some instances, exchanged and circulated as coin-substitutes, these individual finds represent a logical next step for investigation.

The volume is divided into five sections: Britain in the fifth century; silver in the Late Roman, and then post-Roman worlds; and two sections on *Hacksilber*. There is considerable overlap between papers, which gives the volume the virtue of seeming closer to a unified monograph than a series of individual articles. It is perhaps because of this that the structure and arrangement of the papers appears a little confused, particularly concerning chronological developments. Notably, Williams' discussion of Viking 'Hack-silver' precedes discussion of the more immediately post-Roman deposits. Nonetheless, such inconsistencies are a minor drawback and do not detract from the overall success of the volume, particularly in highlighting just how much these archaeological discoveries can tell us about political relationships and power structures between the Empire and bordering territories. To this end, Painter's and Guggisberg's work is of immense value. Painter underlines the impact of imperial control of silver (and gold) production and the consequences of this in times of crisis, when the wealth of private households could be recalled to support the state, particularly in the form of military payments. The argument for official involvement in the distribution of precious metals is advanced by Guggisberg, who illuminates the nuanced social meanings projected onto goods made of different metals by both Romans and 'barbarians'.

The contents of the Traprain hoard receive relatively light attention, being the main focus of only two chapters (Kaufmann-Heinimann and Martin; Guest's assessment of the siliquae from the Traprain treasure is actually more focused on the Hoxne hoard, and justifiably so given that the former only includes four examples). Readers hoping for more information about the hoard itself will be pleased to learn that a volume dedicated to a reassessment of the Traprain treasure is in preparation. Coinciding as it does with two major research projects on hoards (at the University of Oxford and the British Museum/University of Leicester) and a detailed re-analysis of the Mildenhall treasure currently underway, this contribution to our understanding of precious metal deposits has come at an opportune time. The inclusion of summaries of several other silver hoards (notably Patching; Magura Hill; Coleraine; West Bagborough; and multiple Danish examples) positions it as an indispensable repository for both comparative data and theoretical perspectives, which will no doubt inform these larger projects. It is an asset to have such a diverse array of information in one place and one hopes that, by emphasising the importance of these finds to broader inquiries into the turbulent Late Roman period, it will inspire greater scrutiny of both known *Hacksilber* deposits and future discoveries.

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Römische Flussfunde aus dem Rhein zwischen Mannheim und Bingen: Fundumstände, Flusslaufrekonstruktion und Interpretation. By I. Kappesser. Dr. Rudolf Habelt GMBH, Bonn, 2012. Pp. 408, illus (colour). Price: €90.00. ISBN 978 3774937 15 4.

River finds, from metal vessels to ancient weapons, have long held a special place in the public imagination and in archaeological research. Both in Britain and on the Continent, there appears to be a striking contrast in the ways in which prehistoric (essentially ritual) and Roman (accidental loss) finds have been viewed. Rather than focusing on individual sites, this Mainz PhD examines Roman-period finds from a 100-km stretch of the river Rhine between Mannheim and Bingen. Ch. 2 offers a detailed summary of the hydrology of the river and the geomorphology of the surrounding area, followed by a careful discussion of the many early modern interventions that affected the Rhine. These did not just alter the river's course but also involved major projects such as the removal of the remains of the Roman bridge at Mainz in the late nineteenth century. As a consequence of the intensive engineering work, most antiquarian finds are from the main river channel itself, while most of the more recently discovered material comes from gravel extraction pits, from where it often disappears into private and poorly documented collections.

A careful survey of the study region and of ancient sources on the Rhine (ch. 3) establishes that ferries and bridges rather than fords represented the main ways of crossing the river in antiquity and describes the relevant sites in detail. Kappesser recorded nearly 900 finds from museums, private collections and published sources, and these are analysed not just in terms of their spatial distribution along this stretch of the Rhine, but also in terms of the types of objects represented and their chronology (ch. 4). This careful

analysis reveals some interesting patterns, especially when compared to prehistoric material from the same area (ch. 7). It is clear that weapons and vessels in particular were preferentially deposited, and that while concentrations in the area of Mainz occur in both periods, there are subtle differences clearly related to the ancient use of this area. For the Roman bridge at Mainz, it is even possible to demonstrate a cluster of finds at the very centre of the bridge (fig. 61), a pattern which surely points to deliberate deposition rather than accidental loss.

The results of the survey are then compared to other major rivers (such as the Saône, Tiber and Thames) and to other finds from gravel pits (such as the famous material from Neupotz and Xanten); finally, there is a comparison with votive offerings at spring sanctuaries and hoards (chs 5–6).

K.'s careful analysis of the river and its history allows her to distinguish between recovery bias and ancient patterns, and she concludes that much of the Roman material should be interpreted as deliberate votive offerings. This may not seem revolutionary to British readers raised on Richard Bradley's famous 'passage of arms', but it represents a significant break with the German academic tradition of seeing most of this material in terms of accidental loss and riverside battles.

The book is well illustrated, and includes appendices on water engineering, gravel extraction, material in private collections and a full catalogue of the 877 finds studied in detail. The latter is organised by location along the river rather than by type of material and not illustrated. The book represents an important contribution to a long-running debate, and should act as a spur to consider river finds of all periods.

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The Creation, Composition, Service and Settlement of Roman Auxiliary Units Raised on the Iberian Peninsula. By A. Meyer. British Archaeological Reports, International Series 2505. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2013. Pp. xi + 142, illus, maps. Price: £29.00. ISBN 978 1 407311 21 0.

Seventy years ago, Forni laid down the 'rules' for the recruitment of legionaries during the Principate: most men joined between the ages of 18 and 21; recruitment gradually spread from Italy to Provence, Spain and Africa, but by the reign of Hadrian local recruitment was the norm. The situation has proved more complex for the *auxilia*. Recent studies have concentrated on examining the recruitment by individual units or in specific areas, with Alex Meyer's study of the recruitment from Spain representing the latest such study. M. seeks to drill down to the next level and investigate 'the social and cultural influences that may have affected individual soldiers' (2), following the trend of studying the Roman army as 'community'. A challenge, but one worth pursuing as we have relatively little evidence for these elements in the lives of individual soldiers, especially in the western provinces where we largely lack the letters and documents of the East. Is he successful?

The available evidence resides mainly in inscriptions and diplomas; the issues presented by this material are discussed in ch. 1. The following chapter offers a description of the development and structure of the *auxilia*. We then move, in ch. 3, to a consideration of the auxiliary units raised in the Iberian peninsula. Here, M. accepts without qualification the conclusion of R.P. Saller and B.D. Shaw ('Tombstones and Roman family relations in the Principate', *JRS* 74 (1984), 124–56), that of the 80 known auxiliary soldiers from Britain, only two were demonstrably of British origin. Unfortunately, he misses John Mann's ('Epigraphic consciousness', *JRS* 75 (1985), 204–6) argument that the poor epigraphic consciousness in Britain may have played a part in the creation of these figures. Nor can the deliberate movement of local recruits out of the Lower Rhineland after A.D. 69–70 be regarded as a reflection of general practice (32). One major problem is that local soldiers are less likely to have recorded their origin than those who came from outside the province.

M. concludes that the Iberian units serving in other provinces continued 'to accept soldiers from their home territory even after the original levy and while concurrently accepting recruits from elsewhere', these local recruits first appearing in the *alae* in the Augustan-Tiberian period but in the cohorts not until Claudius; by the end of the first century recruitment was mainly local (51–3). It would be interesting to know whether the *equites* in the cohorts followed the pattern of the *alae* or the cohorts, but the evidence does not exist. In short, the situation was complex and a warning to all seeking to formulate simple rules.