

Narbonensis, the most Roman of provinces, providing a potentially useful text especially for undergraduate classes, who would not otherwise find this material easily accessible.

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P. ROBERTS, *LIFE AND DEATH IN POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM*. London: British Museum Press, 2013. Pp. 320, illus. ISBN 9780714122823. £25.00.

Last year's exhibition by the same name at the British Museum drew in the public. The legacy is a splendidly illustrated exhibition catalogue with 400 plates that will be a point of reference for teachers in schools, undergraduates and the public. The book, like the exhibition, focuses on the house set in an urban context (ch. 1) and includes living over a shop (ch. 2), the *atrium* (ch. 3), *cubiculum* (ch. 4), garden (ch. 5), with an interlude to consider living rooms and interior design (ch. 6), followed by dining (ch. 7), kitchens, toilets and baths (ch. 8), and, finally, the death of the cities (ch. 9). There are also notes, bibliography and a list of exhibits.

The format raises a point about exhibition catalogues and their rôle in the presentation of research. As the author pointed out publicly in talks and lectures, the exhibition was for the public rather than academics and – to an extent – so is the catalogue. It sits in the tradition of the catalogue produced by Amanda Claridge and John Ward-Perkins in the 1970s (*Pompeii AD 79* (1976)) with the curator(s) of the exhibition taking on the rôle of author(s) of the entire work. This contrasts with the Italian tradition, seen for example in *Pompeii. Abitare sotto Vesuvio* (edited by M. Borriello, A. d'Ambrosio, S. De Caro and P. G. Guzzo (1996)), which is for multi-authored works that include academic experts from the field – for example Andrew Wallace-Hadrill on 'Le abitazioni urbane' or Roger Ling on 'La Casa del Menandro' and a host of other academic experts (with their endnotes) – that is then followed by a detailed listing and photographs of the objects from the exhibition. Roberts' book is not like this: the academics are behind the scenes (acknowledged in the foreword), and he draws on the work of experts (appearing in the notes) to present Pompeii to the public. The difference is important in any assessment of the work, and also points to a different relationship in the UK between the museum sector and academia than is apparent in an Italian exhibition catalogue.

The link back to academic research is maintained by R. very successfully to present the streets of Pompeii in ch. 2 and to shift discussion from the streets and into the shops. There is a certain reverence for academia: 'As some scholars have pointed out ...' (47). So we discover that traffic flow was important to the Romans (46–7), although it would seem equally true that many Pompeians were more interested in preventing traffic flow by blocking streets rather than enabling it. R. produces a description of Pompeii for the public from these academic works, which is a contrast to Mary Beard's commentary on research in Pompeii for the public (*Pompeii: Life of a Roman Town* (2008), see review by Laurence in *JRA* 22 (2009), 584–7). When presenting the *atrium*, we are safely in the world of wealth, patronage, power; here Andrew Wallace-Hadrill's *Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum* (1994) – that has survived some twenty years since its publication – and Latin texts inform the reader of the thinking of the ancients. Hence, R.'s book acts as a mirror of academia and tends to offer a quite conservative vision of Pompeii, seeking to agree with academia – itself a place of fundamental disagreement even over the use of the words *atrium* and *cubiculum* drawn from texts and applied to spaces in Pompeii (P. Allison, *AJA* 105 (2001), 1–28). There is a sense in reading R.'s book that one is seeing academic ideas pass by with the addition of lavish colour illustrations, so often absent from scholarly publications. This aspect of the book is a strength rather than a weakness – it does communicate a whole range of academic ideas to the public and at the same time allows academics to read critically those ideas with the addition of cleverly researched illustrations (for example, fig. 105: *Lararium* from the House of the Lararium of the River Sarnus).

What shines through in this book is R.'s enthusiasm for the objects that substantiate the description of Pompeii – when he discusses washing, grooming, toilets and beauty routines to name but a few topics. He has an ability to present the illustrated example that brings the activity found in a Latin text to life (for example, Ovid, *Art of Love* 3.209–10 on p. 132). Mostly, this is done by the juxtaposition of texts and objects – again an approach that has been strongly

criticized (P. Allison, 'Labels for ladles: interpreting the material culture from Roman households', in P. Allison (ed.), *The Archaeology of Household Activities* (1999), 57–77). This shows not a weakness of the book but a weakness in our understanding, or absence of interest, in how objects were deployed in texts by Latin authors and the variation in the literary deployment of words referring to objects. The fact that such objects appear in texts is of itself interesting and makes a statement about the materiality of the first century A.D. The book through its description allows us to once again appreciate how many questions are unresolved in Pompeii and just how much of our interpretation continues to rely on the survival of the relatively few Latin texts from antiquity: Ovid, Pliny and Vitruvius. At the end of reading the book, the pictures claim our attention and cause us to read around them to understand their significance. This is very much a book of an exhibition for the public.

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R. HOBBS, *CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE IN ANCIENT POMPEII: COINS FROM THE AAPP EXCAVATIONS AT REGIO VI, INSULA 1* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 116). London: Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2013. Pp. x + 283, illus. ISBN 9781905670413. £48.00.

The Vesuvian cities have provided a wealth of archaeological evidence for the day-to-day life of townspeople and an indispensable proxy for urban life in first-century Roman Italy. In spite of such relative plenty, a detailed understanding of money-use in Pompeii and Herculaneum is lacking. An unknown number of coins have been removed over the centuries by pilferers and antiquarians; yet even what has been left behind by foragers includes many coins which were corroded beyond recognition by the acidic soils. Hobbs attempts to make the most of this situation by combining a detailed archaeological survey of the numismatic evidence from Pompeii's north-westernmost insula with comparative evidence from the rest of the city as well as the region at large. His contribution provides not only a helpful and accessible catalogue and metrology of the numismatic data, but his discussion contains several noteworthy contributions to debates over the prevalence, use and function of money in the city and region.

Readers often turn to volumes such as this one for the catalogue of coins, and here they will not be disappointed. In addition to a hoard of ninety coins found in the sewers beneath a Republican bath-house in the southernmost region of the city, all 1,188 coins found in the insula have been photographed and described in detail. Clear illustrations are substituted for photos in cases where specimens are particularly corroded or worn. Thorough notes on archaeological context and dating evidence are included for each and every coin. Generalists will probably struggle a little as they get used to H.'s system. Part of this is not unexpected, but the situation could have been helped on a few occasions. For example, it would have been beneficial to have the key to H.'s phasing at the beginning of the first appendix to help decipher the pages of tables which follow. Instead, the reader is expected to pour back through the narrative in order to excavate the figures from somewhere in the middle of the third chapter. Unhelpfully, there is no list of figures or tables provided. However, apart from small quibbles, the evidence is mostly presented in a useful and accessible manner. References to physical spaces and evidence are almost always accompanied by relevant and easy-to-understand maps and charts.

In addition to the catalogue and metrological datasets, the book's narrative is well worth the read. H. acquaints the reader with the Anglo-American Project in Pompeii's (AAPP) twelve-year excavation of the insula, the occupational history of the space itself (which pottery remains suggest dates to at least the late fourth century B.C.), as well as the city-wide evidence for money use. All numismatic evidence is placed into one of two over-arching categories: 'live' coins were being used either as stores of value or as exchange media at the time of the eruption, while 'dead' coinage was lost, discarded or otherwise ownerless. Such broad categories could be problematic, yet all the coins found in the insula, save four, have a clear archaeological context associated with them. This is typical of H.'s tendency to take few risks with his material.

Readers searching for theory-driven analysis will need to look elsewhere. Apart from a bit of discussion on methodology in the introduction, H. avoids direct engagement with models and