

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.

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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

Pompeii, and the first since Della Corte's *Case ed Abitanti di Pompei* (1965), published almost forty years ago.

In the first volume under consideration here, drawing extensively on recent research, C. provides a summary and analysis of some of the key periods in Pompeii's history. Beginning with a discussion of the state of the town prior to its burial, she questions the extent of recovery from the earthquake in A.D. 62 (ch. 1), followed by a reconsideration of the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79 (ch. 2). C. explores the evidence for disturbance of the site prior to the start of official excavation in 1748: the town's populace returning to salvage what they could; Roman activity in the area in the subsequent centuries; and chance discoveries in the Middle Ages (ch. 3). She then turns her attention to the impact of Bourbon patronage on the early 'excavations' in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and observations by Grand Tour visitors to the site (ch. 4). The contribution of mid-nineteenth-century site director Giuseppe Fiorelli is also discussed (ch. 5), while the final two chapters provide an overview of Jashemski's examination of horticultural areas in the 1960s and 1970s (ch. 6) and recent excavations that explore the pre-A.D. 79 history of the town (ch. 7).

However, there are some omissions from C.'s account, most notably relating to the excavations of Vittorio Spinazzola and Amedeo Maiuri in the first half of the twentieth century, both of whom are mentioned only briefly. Spinazzola, who was supplanted by Maiuri in 1924 for his criticism of the then fascist government, was able, through the use of more precise excavation techniques, to carry out remarkable restorations of houses and their façades along the *Via dell'Abbondanza*. Spinazzola can truly be credited with transforming our perception of Pompeii and the Roman street. Maiuri, site director for almost forty years, excavated a large part of the town, including some of the most famous private dwellings, conducted important stratigraphic excavations to investigate the town's history, and published over one hundred and fifty articles on Pompeii and Herculaneum. The omission of their contribution in this volume presents a missed opportunity.

C. implies in her introduction that the book is aimed for a wider audience than one which has an existing knowledge of the site, a point demonstrated by the names of the houses and streets being given in English rather than Italian. However the text is supplemented by a comprehensive collection of footnotes and bibliographical material that will doubtless be of worth even to an audience more familiar with Pompeian studies. Where this volume is of most academic value is that it draws together much recent research in this field, including a re-examination of Fiorelli's tenure as well as the findings of new excavations. This book is well researched and written, while the text is supplemented with clear plans of the site suitable for the general reader, although some of the black and white plates could have been better chosen.

C. and C.'s sourcebook sets out to make a selection of Pompeii's written source material more accessible for the GCSE to undergraduate reader. To this end, C. and C. cover a wide range of topics, drawing on the available published documentation. The first chapters of the book relate to the early history of the town through to its burial, while later chapters concern aspects of town life such as leisure, religion, politics, and commercial life. The sources employed vary in form, ranging from engraved inscriptions, dipinti and graffiti, wax tablets, and contemporary Latin sources to modern sources such as translations of the accounts of the early excavators. Such accounts are generally not found in sourcebooks and the inclusion here of the descriptions of the early excavators' findings and disgraceful acts of vandalism carried out by visitors to the site offers a valuable and fascinating insight into the town's modern history.

All this forms a thorough and wide-ranging set of source material that successfully supplements parts of C.'s book discussed above. Although much of the material will already be familiar to those interested in Roman life and society, the value of the book lies in the fact that this is the first English sourcebook on Pompeii. As with C.'s volume, some of the plates are of poor quality and as a result it is often difficult to distinguish detail. However this is a minor point, in what will surely prove to be a highly useful sourcebook, particularly for teaching purposes.

In sum, both books provide sound introductions to the complexities of Pompeian studies giving a valuable context to modern interpretations of the town. They will be of most interest to someone less familiar with the site and its literature, although will also appeal to the more experienced reader, particularly in the case of C.'s volume as it gives a much needed overview of Pompeian history, encompassing recent research in the field.

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