

the standard of writing is uneven, and the punctuation wayward. It is also difficult to understand the organisation of chapters: examples of furniture are classified sometimes by form and function, sometimes by material. The inconsistency is understandable, given that artistic depictions do not always allow a judgement as to whether an object was of wood, metal, or stone; but, for clarity of presentation, it would have been better to adopt so far as possible a standardised system of divisions and subdivisions.

In short, this book has its disappointing aspects. None the less it offers a general survey of a kind for which there is no exact equivalent in English, and as such will serve as a useful handbook for general readers seeking a first introduction to the field. The four short concluding chapters summarising the evidence for furniture in use are of particular interest. And the illustrations, including numerous clear drawings, are excellent. Pride of place goes rightly to the colour photographs of several of the replica items in the South Shields fort.

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*Dalmatia. Research in the Roman Province 1970–2001. Papers in Honour of J.J. Wilkes.* Edited by D. Davison, V. Gaffney and E. Marin. British Archaeological Reports International Series 1576. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2006. Pp. iii + 212, illus. Price: £37.00. ISBN 978 1 84171 790 6.

John Wilkes' great study of *Dalmatia*, published in 1969, remains for most scholars the point of entry of this fascinating province of the Roman Empire. This volume includes papers offered at the Roman Archaeology Conference in 2000 to celebrate his achievements and discuss subsequent research in the region. As with any such volume, contributions vary in depth and quality, but even the briefest of essays proves a useful signpost towards the directions taken by current researchers.

Faced with a miscellany of contributions, the editors have done a commendable job in achieving a broadly coherent framework. After an editorial section which honours Professor Wilkes' contribution, the volume continues with a discussion of the prehistoric background to the province (Glogović), focusing especially on developments from the eighth to the fourth centuries B.C. The paper's content underscores how much work remains to be undertaken, especially when it argues bluntly that 'the settlements of the Dalmatian Iron Age were hillforts' (9). One is reminded here of how many Iron Age landscapes have been defined in such terms prior to the development of landscape archaeology, a disciplinary approach that has only recently started to transform our knowledge of the region. This survey is then followed by a discussion of the Greek background (Kirigin) which also introduces preliminary findings from the remarkable Nakovana cave. This site, which should excite interest from all students studying the archaeology of cult, preserves important information on ritual practice from the fourth to first centuries B.C. More detailed discussion of the site has since been published in *Antiquity*.

Two papers by Bilić-Dujmušić examine warfare in the region, offering us insights into the battle of Taurida (briefly noted in Caesar's *Bellum Alexandrinum*) and the siege of Promona (described in Appian's *Illyrica*). These detailed studies will be of particular interest to military historians. The military theme is continued with a survey of research on the legionary fortress at *Tilurium*, modern Gardun (Sanader), an important site long known to scholars, and notice of the recent discovery of the Augustan fort at Obrežje (eastern Slovenia). The latter resulted from survey work in advance of motorway construction and the account of its investigation, summarised here by Mason, will be welcomed by students of the Roman army both on account of the calibre of the excavation work and the rare archaeological evidence it gives for forts in this region during the Roman conquest of Pannonia.

The volume's attention then shifts to settlement study, beginning with contributions on the urban centres of Salona and Narona (Marin) and a survey of excavations in Salona (Mardešić). Of especial note is Marin's discussion of an important fragment of a limestone rostra (75–7) discovered at Narona. Marin, in the reviewer's opinion, is right to allow the possibility of an early (pre-A.D. 14) date for this previously unpublished piece and to believe that it will be of particular interest to all students of Augustan iconography.

As already noted, however, the wider study of rural settlement must constitute a particular priority for Dalmatian research. This was the case when John Wilkes wrote *Dalmatia* in 1969 and it is no less true today. While excavations, many of them driven by rescue work in advance of major infrastructure projects, have illuminated some aspects of rural life, informed overviews of rural settlement are hard to

come by. Gaffney's paper, written with the Adriatic Islands team, marks important progress in this regard. Work on the Adriatic Islands demonstrates the dramatic transformation wrought by Roman control, with 'virtually every isolated patch of cultivable land associated with Roman agricultural development' (102). Yet it is a particular strength of many areas of Dalmatia that we are not dealing exclusively with 'a game of numbers' as Gaffney teasingly refers to his own important analysis. The richness of the epigraphic record has much to contribute. In this volume it illuminates both the Adriatic Islands analysis and a detailed study of the countryside in Liburnia (Starac). Starac's detailed reading of this evidence serves as a model example of what informed epigraphic commentary can achieve. The theme of settlement study is taken further by Mason in his discussion of Late Roman Bela krajina — an interesting paper, marred slightly by the resolution of some of the images of Črnomelj.

Detailed epigraphic analysis lies at the heart of two of the four remaining papers. Kurilić provides what is essentially a short note on recent inscriptions discovered in the province, but short as it is, it contains much of note. The reviewer was especially taken with the discussion of the monument set up by a soldier, a *tibicen* (sic, reproduced as *tibicem* in the paper's appendix) on the governor's *officium*, to his *hospita* (133) and with an Augustan inscription detailing the restoration of a temple to Venus *ex pecunia publica* (136). Škegro similarly draws heavily on epigraphy, elegantly complemented with reference to other ancient historical sources and archaeological data, to illuminate the economic life of the province. This densely written paper makes more widely accessible the author's monograph-length treatment of the same topic, *Gospodarstvo rimske provincije Dalmacije* (1999). This contribution is splendidly complemented by Jurišić's comprehensive discussion of maritime trade. His paper provides an excellent introduction to the topic and a survey of the relevant literature, though better illustrations might have helped the reader.

The volume ends with a discussion of literary and archaeological evidence relating to the Slavs and the early Croatian state, bringing the readers forward in time and still further into the vexed questions archaeologists encounter whenever they engage with ethnicity.

Though there are occasional lapses in presentation, this is a valuable addition to the available literature on Roman provincial archaeology. It will, I hope, encourage more scholars to look again at the story and the promise of this important province; something that I am sure would please the generous pioneer to whom this volume is so rightly dedicated.

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*Saint-Bertrand-de-Comminges. III, Le rempart de l'antiquité tardive de la ville haute. (Études d'archéologie urbaine).* By A.S. Esmonde Cleary and J. Wood. Éditions de la Fédération Aquitania, Pessac, 2006. 2 vols: pp. 340, pls and figs 302, tables 42, fold-outs 8. Price: €45.00. ISBN 978 2 910763 06 0.

Town walls are clearly important vehicles of academic and archaeological discussion in France. Having recently seen publication of a new analysis of the late Roman walls at Le Mans by J. Guilleux in 2000 (see review in *Britannia* 35 (2004), 357), the surveys in *Enceintes romaines d'Aquitaine: Bordeaux, Dax, Périgueux, Bazas*, edited by P. Garmy and L. Maurin (1996) (reviewed in *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 10 (1997)), plus *Les Enceintes urbaines (XIIIe–XVIe siècle)*, edited by G. Blicek *et al.* (1999) (reviewed in *Medieval Archaeology* 46 (2002)), this third volume in the Saint-Bertrand excavation monograph series offers a comprehensive assessment of the visual, material and archaeological evidence for the late Roman (but not the medieval) hilltop circuit of a major southern Gallic urban centre. As a variety of images in this highly illustrated pair of volumes (the second, hard-bound volume contains the fold-out plans, elevations and sections) show, the late antique town and its successors occupied a low oval hill overlooking the dying and robbed remnants of the Roman *civitas* of *Lugdunum/Convenae*; the circuit wall, 885 m long, part exploiting materials from this earlier imperial townscape, formed an important reinforcement of the relatively slight natural defensive capabilities of the hill. Permanent occupation of this hill, rather than evacuation to a more naturally defended height, no doubt links to the installation here also of an episcopal church from c. A.D. 375–400.

Louis Maurin's 'Préface' (7–8) raises the key points duly examined in full in this volume. First, the walls form part of a wider archaeological study of the towns and their materials (commencing in