populated/Romanised areas south of Hadrian's Wall, and only a trail north from there up to the Antonine Wall. The PAS data also behave predictably, with few or no finds from urban and protected zones, but an emphasis on certain rural areas. In terms of social distribution D. breaks new ground. The majority of those figurines that can be attributed with certainty to a site type come from urban and military sites, while rural finds (mostly from sanctuaries or votive contexts) are just above half those from towns and only slightly below those from military establishments. The overall picture strongly suggests that the inhabitants of small towns did not make use of figurines with the same enthusiasm as those of large ones. Even within the large towns there are striking differences, as 40 per cent of the figurines in that group come from London but there is only one example from Lincoln and none from Gloucester. Identity and the religious and cultural affiliations of the inhabitants of the various places clearly played a part here. Similarly, the high number of forts and fortresses with metal figurines highlights the importance of identity and adds gender to the mix, and the article could have benefited from more exploration of the causes underpinning these differences between the various places and site types.

The distributions of the more commonly found figurines form the final part of this section. Among the deities examined in detail, Mercury and his animal companions are shown to be widespread apart from an almost total absence from the Midlands. Hercules appears more often in the east than elsewhere, and most often in large towns, especially London. Jupiter and his eagle are widespread, Mars is chiefly found in the south. Although the latter distribution is tempered in the text by comparison to the evidence from inscriptions, it would have been good to see a map or table stressing the number of inscriptions involved. Turning to the data, which are admirably searchable on a number of fields, perhaps the author and publishers could remedy the absence of 'Place' from the search results. This field is buried within the full catalogue entry located one level deeper in the first column of the search results but could profitably be switched with the field for 'Site name', which is a subset of 'Place'.

In all, drawing together the metal figurines from antiquarian, excavation, museum and metal-detecting sources is a major achievement and D. should be congratulated on producing some useful results.

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La Gaule Lyonnaise. By A. Ferdière, with contributions from A. Desbat, M. Dondin-Payre and W. Van Andringa. Picard, Paris, 2011. Pp. 168, figs 108. Price: €65.00. ISBN 978 2 7084 0893 7.

Since Ferdière's book follows the standard pattern for provincial surveys — background; conquest and occupation; towns; country; economy; society; religion; late empire; end — there is no point in cataloguing its contents. However, it should be noted that F.'s 'Introduction' is unorthodox in that it deals directly with 'background, conquest and occupation' and summarises much of the discussion of the early imperial period to come. The result is an impression of brevity and haste followed frequently, in the main text, by one of *déjà vu*.

I found few errors, though it was Valerian, not Aurelian, who was captured by the Persians (17). There are, inevitably, disputable points of detail, such as that imperial taxation of the Three Gauls was supervised from Lyon by officials of the Altar (95). The most important point to make for readers of this journal is that this work is not like the stalwarts of the RKP/Batsford series which began in 1967 with Frere's *Britannia*, and continued with Wilkes' *Dalmatia* (1969), Wightman's *Gallia Belgica* (1985), and Rivet's *Gallia Narbonensis* (1988). These comprehensive syntheses of history and archaeology made figures move in the landscape, and have become standard works of reference. F.'s book is not in their league because, first, its layout comes between its content and the reader. There are no part-, chapter- or section-numbers; and page-numbers are frequently displaced by figures and plates, impeding citation and reference. Many diagrams lack full keys (e.g. fig. 1), or have keys that are poorly linked to the text (e.g. fig. 36b) or even hard to understand (e.g. fig. 71a/b, 'après le test de Khi2'). There is a marked absence of good maps. Most references are to the mean and over-busy effort opposite the main title page (the absence of reference to the *Barrington Atlas* is inexcusable). There is no index. Second, though explanation of some basic concepts, such as the fact that Romanisation did not involve the mass immigration of Romans (23), suggests that the book is directed at the 'general' reader, this is not consistent. 'La Tène finale' and 'Dressel 1' (10), leaguestones (90), and the Magna Mater and Mithras (116) appear without elucidation.

The result is that often (e.g. concerning Late Roman taxation (147)) it is possible to see what F. is driving at only if one already knows something of the history of Gaul. That the target audience is, in fact, the 'general' reader is confirmed by the lack of citation of modern works, all banished to the bibliography. This last lists references by chapter, but those given are few and not easy to relate to particular points. Given their, albeit inconsistent, concern for the 'general' reader, I was puzzled by F. *et al.*'s lack of success in making figures move in the landscape even on those occasions when this should be easy. More could have been made of the personalities and activities of the individuals mentioned on the 'Thorigny marble' (24–5) and in the *Testamentum Galli Lingonis* (123), not to mention of the martyrdom of Blandina (ignored on 155). Third, and fundamental, as F. acknowledges throughout (9, 32, 159), unlike other provinces, Gallia Lugdunensis never existed as a distinct geopolitical entity, and so never had its own history, economy or culture: it was what was left after the creation of Narbonensis, Aquitania and Belgica/the Germanies.

So what do we have from F. and his collaborators? First, a wealth of glorious plates, some covering two sides, the most striking of which is that of the Lyon circus-mosaic (fig. 32); these will greatly aid the preparation of future PowerPoint presentations. Second, a useful check-list of themes, points and sites relating to Lugdunensis. Third, a clear awareness of the general direction of Gallo-Roman archaeology, visible in, say, close attention to 'agglomérations secondaires' (67–78). Fourth, a profusion of hints of particular new research in the region, in the case of, for example, towns, from High Roman waste-disposal (37, 62) to the complexities of the Late Roman 'decline' (135). And fifth, as might be expected from scholars of the quality of F. and his associates, a range of stimulating *aperçus*, including observations on the cultural significance of the provision of butcher's meat in towns (26, 44) and on Lugdunensis's trade with Britain as one of the few features that made the province different from its neighbours (9–10, 96).

Sadly, these days, almost no undergraduates and few junior postgraduates will dare tackle a book in French. At €65.00 it is not cheap, and since it is not really a work of reference most university teachers will hesitate to recommend it for purchase by financially straitened institutions. However, it deserves a place in major research libraries.

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doi: 10.1017/S0068113X13000032

The Beautiful Rooms are Empty: Excavations at Binchester Roman Fort, County Durham 1976–1981 and 1986–1991. By I.M. Ferris. Durham County Council, Durham, 2010. 2 vols: pp. 605, illus (some colour). Price: £55.00. ISBN 978 1 90744 501 9.

Vinovia: the Buried Roman City of Binchester in Northern England. By I.M. Ferris. Amberley, Stroud, 2011. Pp. 192, illus. Price: £16.99. ISBN 978 1 44560 128 1.

Binchester fort in County Durham lies 22 miles south of Hadrian's Wall. Very little is known of its interior except for some late Roman internal baths attached to fragments of the *praetorium*. The baths, among the best preserved in Britain, were described in 1891 and were again the focus of excavation in 1976–81 and 1986–91 in connection with the protection and display of the remains. Ferris now presents a final report and summary publication. There were finds of exceptional interest, such as remarkable graffiti on tiles from the baths, including a list of 25 soldiers' names in fourth-century cursive, rare evidence for ethnic origin and literacy in the late Roman army of North Britain.

The baths are described in detail, though without reference to baths elsewhere in Britain or the Empire. F. accepts the traditional view that they were for the private use of the commander, not considering whether this might have been a late Roman internal baths for the soldiers, as a comparison of the size of the building with other military baths might have suggested. A conservative line is also taken on the well-known tiles in the baths stamped N CON, accepting that they refer to a unit from Chester-le-Street (*Concangis*), 14 miles away, although there are other possibilities — perhaps a unit named something like *numerus Constantinianorum* (cf. *ND Oc.* VII, 149)?

The earliest fort, founded *c.* A.D. 80, was exceptionally large (roughly 7 ha). Excavation of the earliest levels was limited but found fragments of a high-status building, superseded in the first half of the second