



Das Frührömische Lager bei Hofheim im Taunus by E. Ritterling

Review by: F. Haverfield

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cuttings through the hills, is often inadequate. Thus hardly anything is said of the splendid stretch of pavement of the Via Amerina between the Via Cassia and Nepi. The theory that it ran by Mazzano (iii, 137) is erroneous.

The most valuable part of this volume is undoubtedly that which deals with the middle ages, as I have already pointed out elsewhere,¹ and we shall find that the mediaeval period plays a predominant part in the succeeding volumes, dealing respectively with the Viae Appia, Ardeatina and Aurelia, and the Viae Cassia and Clodia, Flaminia, Labicana and Praenestina. The Viae Latina, Laurentina, Nomentana, Ostiensis, Portuensis, Salaria and Tiburtina are reserved for the fourth and concluding volume, which Signor Francesco Tomassetti has in preparation. Professor Tomassetti is probably right (vol. ii, p. 8) in supposing that the Via Appia was preceded by an older road to the Alban hills which would, to judge by analogy, have borne the name Albana. The excavation of the site of the Porta Capena and of the first few hundred yards of the road has been delayed indefinitely by the formation of the so-called *Passaggiata Archeologica*, a modern park in the valley between the Aventine and the Caelian. Further on, however, before the gate in the Aurelian walls is reached, excavations in the vineyards and gardens on each side have brought to light numerous tombs; but, as our author remarks, we must await the appearance of the indexes to vol. vi of the *C.I.L.* before attempting to deal with the inscriptions which have been found in them.

When we reach the Campagna, the mediaeval interest predominates, as is only natural; but this leads to abrupt transitions from period to period, and the classical student may have some difficulty in disentangling his material, especially as the mediaeval documents are often quoted at considerable length. He will, however, find a great deal of matter that he will not find elsewhere, that will well repay him for his search (the account of Albano, ii, 159, foll. is especially interesting); even though he may not be inclined to accept all the topographical theories advanced, such as the transference of the original Fidenae to the right bank of the Tiber (iii, p. 273) and the supposition that the drilling-ground for the troops stationed in Rome under the empire was situated near the mausoleum of Helena (iii, p. 390).

The illustrations are numerous, and, especially in the second and third volumes, interesting and well chosen, showing us places in the neighbourhood of Rome not often seen by the ordinary visitor, though not after all so very inaccessible; for the Campagna di Roma is now far better provided with means of communication than it was when Professor Tomassetti began his researches, a fact which ought to be borne in mind in judging of his work.

The bibliographies are fairly complete, but the indexes are not by any means perfect; also there are no maps, which will be a serious drawback to students who are unacquainted with the Campagna.

THOMAS ASHBY.

DAS FRÜHRÖMISCHE LAGER BEI HOFHEIM IM TAUNUS. Von E. RITTERLING. 10¼ × 7½, 416 pp. 38 plates. Wiesbaden, 1913.

Hofheim is a little village on the south slope of Taunus, nearly half-way between Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. It possesses two Roman military posts, one an auxiliary castellum of the ordinary type, founded somewhere about A.D. 83, the other an irregular-shaped earthwork standing about 100 yards from it, which was first founded about A.D. 40 and, after a chequered history, was finally abandoned about the time that the other was established. The castellum has been described by Dr. G. Wolff in one of the numbers of the *Limes Reports* issued in 1897, and does not now concern us. The earthwork

¹ *Builder*, vol. xcvi, no. 3496, 5th Feb. 1910, p. 134.

has been explored during the last ten years by Dr. Ritterling, Dr. Wolff and others, and in 1904 the first-named scholar published an account of the result in the *Annalen des Vereins für Nassauische Altertumskunde*, vol. 34, which has long been recognised by Roman historians and archaeologists as a monograph of very special value. Since then, excavation has been pushed much further, and Dr. Ritterling now gives us, as the fortieth volume of the above-mentioned *Annalen*, a full and detailed account of his finds, with copious illustrations. The volume will be found of even greater value than its predecessor; it is, indeed, a work which no student of Roman Germany or of Roman military archaeology can afford to neglect. It is not only a most minute, careful and scientific account of the Hofheim earthwork, but is full of side-lights on Roman forts and on Roman history. It is, in short, that which we should expect from its distinguished author. I cannot attempt here to review the book in detail. My object is simply to call the attention of members of our Society to this publication by one who (we may be glad to think) is also a member. I shall only mention, by way of illustration, a few points which have struck me in my first reading of its pages.

p. 4. Professor Ritterling explains the irregularity of the earthwork, which resembles a circle pulled awry, with a diameter of about 160 yards, as characteristic of the earlier Roman military system when wars were carried out on a great scale, large armies took the field and the officers who commanded them were both able and compelled to neglect the precise theories of the Gromatici. It is perhaps worth noting that a similar change, plainly not due to the same reason, seems to have taken place in the planning of Roman towns. The "coloniae" founded by Augustus (Octavian) show a much more rectangular system of streets than we can detect in earlier Italian towns like Pompeii, and this regularity is not confined to Italy. It appears just as much in Laibach and Orange as in Aosta and Turin. When exactly the change happened from regular to irregular is not quite certain, but it was not later than the triumvirate, and was perhaps earlier.

p. 12. Hofheim supplies examples of the pointed ditch with a curious little rise in the centre, of which occasional doubtful examples have been found in Britain. Such ditches have the profile of a W with the central point strongly blunted; the object, it is suggested, was to provide for *cheveux de frise* of thorns.

p. 16. The two gates of the oldest enclosure at Hofheim, dating from about A.D. 40, show a somewhat similar overlap to that of the gates of the earliest fort at Newstead which dates from about A.D. 80. Another example of the same style of gateway existed at Castlecary fort, on the wall of Pius, and may perhaps be coeval with the Newstead instances.

p. 42. In dealing with the commandant's house, Professor Ritterling seems now inclined to accept the view which I long ago put forward (and which he was inclined to reject in his account of Wiesbaden fort, p. 35), that the building north of the "praetorium" at Gellygaer was the commanding officer's dwelling-house. He also makes a suggestion that a small sunk water-trough found by the commandant's house at Hofheim and elsewhere may have been used for the officer's supply of oysters.

p. 56. Here are very useful and interesting figures relating to the sizes and uses of *borrea*. But I notice that the dimensions of the *borreum* at Lync are given a trifle wrongly; internally they are 13 × 89 feet, externally 20 × 97 feet.

p. 77. The areas of the barracks are carefully calculated out. Also the nationality of the soldiers is deduced, in a way that must seldom be possible, from graffiti on their pottery. They were Illyrians, Bato and the like.

p. 98. The detailed list of coins contains much of great value. I notice in particular (p. 115) that Professor Ritterling retains and almost extends his view that the barbaric issues of Augustus, Tiberius and Claudius may have been minted by the quasi-autonomous *civitates* of Gaul, with the consent or acquiescence of the central government. Similar coins, of the reign of Claudius, have been found in Britain in and near Gloucester, and long ago suggested to me, and I believe to others before me, that the country round Gloucester was in earlier Roman days a protected principality, minting just these coins.

p. 117. The detailed examination of the fibulae will yield welcome help to those who try to date fibulae of the earliest empire found in other districts.

p. 141. Not a few interesting pieces of armour and weapons occur at Hofheim, and the account of them in the book is again of real value.

p. 201. Here we have assistance towards dating, or at least attempting to date, the Samian pottery, which falls between the abandonment of Haltern and the Domitianic age (say A.D. 10-80), while the other pottery is treated as thoroughly and helpfully as the Samian.

I have, I hope, said enough to show the great value of an important work.

F. HAVERFIELD.

THE TOPOGRAPHY AND MONUMENTS OF ANCIENT ROME. By SAMUEL BALL PLATNER. Second edition, revised and enlarged. $7\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$, xiv+538 pp. 93 figures in the text, 8 maps and plans. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1911. \$3.00.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1904, and the present edition is the result of a thorough revision by the author as a result of a visit to Rome, while the enlargement amounts to 24 pages. It is certainly the most useful handbook on the subject in English, or indeed in any language, at the moment available.

The instability of ideas and theories in regard to some of the details of Roman topography at the present moment is largely due to the fact that the foundations on which our supposed knowledge rested have proved less firm than had been supposed. Thus, the old criteria for dating brick-faced concrete have been entirely upset, and mere measurements of the thickness of the bricks and of the courses of mortar have been proved incapable of determining the date of a monument without study of the materials out of which the concrete is made, and examination of the pieces of brick or tile which compose the facing. An additional complication is introduced by the fact, recently brought into prominence by Commendatore Boni and others, that the use of older material (often broken pieces of flanged tiles) was at all periods habitual, so that the evidence of brickstamps for dating, except as a rather loose *terminus post quem*, cannot be accepted without qualification, as Professor Platner (p. 2) seems rather prone to do. Nevertheless, we feel that a homogeneous group of stamps of one year or a short series of years may still be taken as fairly adequate evidence of date. In this connexion attention should be called to Miss Van Deman's valuable researches into these very complicated problems, a preliminary discussion of which appears in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, xvi (1912), 230, ff. 387, ff. An application of her methods to the Atrium Vestae has enabled her to demonstrate the existence of six stages in its development (Platner, p. 204). There is good ground for hope that the establishment of new and sounder criteria may lead to the safe determination of the date of many concrete monuments which either had no facing originally or from which it has been entirely removed.

It is easy to understand that there should be more uncertainty in this direction than in the dating of buildings in which remains of architectural decoration exist; and yet, owing to the want of what Commendatore Boni has called a "grammar of mouldings," it is regarded by many scholars as quite uncertain whether the existing remains of two of the finest of Roman temples, that of Castor and Pollux in the Roman Forum, and that of Mars Ultor in the Forum of Augustus, belong to the period of Augustus or to that of Hadrian (Platner, pp. 180, 280). That such an uncertainty should be possible only shows how much preliminary investigation yet remains to be done before we can derive any definite indications of date from internal evidence (which, if we could only read it, would almost certainly be conclusive). For the dating of *opus quadratum*, up to and including the time of Sulla, much has been done by the careful researches of