

the more recent citations towards work published in 1996 suggests that we should regard this as the effective cut-off date for contributions to this volume. Unfortunately, this means that the contributors did not have access to the many valuable papers that have appeared in the series *The Transformation of the Roman World*, whose first volume was only published in 1997.

There is little one can say about a book such as this, a fitting conclusion to a fine series. One suspects that the contributors have done their best within tight word limits, and that they themselves are well aware that the evidence for many of their statements is often a little more complex or controversial than they seem to suggest. If one dares to venture any criticisms of *CAH* 14 it is that its inconsistencies in so many matters can become annoying after a while. This is true in matters both of presentation and of substance. As is suggested by the listing of the contents, and confirmed by the chapters themselves, some contributors have divided their chapters into a number of different sections, but others have not. So, for example, Ian Wood delivers his chapter 'The North-western Provinces' without a break, while the next contributor, Mark Humphries, 'Italy, A.D. 425–605', subdivides his chapter into nine different sections. The latter approach is far preferable in so far as it makes reading much easier, not least for students and interested members of the general public at whom this series is surely aimed. As regards substance, it is noteworthy that the chapter-headings alone betray a certain disagreement as to whether the cut-off date for this volume should have been A.D. 602, 605, or 640. Furthermore, despite the title of the book, the chronological table proceeds as far as A.D. 640 also (p. 985), and several contributors do end with a breathless gallop until this date too. For what it is worth, I think that most readers would have been better served had the editors decided to continue this volume until the death of the emperor Heraclius in A.D. 641. The end of his reign witnessed the final destruction of the old enemy Persia, the rise of a new enemy in Islam, and the permanent loss of much of the empire's eastern territory. Greater discontinuity with the past there could not have been. Furthermore, one might have expected the publisher to try and ensure consistency with the cut-off date used in its other great reference work for this period, the *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire*, which does end in A.D. 641. There are minor inconsistencies also, or so they appear to a professional in the field. The general reader may be less forgiving. For example, what is the difference between 'Aremorica' (pp. 498–506) and 'Armorica' (pp. 8, 28), 'Tingitania' (pp. 3, 10) and 'Mauretania Tingitana' (p. 564), 'Nicholas' and 'Nicolaus' (p. 1145)? Such inconsistent treatments of the same names do not aid intelligibility.

Finally, misprints are rare, and the context usually exposes these for what they are. So Constans II reigned for the period 641–68 rather than 641–8 (p. 563).

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THE EASTERN FRONTIER

G. GREATREX, S. N. C. LIEU (edd.): *The Roman Eastern Frontier and the Persian Wars, Part II: AD 363–630*. Pp. xxxii + 373, maps. London and New York: Routledge, 2002. Cased, £60. ISBN: 0-415-14687-9.

This sequel to M. H. Dodgeon and S. N. C. Lieu, *The Roman Eastern Frontier and the Persian Wars (AD 226–363)* (London and New York, 1991) (reviewed in

The Classical Review vol. 54 no. 1 © The Classical Association 2004; all rights reserved

CR 107 [1993]), 116–18), incorporates several changes, some—including attractive presentation—clear improvements. Extracts from primary sources are no longer numbered, but linked by explanatory passages, so as to provide a ‘narrative sourcebook’ rather than a ‘documentary history’ (Volume I). Material is arranged in fourteen thematic chapters in chronological order, followed by two on specific and important source-material: the first English translation, by Marina Greatrex, of the Syriac Khuzistan or Guidi chronicle (Part 1) and a select dossier of inscriptions from the whole period.

It is a major achievement to assemble in English this disparate body of material in several languages (Greek, Latin, Syriac, Armenian, Arabic). The authors have assiduously revised even relatively recent translations, e.g. Mango and Scott’s Theophanes, *Chronicon Paschale* (some improvements here!), in addition to providing new ones where necessary. Random checks show up inaccuracies in some of the latter, e.g. Themistius, *Or.* 8.114c (p. 8) and *Or.* 16.212d–213c (p. 16); Corippus, *Iohannis* 1.56–67 (p. 108). As in Volume I, the sources translated are selective (p. x); for example, early seventh-century Syriac sources are omitted, given Palmer’s 1993 translation (p. 183). Selection is problematical (e.g. the eye-witness Antiochus Strategius is not quoted on the fall of Jerusalem in 614), but some important, non-historical sources are rightly highlighted, e.g. the *Lives* of Theodore of Sykeon (pp. 185–90) and George of Khozeba (p. 192).

The narrative approach permits citation of unquoted sources, but also entails interpretation (cf. Millar, *CR* 107, p. 117). The quality of the scholarship is not in doubt—bibliography and notes are admirably thorough—but inevitably will not win all. And, while the sources by their nature remain constant, interpretations will be superseded; for example, new numismatic work by Susan Tyler-Smith, forthcoming in *BMGS* 2004, gives an improved dating for Khusrō II’s accession: p. 299 n. 34; and there are two new volumes in English on Heraclius, by W. E. Kaegi (Cambridge, 2003) and the proceedings of a Groningen colloquium edited by G. J. Reinink and B. H. Stolte (Leuven, 2002). However, a website to handle this problem is promised (p. xii).

The materials in translation will attract students without the relevant languages, but the accompanying scholarship (not to mention the price) targets advanced scholars. Less information is given about the nature, quality, and problems of the sources than in Volume I: I found no help on Cyrillonas (p. 18) and brief information on the *Chron.* 724 only on p. 183, although a good bibliography of primary sources helps. The dense notes cover chronology, prosopography, and topography, survey scholarship (including archaeology, numismatics and papyrology) and offer further wide-ranging information (e.g. plumage on Sasanian helmets, p. 272 n. 52). Robert Hewson’s detailed maps (pp. xxviii–xxxii) greatly improve on those of Volume I, though clearer indication of mountainous areas is desirable, as in the map showing provenance of inscriptions (p. 239). Additional tools are a glossary and excellent indices.

Overall this is an ambitious and learned project demonstrating impressive mastery of recent scholarship in a period for which source material is complex.

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