

problems of at least 66 hectares of archaeology to conserve, in 1987 the decision was taken to expand this area with the excavation of a further 1,500 square metres. The result of this was the excavation of the House of the Chaste Lovers. Twenty years on, the house has never been open to the public, remains mostly unpublished, and has been the location of a theft that involved three figurative scenes being hacked out from the walls. Happily the thieves were caught and their loot recovered, but the damage was done. Other degradation has occurred: the bones of the mules and a dog left *in situ* within the house have been damaged — since the site is far from secure from the modern canine population. The scaffolding supporting the roof was considered to be unsafe two years ago and was cited as a reason to deny a TV crew access to film in the house. The problems of restoration are confirmed in the discussion of the House of Julius Polybius, excavated in the 1960s, where a second phase of restoration was conducted in the 1990s, and in the project to conserve the House of Postumus.

Reading the thirty chapters, there is a sense that the houses buried beneath modern cities may cost rather more to conserve, but the results, in Brescia at least, suggest that these sites will be successfully preserved for the future. In contrast, those houses that are exposed to the elements, even if covered by scaffolding, continue to be at risk.

University of Birmingham

RAY LAURENCE

Les fortifications militaires. Edited by M. Reddé, R. Brulet, R. Fellmann, J. K. Jaalebos[†] and S. von Schnurbein. *L'Architecture de la Gaule Romaine* (sous la direction de P. Aupert); Documents d'archéologie française 100. Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, 2006. Pp. 480, pls 8, figs 493. Price: €48.00. ISBN 978 2 7351 1119 0.

As the heading indicates, this is a substantial volume, compiled under the guidance of an international team of established experts in the field of Roman military archaeology, who assembled no less than 53 contributors to report on particular sites. Its purpose is to produce an up-to-date replacement for the first volume in Albert Grenier's series *Manuel d'archéologie gallo-romaine* (published 75 years earlier) that was devoted to military installations, and it appears in a new national series on the architecture of Roman Gaul. Such multi-authored compilations can take a decade or so to bring to fruition, but it is characteristic of the energy of Michel Reddé, the editor-in-chief of this volume, that it was not allowed to stagnate in the production stages: although preparation began in 1994, the final cut-off date for research was as recent as 2004. Reddé is, of course, supremely well-qualified to co-ordinate this task, as the excavator both of the legionary base at Mirebeau, and (jointly with S. von Schnurbein) of the 1990s excavations of Alesia, so promptly and well published, and the author of a recent volume on the Roman army in Gaul. He has been served well by his colleagues from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

The scope of the volume covers military establishments as a whole, not merely their fortifications, and it is aimed particularly at archaeologists in France, where fewer scholars are likely to be closely *au fait* with current research on frontier studies. Its structure consists primarily of a synthesis and a catalogue. Its chronological range is ambitious but appropriate, from the conquest of southern Gaul to the beginning of the fifth century A.D.

There is a relatively brief discussion of sources, then two main synthetic sections. The first consists of an historical account of the military occupation of Gaul (in its widest sense), and a discussion of various types of establishment, both those on the frontiers and those internal to the province. This is followed by a short discussion of urban fortifications, justified by the possibility of a military presence at these sites, but to be the subject of a more extended treatment in a subsequent volume in the series. The second part of the synthesis is the detailed analysis of various elements of military installations — shape, internal planning, and building materials, then specific elements of the fortifications, followed by the internal buildings.

The contribution of British scholarship to the pattern set out here will be readily apparent to those of us who have been involved in the field. There are, however, some notable omissions: one might have expected to see more reference to the valuable reconstructions at The Lunt, Baginton, in the section on earth-and-timber forts, and of the gate at South Shields in the section on stone gates (the reconstructions of the barrack-block and commander's house here having taken place too late for potential inclusion). Nor is there any discernible awareness of some of the more recent British work since the 1990s, not

only accessible syntheses such as Paul Bidwell's *Roman Forts in Britain* (1997), or in papers presented to the Limes Congress (for example, David Breeze's recent reconsideration of ditch-systems), but also that regarding the conceptual framework of military installations, much of it inspired by Richard Reece (e.g. Simon James, 'Writing the legions; the past, present and future of military studies in Britain', *The Archaeological Journal* 159 (2002), 1–58).

Not surprisingly, however, some of the examples cited in the section on *principia* and *praetoria* (appropriately written by R. Fellmann) are drawn from the province of *Britannia*, as well as in the accounts that follow of tribunes' houses, centurions' quarters and barracks, granaries, workshops, hospitals, bath-houses, latrines (the main evidence here being from Britain), and stables; then on to marching-camps, *canabae* and *vici* (by Sebastian Sommer and predictably incorporating evidence from Britain), training camps, campaign forts, siege works, and frontier systems.

In Part 3, Raymond Brulet is given the task of discussing the Late Roman period — not a simple task, for it covers well over a century and involved a reorganisation of the army and changing defensive needs. Moreover, there are problems of terminology. The treatment afforded is a thorough and systematic account of the different types of fortification, and their various functions, with many plans, including some of the Saxon Shore forts. The range covered includes some new earth-and-timber fortifications from the late third century, as well as many that one would expect with thick stone walls, projecting towers and wide ditches, and the fortified cores of cities whose nature — military or urban, or both — is not entirely certain. The pattern is not made any less complex by the range of dating across the fourth century and regional variations.

The substantial catalogue is ordered alphabetically, and will in itself form a useful collection of material for those working in this field in whatever province. It is not exhaustive, for it is designed primarily to highlight well-preserved evidence (especially that from outside France), and contains some of the old chestnuts as well as some important new research. The colour illustrations of the wall-paintings from one of the tribunes' houses at Echzell are of particular note, as are the plans of the early and late forts at Biesheim and Kunheim/Oedenburg (another project by Michel Reddé), while the synthesis of the current state of research on Strasbourg is most welcome.

There is a good bibliography, and an English abstract. There is no index, but the volume is so clearly organised that its omission does not present a serious problem. It is printed on high-quality paper, and represents excellent value. All in all, this is a thoroughly worthwhile addition to the literature, and to the national series on Gallo-Roman architecture. It could be criticised for introducing little in the way of new theoretical approaches to this vast topic, but one might also argue that it is only through the existing academic structures in France that such valuable volumes could be attempted and published so professionally.

City of Lincoln/University of Nottingham

MICHAEL J. JONES

Roman Pottery Production in the Walbrook Valley: Excavations at 20–28 Moorgate, City of London, 1998–2000. By F. Seeley and J. Drummond-Murray. Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 25. MoLAS, London, 2005. Pp. xv + 221, figs 186, tables 33. Price: £28.95. ISBN 978 1 901992 55 7.

Pottery is usually one of the commonest finds from an excavation, but the number of Roman pottery production sites known in Britain is surprisingly small and those excavated to modern standards even more rare. What is surprising about the finds reported in this volume is that we have a new facet for an industry which we thought had been defined and understood, namely the Verulamium region industry. When Vivien Swan compiled her gazetteer of sites back in the early 1980s, the Greater London area and the county of Hertfordshire could only boast 15 known production sites for the entire Roman period, and many of those sites are quite localised and small-scale. Amongst these were the Verulamium region kilns based near Watling Street between London and Verulamium, with major workshops at Brockley Hill, Radlett, Bricket Wood and St Albans. This industry was one of the most significant pottery producers from the mid-first century through to around the mid-second century A.D., specialising in flagons and mortaria, but also producing a diverse range of other forms. It was considered to be a major supplier to London in the Flavian-Trajanic period.

The excavations in the Walbrook Valley described in this volume have completely changed our