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.

University of Reading HELLA ECKARDT
h.eckardt@reading.ac.uk
doi: 10.1017/S0068113X16000209

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.

This conclusion is supported by M.'s suggestion that horsemen were frequently sent from Iberia to other provinces in order to counter deficiencies in local recruitment.

When it comes to retirement, few of the Iberian soldiers returned home, yet what is interesting is that while about half of the veterans in the study stayed within 25 miles of their unit, over a third travelled over 100 miles to settle into a new home (75–6), a contradiction of currently held academic views.

In ch. 5, M. moves into personal relationships. This is prefaced by a useful review of the present literature on the subject and the flaws in these analyses. M.'s conclusions are challenging: soldiers are 'equally likely to be commemorated by or with a soldier from a different unit as … by or with a soldier from their own unit' (95). This is unexpected. How were such links made? M. surmises that some were made when soldiers served in the same unit or when units were stationed together. The family was also important even though it might be dispersed. I suspect that we underplay the role of letter writing in maintaining communications across considerable distances. M. notes that rank does not appear to have been a significant factor in relationships between soldiers, posing a challenge to a strongly hierarchical view of the Roman army (114).

M. is indeed successful in his aims, offering not just challenging conclusions but also an exemplar for similar studies. He acknowledges the disadvantages of a small body of evidence, but recommends further studies along the same lines as they allow a more nuanced approach to the evidence than 'the large-scale, quantitative analysis of epigraphic evidence' (116–17). In this way we will understand better the lives of individual Roman soldiers.

The discussion is supported by the text and translations of inscriptions and six maps. Strangely, the individual items in the bibliography are not in chronological order.

Edinburgh DAVID J. BREEZE
davidbreeze@hotmail.co.uk
doi: 10.1017/S0068113X16000167

Hoarding and the Deposition of Metalwork from the Bronze Age to the 20th Century: A British Perspective. Edited by J. Naylor and R. Bland. BAR British Series 615. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2015. Pp. v + 202, illus (incl. col.), maps. Price: £49.50. ISBN 978 1 407313 83 2.

Late Iron Age Gold Hoards from the Low Countries and the Caesarian Conquest of Northern Gaul. Edited by N. Roymans, G. Creemers and S. Scheers. Amsterdam Archaeological Studies 18. Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam / Gallo-Roman Museum, Tongeren, 2012. Pp. vii + 239, illus (incl. col.), maps. Price: €70.00. ISBN 978 9 089643 49 0 (AUP); 978 9 074605 50 2 (Tongeren).

The Beau Street Hoard. By E. Ghey. The British Museum Press, London, 2014. Pp. 48, illus (incl. col.), maps, plans. Price: £4.99. ISBN 978 0714118 26 0.

Hoarding is an important theme in both British and continental research, and these three publications offer a variety of approaches to this phenomenon, ranging widely both chronologically and geographically. Two are edited volumes, focusing on Britain and the Low Countries/Northern Gaul, while the third represents an interim report on an important recent discovery from Britain.

The volume edited by Naylor and Bland is based on the proceedings of a 2011 Portable Antiquities Scheme conference discussing approaches to hoarding deposition and practice, which has also stimulated an ongoing research project at the British Museum and the University of Leicester (http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/hoarding-in-iron-age-and-roman-britain).

Bland's opening article provides a comprehensive summary of hoarding practice from the Bronze Age through to the Civil War and provides useful background for the period-specific papers comprising the rest of the volume. He notes how interpretations of the reasons for hoard burials change depending on period specialisms and traditions; ritual or religious motivations are more commonly suggested for prehistoric hoards, whereas the safekeeping hypothesis is often more popular for Roman and subsequent periods. To a certain extent, this split is reflected by the papers in the volume though many discuss deposition motivations other than safekeeping.

The main focus of the volume is coinage, with only Haselgrove, Leahy and Naylor addressing object hoards in any great detail. Focusing on river finds from the Thames region, Naylor demonstrates continuity of deposition in water contexts from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period to his main focus, the early medieval period. Haselgrove reviews the evidence for Iron Age object hoard deposition