

in paperback: it can only be hoped that this will not unduly limit the readership of this essential contribution to the archaeology of central Italy.

*Peterhouse, Cambridge*

ROMAN ROTH

L. MARALDI, *FALERIO* (Atlante tematico di topografia antica, supplemento 13. Città romane 5). Rome: "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, 2002. Pp. 112, 1 folding pl. ISBN 8-8826-5203-3. €80.00.

Roman Falerio (modern Piane di Falerone) lies in the Marche, about 55 km south of Ancona. Maraldi's study of the town's archaeological evidence, based on her doctoral thesis, forms part of a larger series on the urban topography of Roman Italy. Following the established format, M. reviews the history of studies and the historical and epigraphical sources, provides a detailed archaeological gazetteer, and offers hypotheses for urban layout and function.

Despite some sporadic republican material, the evidence suggests that the town was established under Augustus, although there is some dispute as to the date at which the town achieved colonial status. Like nearby Urbs Salvia, it may have been founded as a colony along with the systematic reorganization of the surrounding territory. Under Augustus, or his immediate successors, the town was monumentalized with a theatre — undoubtedly the best-known of Falerio's monuments — and in the latter part of the first century A.D., an amphitheatre. Other structures include baths, cisterns, and houses; the town itself appears to have been unwalled. Supplementing the archaeological evidence, the wealth of epigraphy indicates a range of temples, arches, and a *ponderarium*. (Falerio's other famous archaeological find is a Domitianic bronze inscription detailing a land dispute between the town and its neighbour, Firmum.) More generally, the epigraphical evidence attests a wide range of magistracies and *collegia*, as well as imperial dedications and acts of euergetism. During the later Roman period, the evidence thins to a number of inscriptions (particularly milestones). Subsequently, the town became an episcopal seat; an eighth-century Lombard inscription indicates continuing activity at the site.

The archaeological evidence itself comprises the usual mix of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century excavations and a wealth of more recent emergency interventions, which M. notes often lack stratigraphical recording. Nonetheless, M.'s collation of published and other archive material allows her to build a series of incremental hypotheses concerning urban topography and historical development. For example, in the absence of town walls, she reconstructs the extent of the urban area on the basis of structures and burials (*c.* 300 by 300 m); from this she posits the *cardo maximus* and thus the position of the *forum*, and the extra-urban *forum pecuarium*. M. also offers brief interpretative comments, for example, on the role of the town as a primarily commercial centre — citing its lack of walls, *ponderarium*, and road layout.

M. concentrates closely on Falerio with no sustained regional comparison; there is clearly much more to be said about the similarities and differences observed in passing with the other Roman towns of Picenum, particularly nearby Urbs Salvia. Given the raft of evidence presented, a little more speculation about its significance for interpretations of the town would also have been welcome. Nonetheless, the book provides the first modern and comprehensive archaeological synthesis of the site. It is copiously illustrated with plans and photographs and thoroughly referenced. Undoubtedly, it will provide the basis of any future research on the site, including the systematic excavation which M. believes necessary to further understanding of the town's topography.

*University of Durham*

ROBERT WITCHER

A. E. COOLEY, *POMPEII*. London: Duckworth, 2003. Pp. 160, 20 pls, 14 plans. ISBN 0-7156-3161-6. £14.95.

A. E. COOLEY and M. G. L. COOLEY, *POMPEII: A SOURCEBOOK*. London: Routledge, 2004. Pp. 254, 30 pls, 21 figs. ISBN 0-4152-6211-9 (bound); 0-4152-6212-7 (paper). £50.00 (bound); £16.99 (paper).

In recent years there has been a plethora of new publications on various aspects of Pompeii. Cooley's addition to the *Duckworth Archaeological Histories* is a valuable and timely consideration of the often overlooked history of the excavations and an examination of the factors that influence modern perceptions of the site. Cooley and Cooley's sourcebook fills a significant gap given that it is the first, and much needed, English language sourcebook on