

Early on in the collection, two papers by Pavolini *et al.* and di Gennaro and dell'Era constitute a fascinating comparison between adjoining regions of the *suburbium* at a micro-level. Pavolini leads the presentation of work by three undergraduate students on the area between the walls of Aurelian, the river Anio, and the via Nomentana, arguing for a decline in villa production over the third and fourth centuries, and a switch to church estates and funerary usage. Meanwhile, di Gennaro and dell'Era demonstrate that, on the far side of the Anio, decline in villa production was very gradual, and did not become marked until the fifth century. Pavolini's conclusion that we should thus be speaking of diverse suburbs, rather than one *suburbium* (71) seems justified, although not all of those present at the conference were convinced (Guyon, 365).

Social and economic historians will be particularly interested in the contribution by Santangeli Valenzani (607–18), who addresses the discrepancy between an archaeological record suggesting a fall-off in occupation in the late antique *suburbium* and a literary record indicating that the region continued to play a vital role in the city's food supply. Through a combination of land use theory and analogy with the eighteenth to early twentieth centuries, he proposes that a plausible resolution to the conflict of evidence is to assume a seasonal pattern of agriculture, in which the region was farmed from the surrounding hills. He fully concedes that further evidence is needed, but the suggestion is certainly a worthwhile prompt for future research. If demonstrated, it could also go a long way towards resolving what currently appear to be opposing stances on the 'villa crisis' issue.

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M. GUALTIERI, *LA LUCANIA ROMANA. CULTURA E SOCIETÀ NELLA DOCUMENTAZIONE ARCHEOLOGICA* (Quaderni di Ostraka 8). Naples: Loffredo Editore, 2003. Pp. 271, 89 figs. ISBN 88-7564-029-7. €25.00.

Another period of decline questioned, more continuity highlighted, and a less well known region of ancient Italy is tied into larger debates about patterns of settlement and their transformation from Republic to Empire. This is where the strength of regional studies lies, and *La Lucania Romana* provides us with what we would expect to find in such an overview, by an author who has an in-depth knowledge of this part of Italy. Gualtieri's own field survey and excavation projects in Lucania (carried out in conjunction with H. Fracchia), which range from early Italic fortified sites on the west coast (Rocagloriosa), to imperial villas in the north-east (near Oppido Lucano), give the book its ambitious scope, and provide a substantial evidence base for the study. One of the challenges of any such undertaking is how to organize the available, often fragmentary, evidence which in many cases is not fully published, particularly when the period to be covered is some 800 years. Gualtieri has chosen to make the archaeological sites and monuments the main building blocks of each of the broadly thematic chapters, which proceed from the mid-republican to the late antique period.

The first chapter, on transformation and continuity, is the most integrated section, although somewhat less detailed. It reviews key debates on the impact of the third-century B.C. wars on Italy, particularly in terms of *ager publicus*, colonies, *municipia*, and new road networks. The evidence from Lucania further undermines Toynbee's image of a deserted Italian countryside. Instead, shifting the focus, G. is keen to place changes, such as for example centralization, new modes of production (44–5), and cultural trends (49), before the Punic Wars, when already there is evidence of increasing 'omologazione' (60) of local élite, who progressively look to Rome for new socio-cultural models.

The next two sections are arranged almost wholly around individual sites, monuments, and specific territories. Ch. 2 focuses on the city and ch. 3 on the countryside. This division allows G. to consider changes at individual sites, and also to keep separate the themes of urban development and rural transformation. However, it also forces an artificial separation of integral units, and the unintentional assimilation of the traditional framework of rural versus urban. Hence, for example, Volcei and centres in the Vallo di Diano are discussed in the urban section (85–7), while their adjacent territories are not examined until much later (139–5). It is difficult to get a holistic image of Lucania, especially since, as G. points out, the region had relatively few urban centres (9, 15, 63–5), in contrast to other nearby areas (e.g. Apulia, Campania, and Daunia). The material from Lucanian cities suggests that at least at some sites, such as Paestum, there was substantial building activity already in the second century B.C., both in the public and private sectors (63–70, 78–80), where artistic and architectural expression was largely drawn from Helleno-Roman

models (e.g. funerary monuments (149–54, 207–17)). It was not until the Julio-Claudian period, however, that we see the most intense rebuilding, embellishment, and reorganization of sites, fuelled by new forms of elite display and with a clear presence of the Imperial Cult, evident in the epigraphic evidence and sculptural remains (76–8, 108, 223–9). The vitality of many of the cities in Lucania in the third century A.D., some with continuity into Late Antiquity, argues against a blanket image of decline in the mid-imperial period, and highlights the importance of local trends (127–9). A shift from the city to the countryside is addressed in the final section on Late Antiquity (253–62), which considers new forms of rural settlement, where the villas of the early imperial period are gradually replaced by palatial complexes. Renewed road networks and Imperial interest in the area, suggested by the epigraphic evidence, gives a sense of rebirth in the region during the fourth century A.D.

On the whole the evidence from the countryside, although more sporadic, provides a wealth of information for a multidirectional approach. The overall image is one that argues for gradual shifts rather than clearly defined moments of crisis (195–8), as well as the importance of micro-regions (131, 197–8) and persistence of diversity in land use (132). Different forms of settlement are a significant part of ch. 3, and the difficulty in distinguishing between them in the archaeological record is acknowledged by G., specifically in regard to the villa (133–4, 139) and the administrative unit of the *vicus* (30, 132, 177–83). But it remains unclear why certain types of archaeological data, for example survey scatters, are used to designate some sites as villas (157–8), while others as villages (*vicī*) (262). A similar problem arises when moving from an object to a process: for example the head of Helios (associated with Sol Indiges) is used to exemplify the Romanization of domestic cult in a villa near Bantia, which is contrasted with the continuity of Italic cult trends in Irpinia, signified by the finds of bronze Hercules figurines (138). Notions of influence and identity form part of a more revealing discussion on tile, brick, and *dolia* production (185–92), which also allows for insight into non-agricultural activities. The names stamped on these objects, integrated with the rich epigraphic record of the region, give a sense of the variety of individuals and communities who inhabited the landscape. This also comes through in ch. 4, on figurative representation, where an examination of sculpture and mosaics reflects a range of influences which filter into the area, not only from Rome and Italy (236–7), but also North Africa (239–44), and Asia Minor (231).

G.'s ambitious study succeeds in bringing together a vast range of evidence and providing a starting point for inquiry, with good bibliography for the archaeological sites, as well as for further investigation of some of the key themes presented here. As more material is published, and continuing systematic studies are carried out, it will be possible to get a better understanding of how this corner of the peninsula fits into broader Italian trends. A couple of small points: page 20, last paragraph should read third century B.C. (not A.D.), and in a few places the closing parenthesis is missing (e.g. 134, last paragraph, and 166).

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A. CRISTOFORI, *NON ARMA VIRUMQUE. LE OCCUPAZIONI NELL'EPIGRAFIA DEL PICENO* (Tarsis Studi di Antichistica 2; 2nd edn). Bologna: Lo Scarabeo, 2004. Pp. 792, 74 pls. ISBN 88-8478-068-3. €58.00.

Taking his title from a Pompeian graffito (*fullones ululamque cano, non armavirumque*), Cristofori surveys the seventy-one inscriptions from Regio V that record occupations in order to shed light on the economy and society of this understudied region. The majority (thirty-nine) comprise funerary dedications. Artistic representations are omitted from consideration, a regrettable decision since they derive from the same commemorative context, for example the wine-decanting scene used as cover illustration. This second edition (the first was published in 2000) adds further bibliographic references and texts (four).

In Part I C. outlines current knowledge concerning the economic history of Picenum. The literary evidence had already been extensively discussed in recent publications, e.g. C. Delplace, *La romanisation du Picenum* (1993); A. Naso, *I Piceni* (2000), although the summary of evidence for amphora, brick, and ceramic production usefully updates Delplace's summary. Discussion of the impact on commemorative practice of Roman attitudes concerning trade and manual work precedes the catalogue of inscriptions that comprises the bulk of the book (Part II, 450 pages). Commentaries to individual texts offer extended, often exhaustive, reviews of the documentary evidence across the Roman world for each occupation identified. This documentation is useful,