

J. D. EVANS (ED.), *A COMPANION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. Pp. xxiv+722, illus, maps. ISBN 9781405199667. £120.00.

Trying to encapsulate a subject as broad as the Roman Republic and a discipline as diverse as archaeology in just over six hundred pages is a difficult task. However, instead of attempting to narrow its scope, the *Companion to the Archaeology of the Roman Republic* presents thirty-seven chapters (divided into six parts) on a diverse range of topics, from particular building types and specific sites, to categories of evidence and themes such as 'identity'. To an extent, the volume is a compilation of case studies, in that each chapter stands alone and it is not expected that the book should be read cover to cover. While there is not space to comment on every chapter here, Evans' introduction provides a helpful summary of their content (1–11). Students are one of the main target groups of the Blackwell Companion Series, and rather than necessarily presenting new research the contributions are intended to convey 'specialist issues to a broader audience' (11). In this the *Companion* is undoubtedly successful: the chapters are of a high quality and offer an authoritative introduction to, and assessment of, their respective topics. The majority also provide comments on the state of current scholarship, as well as a useful, although not exhaustive, bibliography.

Even if its title might suggest that the *Companion* is aimed primarily at archaeologists, E. is clear that it is also intended to be of use to 'art historians, historians, classicists and anthropologists' (xxii). This is a justified claim: some of the topics included are of equal relevance to these disciplines, and the chapters which consider approaches to different types of evidence are instructive for those less familiar with archaeological data (e.g. E. on numismatics (110–22), Smith on skeletal analysis (141–54), Fracchia on field survey (181–97)). The volume's collective content covers the span of the Republican period, although the last three centuries B.C. receive the most attention. Discussions occasionally venture beyond this into the Imperial period, while the chapters by Ammerman (169–80) and Edlund-Berry (406–25) look at the pre-Republican city. In part this is owing to the fact that certain developments do not simply correspond to political divisions, and also because some topics have a necessary reliance on later evidence (as commented on by Laurence (296)). The difficulty of drawing a strict division between periods is recognized by E., although it might have been beneficial for the introduction to reflect further on what is meant by 'Republican' beyond the standard chronological definition given (1).

One of the *Companion's* strengths is that it does not focus solely on Rome, but considers the Italian peninsula more widely. Developments in the capital are often discussed with reference to situations elsewhere (e.g. Tuck on ports (323–34)), and a number of chapters specifically concern other Italian sites and peoples (of note is Warden's chapter on Etruria (354–68)). In this way the book underscores the importance of viewing the Roman Republic in a broad context. It also means that questions over Rome's 'expansion' being an agent for change, and the issue of 'Romanization' are raised throughout. In particular, they are explored in Part IV which focuses on the theme of 'identity', and notably in Stek's discussion on 'de-centering' Rome (337–53). Other contributors look across the Mediterranean in order to discuss certain topics (e.g. Laubenheimer on the exportation of wine to Gaul (97–109), Romano on centuriation at Corinth (253–67)), and this sense of Rome in the context of a wider world is the subject of Part V: 'The Archaeology of Empire during the Republic'. Here Versluys discusses the notion of Republican Rome as part of a Hellenistic *koine* (429–31), and individual chapters assess Roman involvement in Sicily and Sardinia, Africa, Hispania, Palestine and Greece (primarily Athens). That the *Companion* considers Rome abroad is welcome, but the purposeful omission of chapters on Gaul and Illyricum — due to the alleged minimal relevant archaeology in these regions — is questionable (9–10). Wilson provides a useful assessment of Sicily and Sardinia, despite concluding that in this period 'the cultural impact made by Rome [...] was extremely limited' (503). Stone also has relatively limited evidence for his evaluation of Republican Africa, yet demonstrates the inadequacy of the term 'static' to describe the province in this period (505–21). In light of these efforts, the absence of chapters on Gaul and Illyricum is regrettable. Similarly, there is a degree of inconsistency in the decision to include a chapter on Palestine — which predominantly focuses on the Seleucids and Herod — yet not to discuss Asia Minor because the archaeology of the Roman Republican period 'cannot be differentiated from the late Hellenistic phase' (10).

Given the subject matter of many chapters, it is a shame the number of illustrations is relatively limited and that the reproduction quality of some of those included is rather poor. For instance,

small black and white photographs are not helpful in illustrating styles of fresco painting (62) or types of tuffs (274). Similarly, the lack of well-annotated maps is a problem with certain chapters, as a general audience cannot be expected to be familiar with the location or topography of ancient sites. However, this does not detract from the overall achievement of the *Companion*, the scholarly content and impressive scope of which ensures that it will be of use to those studying a range of disciplines.

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doi:10.1017/S0075435814000185

S. KEAY (ED.), *ROME, PORTUS AND THE MEDITERRANEAN* (Archaeological Monographs of the British School at Rome 21). London: The British School at Rome, 2012. Pp. xviii + 439, 14 pls, illus. ISBN 9780904152654. £90.00.

Harbours do not operate in isolation. They operate in connection to other harbours, and should properly be studied in their mutual relationships. This obvious, though often neglected, truth is driven home forcefully by *Rome, Portus and the Mediterranean*, a wide-ranging collection of twenty-two papers on Roman maritime exchange, preceded by an excellent synthesizing introduction (Keay). The volume's overarching theme is the commercial rôle of Portus in relation to Rome and the larger Mediterranean, its methodological angle the study of evidence from archaeology. All papers result from a 2008 workshop at the British School at Rome, save for one investigating the towpath between Portus and Rome (Aguilera Martín), and the final one on 'computational network methods' (Earl, Isaksen, Keay, Brughmans and Potts), both presumably added to give greater depth to the 'connectivity' theme that is the main thread running through the book.

The volume consists of seven parts, the first of which, 'Portus and Ostia', deals not only with the ports in the Tiber estuary but also with the harbour installations in Centumcellae further north — a harbour frequently overlooked — and in Rome itself, treating them as one interconnected system (Keay; Rizzo). This is a salutary approach, highlighting the vast logistical challenge that supplying the imperial metropolis posed.

The second part, 'Ships and Navigation', continues with general themes such as the choice of commercial routes based on ship size and type of cargo. It considers the rôle of islands as both navigational hindrances and aids, and focuses in particular on the evidence from shipwrecks in the Straits of Bonifacio between Corsica and Sardinia (Arnaud; Gambin; Boetto). An underlying point of this section, and indeed the book generally, is that *le grand commerce maritime* between major emporia rather than *cabotage* was the motor of overseas exchange, a view which (though subscribed to by the reviewer), may not be as uncontroversial as the volume's editor would like to think — '[i]ndeed, as is now generally accepted ...' (8).

The next four sections are devoted to regional studies, 'Hispaniae' unsurprisingly taking a prominent position. The export of salted fish products and olive oil as gleaned from amphorae, *tituli picti* and inscriptions naturally receives much attention (Bernal Casasola; García Vargas; Remesal Rodríguez). But also included here are two studies on the import and distribution of (Luni-Carrara) marble into Baetica and Tarraconensis, a welcome addition to our thinking about the economic ties between Spain, Italy and the wider Mediterranean (Beltrán Fortes; Gutiérrez García-Moreno and Rodà de Llanza). Two further regional studies are devoted to 'Africa' (Bonifay and Tchernia on maritime networks distributing African ceramics) and 'The East', discussing the rôle of Smyrna and Ephesus as entrepôts for Asian coloured marble (Barresi), and of Egypt as a pivot between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea (Tomber; Peacock). The section 'Italy and Sicily' contains a study on ceramic assemblages from Sicilian cities (Malfitana and Franco) and one on the warehouses at Classe, the late antique harbour of Ravenna (Augenti and Cirelli). But although these are valuable contributions, the absence of Puteoli seems strange here. This omission, as well as the absence of a chapter devoted specifically to the harbour of Alexandria and its grain fleet, seems puzzling, also in light of the book's stated goal of 'characterizing commercial interrelationships between ports, and to gauge how far they might reflect the notion of a Mediterranean focused around the demands of Rome' (2).

In the last part, 'Broader Issues', the idea of Mediterranean 'connectivity' and 'micro-regions' is explored in a more general way. Three of the four essays explicitly engage with Horden and