

ruins of the Forum complex. What D.'s book succeeds in doing is demonstrating how much more complicated and ever-changing the ancient city really was.

The introduction surveys the history of 'writing Rome' and examines the kinds of evidence that survive. The rest of the book is organized into two sections with different methods. The first comprises chapters dividing the history of Rome into simple chronological tracts. These start with the creation of Rome as a megalopolis, before moving through the Republic, the transformation of Rome into an imperial capital, and ending with the Antonine city. The aim of these chapters is primarily to provide a broad context for understanding the way in which Rome was almost completely rebuilt during this long period. The later chapters then approach the city thematically. Four chapters examine the neighbourhoods and rituals of the city, the urban economy, the people of Rome, and the city that lay beyond the *pomerium*. A final chapter returns to the chronological approach and outlines the changes that occurred in the city during the third century and after Constantine's conversion to Christianity and move to Constantinople left the old pagan capital in a more marginal position.

The varying approaches of the chapters reflect D.'s desire to combine a variety of historical and archaeological styles. He is largely successful in this, but the downside of the chronological method is that a vast amount of information and history has to be crammed into a fairly small space. Even then, the book runs to over 360 pages, plus almost 60 pages of notes. I am not sure that there are many tourists who will have the stamina to work their way through this level of detail. But this is not really a complaint. What D. has actually succeeded in producing is a masterful overview of the state of current scholarship on the ancient city of Rome, which reflects a lifetime spent studying it. The book will be accessible to those who are studying the subject at university, and most professionals will also learn much from its extensive coverage. It is at its best when it is digging deeper into the broader underlying themes that affected Rome's development. It is in the sections on the problems of supplying so vast a city in a pre-industrial society and in his analysis of the everyday difficulties faced by the common people that his account most succeeds in creating a living portrait. If the aim was to write a more popular book, it would probably have been better to focus on a few key examples to try to evoke something of the experience of being in the city. Political detail could have been sacrificed in favour of giving a better idea of the sensory overload which living in the capital seems to have involved. But overall, this book successfully manages to link the tangible remains to the wider themes of Roman history.

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R. J. B. BOSWORTH, *WHISPERING CITY: MODERN ROME AND ITS HISTORIES*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2011. Pp. xvii + 358, illus. ISBN 9780300114713. £25.00.

An unapologetically personal history of the city of Rome, R. J. B. Bosworth's *Whispering City: Modern Rome and its Histories* focuses on the past two centuries of the city's story. But, like the city itself, earlier remains are always peeking through, being dusted off, and shaping what we see. The points of reference are material remnants of the past, and each chapter uses a monument, inscription, or other fragment of the physical city to situate the reader within the spatial and material Rome before departing to the textual and historical one. B. details the ways in which politicians, popes, and archaeologists created the modern Rome, and in so doing reveals the myriad ways they selectively revealed, restored, and rebuilt the city, leveraging the Classical and other pasts where it suited their purposes.

B.'s Rome is far more than a palimpsest, and he reveals many complex entanglements. Thus the turn of the century monument on the Janiculum to revolutionary hero Garibaldi has a date reckoned *ab urbe condita* and a later, nearby, monument to his first wife Anita was shaped by Mussolini's interventions, recast to fit with Fascist ideologies. The contested meanings and readings of Garibaldi's place in Roman history continued in the communist 'Garibaldi brigades' and into contemporary conflicts over his memory. B. demonstrates the ways that public monuments, like those of the Garibaldis and other characters of the Risorgimento in Rome, are themselves records of the disputed and changing views of the unification.

Classical Rome, again and again, proves to be among the most usable of pasts, mutable for use by papal, imperial, and national principles, as detailed in B.'s rich account. From the 1870s

Lanciani promoted Roman archaeology, both at home and abroad, as a great remover of earth which could at once create a modern city and reveal an ancient one. The exhibition of the Fascist revolution, *Mostra della Rivoluzione Fascista*, constructed a vision of Italy under Roman domination that was a necessary myth for Mussolini's aims. Greeted with excited reviews in this journal at the time (e.g. E. Strong or R. Meiggs in *JRS* 29 (1939)), the *Mostra* situated the *Duce* as a third founder of Rome, in line with Augustus and Romulus. Selective archaeology and urban clearances isolated the Augustan Forum and other parts of Rome which fit with Mussolini's ideologies, as B. situates in context in his seventh and eighth chapters. Most students of the city will be familiar with the reworking of Augustus' Mausoleum and the Ara Pacis to create a 'holy site of empire', but it was not only in exhibitions or archaeology that the Classical past was marshalled: Virgil, too, was pressed into service with the bimillenary of his birth the excuse for constructing a new park, one of the many urban interventions of this transformative period for the city. Erasures were also a product of Mussolini's urban vision, in which there was no place for histories which did not fit into a totalitarian reading of the city's past. Later, such urban cleansing included making way for the 1960 Olympics at the expense of the urban poor in the area that would become the athlete's housing. Not all of Rome's peoples thought the city's Classical heritage was a useful one, but most engaged with it — even Futurists who in 1910 mockingly called for the bulldozing of the Classical remains, which they suggested could be buried in a coffin in the city. B. himself cannot resist a Classical parallel, for instance, comparing the terrorists of the 1970s to Cassius.

B. allows his Rome to be fantastically tangled, expertly skipping between periods and across the urban landscape. Beyond a typical tale of urban evolution, B. gives us a history of Rome, of deep antiquity and recent past, which is grounded in the hills, streets and monuments of the corporeal city.

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R. MENEGHINI, *I FORI IMPERIALI E I MERCATI DI TRAIANO. STORIA E DESCRIZIONE DEI MONUMENTI ALLA LUCE DEGLI STUDI E DEGLI SCAVI RECENTI*. Rome: Libreria dello Stato, 2009. Pp. 277, illus. ISBN 97888824014243. €70.00.

A dedicated programme of excavations over the past two decades has revolutionized our understanding of Rome's imperial fora and their surroundings. The monuments themselves are better understood than ever, and the changing character of the quarter which they occupy can be traced over more than three millennia. This monograph offers a synthesis of the area, foregrounding the recent findings while setting them in the context of previous discoveries and evolving debates. It is the fullest treatment yet available, but its comprehensive approach does entail some overlap with other recent publications arising from the same project: particularly R. Meneghini and R. Santangeli Valenzani, *I fori imperiali: gli scavi del comune di Roma* (2007). At the same time, the pace of ongoing discovery, especially in connection with Metro linea C, means that some of its content is already out of date. Publication might have been better delayed until this work had been completed, and all of the new material could be taken into account.

The volume is divided into three sections, organized chronologically. The first deals with material pre-dating the imperial fora, from the archaic period to the late Republic. The second, and by far the longest, covers the fora and their surroundings, including the so-called 'Terrazza Domiziana', the Markets of Trajan, and the area north-west of Trajan's Forum. Finally, the third section traces the changing fortunes of the sector from the end of antiquity to the present day. The discussion throughout is detailed yet accessible, offering a thorough introduction to each monument, as well as meticulous and lavishly-illustrated analyses of the recent findings. This review will highlight Meneghini's presentation of the latest discoveries, but a full treatment of all aspects of this important quarter can be assumed.

Most of the newest findings from the pre-imperial era come from excavations at the southern end of the Forum of Caesar. This area has yielded some additional archaic burials, a *tholos* of the fourth century B.C., and various domestic structures built over a fire-layer from the first half of the fourth century. Delfino, who has published this material in detail, links the traces of fire to the Gallic sack, but M. restricts himself to reporting the view: no doubt wisely, given the frequency of accidental fires in Rome.