

C. demonstrates a sure grasp of structural, stratigraphic and settlement evidence, yet material culture is less deftly handled. In the interpretation of coin hoards, abandonment of material wealth as a consequence of civil and military unrest is relied upon as an explanation, rather than economic factors such as the devaluation of the coinage in the third century, which probably led to much deliberate deposition and/or non-recovery of virtually worthless coins (R. Reece, *The Coinage of Roman Britain* (2002), 76–7). With regard to hoards of silver, the phenomenon of ‘hacksilver’ (cut-up plate) in this period is important and suggests, contrary to the impression given by C., that hoards were not necessarily buried by their original owners. The treatment of the long-debated ‘Germanic’ burials from a range of key sites in northern Gaul also causes slight unease. One mistake is to describe the distinctively Germanic brooches from these burials as ‘trumpet’ brooches rather than the ‘tutulus’ brooches that he actually means. There is also varied interpretation of these groups of burials in different sections. On pp. 58–9, the debate over whether the burials are Germanic ‘laeti’ (refugees or prisoners-of-war), ‘foederati’ (free mercenaries), or local landowners, is effectively summarised, pointing out the difficulties in coming to a definitive conclusion. A few pages later, however, any nuances have been lost as some of the burials that constitute this debated group (for instance those from Vermand) are used, unproblematised, as evidence for the presence of ‘foederati’.

The details of transformations in urban space are very interesting, exploring such themes as the Christianisation of the cities, the special status and trajectory of the Imperial capitals in Italy, and the varied nature of the fortification, shrinkage, etc. of various cities. In general, the use here and elsewhere of case-studies examining the evidence from particular sites across a wide range of provinces provides more depth than is found in many synthesis books. I would have liked to see a greater focus on questions of social history; there is some illuminating discussion of changes in bathing habits and leisure pursuits, and this could have been profitably expanded to other areas of social living. Without this, the aim to illuminate how different ‘being Roman’ was in the fifth century is only partially achieved and the focus mostly seems very traditional, on cities, defence, Christian buildings, etc. I would also have liked to see, in a book which emphasises the importance of archaeological material, a much wider range of illustrations of key pieces of archaeological evidence. The illustrations are small and not very numerous.

Overall, however, this is a very well-researched and informative text that will undoubtedly be very useful to students. It has a different emphasis to, for example, the book by Heather, whose focus is on barbarian societies and their inter-relationship with Rome, and while it is less original, it is also less polemical than the similarly titled book by Ward-Perkins.

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Depicting the Gods: Metal Figurines in Roman Britain. By E. Durham. *Internet Archaeology* 31, 2012. http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue31/durham_index.html (open access for readers in subscribing institutions, download for individual readers). Price: £7.50.

Over the second half of the twentieth century a number of well-illustrated *catalogues raisonnées* appeared describing the Roman period figured bronzes found in many of the countries of Western Europe. It is unfortunate that no equivalent corpus of figured bronzes emerged from Britain, although in the 1970s and 80s there were some studies focused on particular figurine types or *civitates*, while Green set votive items of all forms and materials in their wider ritual context. Durham’s presentation here of over 1,000 figurines from Roman Britain goes some way to fill the lacuna, but the almost total absence of objects with figurative elements means that little sense is conveyed to the reader of the wealth and contextual range of visual imagery during this period. Similarly, restricting the study to metal figurines inevitably impacts upon distribution, and the omission of figurines in other materials such as pipeclay, jet and wood points up the value of a more wide-ranging approach.

Apart from the introduction and catalogue, the article has four major sections, on production and materials, types present, spatial and social distribution, and chronology. The first is a valuable overview that includes details of surface treatments, and the last yields no real new insights. Few types are given more than minimal discussion, so that there is little sense here of the richness and subtlety of the *interpretatio romana* or an equivalent *interpretatio indigena*. The section on spatial and social distribution represents the focal point of D.’s work. Spatially the emphasis is as expected, with gaps in the more hilly and less

populated/Romanised areas south of Hadrian's Wall, and only a trail north from there up to the Antonine Wall. The PAS data also behave predictably, with few or no finds from urban and protected zones, but an emphasis on certain rural areas. In terms of social distribution D. breaks new ground. The majority of those figurines that can be attributed with certainty to a site type come from urban and military sites, while rural finds (mostly from sanctuaries or votive contexts) are just above half those from towns and only slightly below those from military establishments. The overall picture strongly suggests that the inhabitants of small towns did not make use of figurines with the same enthusiasm as those of large ones. Even within the large towns there are striking differences, as 40 per cent of the figurines in that group come from London but there is only one example from Lincoln and none from Gloucester. Identity and the religious and cultural affiliations of the inhabitants of the various places clearly played a part here. Similarly, the high number of forts and fortresses with metal figurines highlights the importance of identity and adds gender to the mix, and the article could have benefited from more exploration of the causes underpinning these differences between the various places and site types.

The distributions of the more commonly found figurines form the final part of this section. Among the deities examined in detail, Mercury and his animal companions are shown to be widespread apart from an almost total absence from the Midlands. Hercules appears more often in the east than elsewhere, and most often in large towns, especially London. Jupiter and his eagle are widespread, Mars is chiefly found in the south. Although the latter distribution is tempered in the text by comparison to the evidence from inscriptions, it would have been good to see a map or table stressing the number of inscriptions involved. Turning to the data, which are admirably searchable on a number of fields, perhaps the author and publishers could remedy the absence of 'Place' from the search results. This field is buried within the full catalogue entry located one level deeper in the first column of the search results but could profitably be switched with the field for 'Site name', which is a subset of 'Place'.

In all, drawing together the metal figurines from antiquarian, excavation, museum and metal-detecting sources is a major achievement and D. should be congratulated on producing some useful results.

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La Gaule Lyonnaise. By A. Ferdière, with contributions from A. Desbat, M. Dondin-Payre and W. Van Andringa. Picard, Paris, 2011. Pp. 168, figs 108. Price: €65.00. ISBN 978 2 7084 0893 7.

Since Ferdière's book follows the standard pattern for provincial surveys — background; conquest and occupation; towns; country; economy; society; religion; late empire; end — there is no point in cataloguing its contents. However, it should be noted that F.'s 'Introduction' is unorthodox in that it deals directly with 'background, conquest and occupation' and summarises much of the discussion of the early imperial period to come. The result is an impression of brevity and haste followed frequently, in the main text, by one of *déjà vu*.

I found few errors, though it was Valerian, not Aurelian, who was captured by the Persians (17). There are, inevitably, disputable points of detail, such as that imperial taxation of the Three Gauls was supervised from Lyon by officials of the Altar (95). The most important point to make for readers of this journal is that this work is not like the stalwarts of the RKP/Batsford series which began in 1967 with Frere's *Britannia*, and continued with Wilkes' *Dalmatia* (1969), Wightman's *Gallia Belgica* (1985), and Rivet's *Gallia Narbonensis* (1988). These comprehensive syntheses of history and archaeology made figures move in the landscape, and have become standard works of reference. F.'s book is not in their league because, first, its layout comes between its content and the reader. There are no part-, chapter- or section-numbers; and page-numbers are frequently displaced by figures and plates, impeding citation and reference. Many diagrams lack full keys (e.g. fig. 1), or have keys that are poorly linked to the text (e.g. fig. 36b) or even hard to understand (e.g. fig. 71a/b, 'après le test de Khi2'). There is a marked absence of good maps. Most references are to the mean and over-busy effort opposite the main title page (the absence of reference to the *Barrington Atlas* is inexcusable). There is no index. Second, though explanation of some basic concepts, such as the fact that Romanisation did not involve the mass immigration of Romans (23), suggests that the book is directed at the 'general' reader, this is not consistent. 'La Tène finale' and 'Dressel 1' (10), leaguestones (90), and the Magna Mater and Mithras (116) appear without elucidation.