

most cases, so that they cannot be followed up. However, the student is provided with a genealogical table, a chronological chart, a glossary, and maps, as well as material for further study in the form of an appendix on the ancient and modern authorities. Certainly, at this price the book is a bargain.

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MIRIAM GRIFFIN

K. LOMAS: *Roman Italy, 338 BC–AD 200: a Sourcebook*. Pp. xiii + 274, 9 ills. London: UCL Press, 1996. £40 (Paper, £13.95). ISBN: 1-85728-180-2 (1-85728-181-0 pbk).

L.'s sourcebook begins with a general introduction on the diverse nature of Italy, and the problems of the sources, before moving into a series of essentially chronological chapters. The focus of the first is the wars with the Samnites and with Hannibal; the conclusion of the Second Punic War leads on to an account of the methods of control of the allies and the nature of colonies. The third chapter looks at the breakdown of this relationship between Rome and Italy, with the increasing wealth of Italy as a result of the empire being contrasted with what L. sees as increasingly interventionist Roman behaviour. The chapter concludes with the Gracchi. The effects of their land and citizenship plans leads in Chapter Four to the Social Wars, and to a discussion of élite mobility in the first century B.C. The remaining chapters are more diverse in theme: first the relationship between Italian cities and the emperor, then the Italian economy with a consideration of trade and agriculture. Chapter Seven—the most interesting—looks at cults, sanctuaries, and priesthoods, and then the last two chapters consider the legal and constitutional make-up of the cities, and the social structure, with a number of biographies of individuals all the way along the social scale from municipal senators to slaves. Each chapter is prefaced with an introduction giving additional background information and further references.

A bald survey gives some idea of the enormity of the task which L. set herself; this is an ambitious book, and that it does not wholly succeed is perhaps unsurprising. Most obvious is the relatively superficial treatment of some enormously important themes; the discussion of the Gracchi is unsatisfactorily split over two chapters, and L. only has space to scratch the surface of this intractable problem, but even so, she should perhaps have knocked the red herring of *latifundia* more firmly on the head. There is far more to say on alimentary schemes as well, and, although at 169 L. promises a detailed discussion of the Bacchanalia, it does not appear in that chapter, but only in some texts quoted at 57–60 with reference to Roman domination, and without reference to the evidence for the continuation of the worship of Bacchus in Italy. One might multiply these examples; the annotations and introductions do not quite do enough to explain the texts. There is a lot of narrative history early on, somewhat unavoidably perhaps, but not enough fully to tell the story, for instance, of the presence of Hannibal. It is striking that poetry is scarcely ever used (Virgil's First *Eclogue* and *Georgics* being merely the most obvious absences); this is a shame because many of the poets are after all Italians writing about the Italian countryside. There are a large number of inscriptions in the book, but it is still not a clear introduction to this mass of largely untouched material. We could have done without quite a lot of Cicero's *Pro Plancio* and *Pro Balbo* and had a lot more epigraphic evidence. When we do get to Cicero, the speeches he makes in favour of various Italians, such as the *Pro Cluentio*, are not introduced sufficiently, so one misses the richness of his descriptions of the bizarre behaviour of these local élites. Most importantly of all, and this may well not be the fault of the author, the illustrations are few, poor, and in one case wrongly labelled. There is far too little archaeology in this book and that, together with a weak index, may explain why the diversity of Italy which L. so clearly and rightly emphasizes on the first page does not really come out; none of the regions are clearly delineated, not even southern Italy, where L. has made eminent contributions. Criticisms aside, this will be a valuable tool as an introduction, and for quick reference. We need something much bigger and better, but for that the authors will have to master that monumental treasure trove that is *CIL*, and find a sympathetic publisher; the sooner the better.

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