sanchez-Palencia and J. Mangas [edd.], *El edicto del Bierzo. Augusto y el nordeste de Hispania* [León, 2000]).

Demougin explores the rôle of the *plebs* and soldiers in the ‘Roman revolution’. The political significance of the *plebs*, via both direct and indirect forms of participation, is also a recurring theme in discussion (e.g. pp. 228, 280).

*University of Warwick*

ALISON E. COOLEY

## AUGUSTUS (i)

D. KIENAST: *Augustus: Prinzeps und Monarch*. Pp. xvi + 608, maps. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1999. Paper, DM 98. ISBN: 3-534-14293-4.

The first (1982) edition of this important study of Augustus was not reviewed in this journal. The appearance of the third, expanded edition (the second, 1992, edition was an unaltered reprint) affords a welcome opportunity to remedy this omission. I must apologize for the further delay caused by the lateness of this review.

The book was originally planned as a bibliographical survey for the publisher’s *Erträge der Forschung* series, but outgrew its constraints. The work’s origins are still reflected in the austere format: two maps relating to Augustus’ building activity (pp. 439–41) and a stemma of the imperial family are, regrettably, the only illustrations, but sources and bibliography are richly documented in the ample footnotes. New evidence and bibliography are taken account of in this edition in the substantially expanded notes and in a modest number of additions to the text. The interpretation, however, remains virtually unchanged.

The selection and organization of material are informed by the sharply conceived overall design of the work. As K. explains at the outset (p. xi), it is neither a biography of Augustus nor an account of his age and its culture: the focus is rather on Augustus’ work as a politician and statesman, and as a founder of a new monarchy. Art and literature are thus considered only in their political aspect. Particularly full treatment is accorded to some topics which K. sees as neglected, such as Augustus’ building work in Italy and the provinces (pp. 417–49, an invaluable treatment), whereas some others receive relatively brief coverage, for example the marriage legislation or the improvement of public services in the city of Rome.

The first two chapters are chronological, dealing with respectively Octavian/Augustus’ rise to power and his sole rule. Much stress is laid in the second chapter on the disarming of opposition as an explanation for Augustus’ actions, and K. has not taken full account of the minimizing of this factor in studies by Badian and others which have appeared since his first edition. The remaining five chapters deal thematically with what K. views as Augustus’ policies for establishing his monarchy on a secure basis. A chapter on his relationship with the senate, *equites*, and urban *plebs* is followed by the longest chapter of all, which shares with the whole work the title ‘Prinzeps und Monarch’: this chapter ranges from the ideology of the principate to religious policy (including the imperial cult), the promotion of the new regime in literature and the development of a monarchical court. The next chapter gives a concise survey of military policy and a fuller account of external policy, arguing

The Classical Review vol. 54 no. 1 © The Classical Association 2004; all rights reserved

trenchantly against the defensive interpretation. Next comes a chapter dealing with economic policy, in particular the coinage (where the lack of illustration seriously hampers the discussion), and with building policy. The final chapter is devoted to Augustus' policy for the empire, focusing particularly on the winning over of the Greek east and on city-building.

K.'s interpretative approach and the resulting structure have their drawbacks. The first is organizational: some topics are oddly located (notably the marriage legislation, treated under Augustus' relations with the senate: pp. 164–8), and there is some repetition (thus Augustus' new buildings in Rome figure in Chapters 2, 4, and 6). The second is more important. K.'s intentionalist stress on the ruler's policies leads him to what most would now regard as an exaggerated view of the part played in the developments of the reign by Augustus' personal choices and of the extent to which those choices derived from comprehensively conceived policies. This weakness was already noted by Andrew Wallace-Hadrill in a review of the first edition (*JRS* 75 [1985], 245–6). Subsequent work by, for example, Wallace-Hadrill and Paul Zanker on art and culture and Peter White on the poets has stressed the extent to which the subjects co-operated with the ruler in shaping the ideology and imagery of the regime and changes in society and culture were the product of new structures rather than individual choices. K. notes these works in this edition, but does not address their implications. The effect is most marked in Chapter 4, where sensitive discussion of the details of developments in religion and literature is marred by the tendency to subsume them all under imperial policy and the failure to problematize the concept of 'propaganda'. Similarly, although there is much useful material in the last two chapters, K. has not sufficiently considered how helpful it is to speak of the emperor's 'Wirtschaftspolitik' or 'Reichspolitik'.

Such criticisms, however, do not detract from the importance and value of K.'s work. For serious students of Augustus' reign this book has been an indispensable mine of information and its updating is most welcome. It is, however, much more than that: despite the drawbacks noted above, it remains the most detailed, comprehensive, and penetrating study of Augustus' achievement currently available.

*University of Nottingham*

J. W. RICH

## AUGUSTUS (ii)

W. ECK: *The Age of Augustus*. Translated by D. L. Schneider. New material by S. A. Takács. Pp. x + 166, maps. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003 (first published as *Augustus und seine Zeit*, Munich, 1998). Paper, £12.99. ISBN: 0-631-22958-2 (0-631-22957-4 hbk).

This English translation of E.'s *Augustus und seine Zeit* (1998; I have not seen it) brings the book to a wider audience, which it deserves. E. has aimed his book at an undergraduate-level readership new to the age of Augustus; those more advanced in the period will find here a concise treatment of this crucial time, the perfect 'potted' history or *aide-mémoire*.

E.'s Augustus is a familiar figure: his bloody rise to supremacy and consolidation of his position; his carefully and slowly marching the state into the future under the