

The Classical Review

<http://journals.cambridge.org/CAR>

Additional services for *The Classical Review*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)



Aus den Phönikischen Nekropolen von Malta. Von Albert Mayr. (Separat-Abdruck aus den Sitzungsberichten der philos.-philol. und der hist. Klasse der kgl. Bayer. Akad. der Wissensch. 1905, Heft III.). München, 1905. Pp. 32; four plates.

H. B. W.

The Classical Review / Volume 20 / Issue 06 / July 1906, pp 332 - 332
DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00994782, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00994782

How to cite this article:

H. B. W. (1906). The Classical Review, 20, pp 332-332 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00994782

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

account of the development, or rather of the deterioration, of the Roman religion under the influence of foreign cults. The present book fills this gap in a very interesting, though unpretentious, way. The author freely acknowledges his debt to Professor Wissowa, and his obligations to him are indeed evident throughout. But we find unmistakable signs of an independent judgment as well as much freshness of illustration. The five essays which make up the work describe the half-animistic religion of Numa, the Servian reorganisation, the invasion of Greek deities under the aegis of the Sibylline books, the fatal advent of the ecstatic worship of the East, and finally the short-lived Augustan revival.

One piece of criticism may perhaps be ventured upon. Is it not possible that excessive stress is laid upon the formalism and spiritual inadequacy of the Roman religion? Our ideas as to the effect of that religion upon the hearts and characters of its votaries must not be derived from the conduct of the mob at Rome. Roman religion was essentially a religion for the tiller of the soil, and it was away from the baneful influences of the city that its saving power was best exemplified and most thoroughly understood. The ceremonies of the Roman Festivals may have been minute and often (to our minds) bordering on the ridiculous. But the provincial-bred Livy knew something of the secret of the Roman character at its best when he wrote: *parva sunt haec, sed parva ista non contemnendo maiores nostri maximam hanc rem fecerunt.*

In the useful references to recent literature given in the Index more frequent mention might have been made of Boissier's *La religion romaine* which gives an excellent account of the Augustan revival and treats of many points beside that of Emperor-worship. The printer's error (on p. 101) of 'symbols' for 'cymbals' may be mentioned as a curiosity.

F. H. MARSHALL.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Der Blitz in der Orientalischen und Griechischen Kunst. Von PAUL JACOBSTHAL. Berlin, 1906. Pp. 60; four plates. M. 3.60.

THE writer traces the development in art of the well-known symbol of Zeus, which first appears in the art of Assyria (but not in Egypt, where storms were seldom known),

in the simple form of a double zigzag line, which gradually becomes triple, obviously representing a lightning flash. About the eighth century its form was doubled, and that conception was taken over by the Greeks, whose decorative instincts however tended to convert it into the form of a flower, especially the familiar motive of the lotus-bud or blossom. The writer quotes as an interesting parallel the 'Red Flower' of Kipling's *Jungle Book*; but he does not appear to have realised how often the trident of Poseidon was treated in the same fashion. He points out that different varieties of the flower-thunderbolt are found in Ionic and in western Greek art. Subsequently the flower-type gives way to more naturalistic treatment, and the weapon becomes barbed like a bunch of arrows, or is furnished with wings as on the coins of Elis. The plates give some seventy instances of variant forms, from Greek and earlier art.

Aus den Phönikischen Nekropolen von Malta. Von ALBERT MAYE. (Separat-Abdruck aus den Sitzungsberichten der philos.-philol. und der hist. Klasse der kgl. Bayer. Akad. der Wissensch. 1905, Heft III.). München, 1905. Pp. 32; four plates.

AN interesting record of finds in Maltese tombs, which include various funeral sculptures and forms of coffins. Among the latter is an anthropoid sarcophagus of terracotta; this the author regards as illustrative of a Phoenician custom of the fifth-third centuries, and claims as peculiar to Malta. But they are not unknown in Cyprus. Among the pottery are some interesting Greek vases of various periods, a few Corinthian and black-figured; those of later date come from the South Italian workshops, and include a fine krater *a campana*. A study of the burial-customs shews that inhumation was practised down to the end of the third century, when burning became customary. The monograph will be useful as a record of some little-known discoveries.

H. B. W.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NUMISMATIC SUMMARIES.

American Journal of Archaeology. Vol. x. Part 1. 1906.

1. O. M. Washburn and A. Frickenhaus: The Building Inscriptions of the Erechtheum. (Four plates.)

The text of certain inscriptions (one new) is given by Mr. Washburn, with some proposed new