

a carefully documented presentation of the archaeological material related to the Julia Memmia Bath. They analyze the structure from the archaeological and architectural perspectives. They reconsider the findings in light of what they can tell us about the larger issues of pre-Roman, Roman, and post-Roman history of the region.

The only weakness lies in the limited study of comparable bathing establishments. There is a short discussion of other baths in North Africa which puts this complex into some type of architectural context. Krencker's work on the imperial bath at Trier is employed to bring in some material from Europe. However, one finds it odd that none of Yegül's important work on baths of Asia Minor or Roman baths in general makes it into the discussion, or for that matter into the bibliography. Considering the connections known to have existed between North Africa and Asia Minor during the High Empire, it does seem an oversight not to have any discussion of the architectural and stylistic relations between the development of the imperial bath type in places like Ephesus and Sardis and the North African cities. By limiting the analysis almost exclusively to North

Africa, Broise and Thébert reinforce the notion that the Roman world and Roman architectural developments should be treated as groupings of discrete territorial and cultural units with little real interaction. That these divisions and provincial associations did indeed exist and did influence cultural history and artistic forms is certainly true, but it is also the case that the unity of this worlds was strong and was still quite intact in the early third century. The unity played an equally important role in determining the formation of Roman Culture through the Empire.

The volume is well illustrated with good black-and-white photographs. The line drawings have been well chosen and combined with the photographic views, do a fine job of illustrating points made in the text. The arrangement of the volume is clear and well conceived. This is a welcome addition to the field reports and monographs on Roman North Africa.

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J.B. Ward-Perkins, *The Several Buildings of Lepcis Magna: An Architectural Survey with Contributions by Barri Jones and Roger Ling*, edited Philip Kenrick, architectural drawings prepared and edited by R. Krinenburg, general editor Barri Jones. Society for Libyan Studies. Monograph n. 2 (Manchester 1993) 109 pp., 45 line drawings, 48 plates, appendix with 7 page summary in Arabic, 40.

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John Ward-Perkins first saw the magnificent ruins of Lepcis Magna, the great provincial city of Septimius Severus on the North African coast of modern Libya, during his North African service in the Second World War. The site had been under excavation by the Italian colonial authorities since the 1920's. Following the war, Ward-Perkins had the chance to follow up his interests in Roman North Africa with excavations at Sabratha and architectural studies at Lepcis which led in turn to the writing of his important 1948 article on

Severan building at Lepcis that appeared in the *JRS*. However, Ward-Perkins' interest did not wane, and his concern with and knowledge of the North African material informed much of his scholarly work in later years and continued to occupy his thoughts as can be seen in the volume under review. Here are collected and published for the first time typewritten manuscripts for several architectural and building studies which Ward-Perkins began producing in the 1950's and returned to again in the 1970's. These manuscripts were found among his papers which were being sorted after his death in 1981. While he may have intended that these would all be published as a collected study, the works were all in various draft states and had not been culled for repetitions or inconsistencies. There were also holes in the discussions. This newest volume of Ward-Perkins' is then a posthumous work, the result of the diligent and caring labor of several editors who have sought to fill the lacunae, smooth out the textual rough spots, and eliminate the glaring inconsistencies and unneeded repetitions. The result is a contribution of uneven value. There is no substitute for Ward-Perkins' descriptive style. He had an eye for architecture and a

clarity in describing it that is unequalled. He knew these monuments intimately and understood how the myriads of details fit together to form the whole. This aspect is abundantly clear in all the essays. What is missing are the finely tuned analyses in which the descriptive information is taken to another level. At least two such discussions were planned but not ready for even preliminary publication. The other missing element is the archaeological apparatus, the information about the specifics of the excavations of particular monuments which help the reader to understand the nature of evidence on which conclusions are being based. This was not an aspect on which Ward-Perkins usually concentrated, and he may have had no intention to include such information with these papers, but in their present form, they are strictly architectural studies with little or no information drawn from the archaeological record other than the structures themselves. The drawings that illustrate the textual points come from the archives for the site which had been held in the British School in Rome. The discussions consider the major Severan complexes at Lepcis Magna – the forum, the temple of the Severan Emperors, the basilica, the colonnaded street, the materials, the building techniques, and the organization of building labor. A final essay considers the chronology of Severan building, at the site. Bari Jones and Roger Ling have added an essay on the Great Nymphaeum to fill one of the voids.

The site of Lepcis Magna is one of the best known from North Africa. It has a Roman architectural history that stretches back to the first century A.D., and its market structure and old forum temples are standard works for any survey of Roman architecture. However, it is the massive change to the city that occurred when the emperor Septimius Severus pumped large amounts of imperial money into the local economy to build monuments that honored himself and his line at the same time that they established his home town as a significant city in the Roman world that interests most students of the site and captured Ward-Perkins' attention in these essays. This new collection concentrates on the public buildings, and so there are no discussions of the harbor area, the colonnaded street itself, the harbor baths, nor the tetrapylon, even though these all were elements in the Severan design. Nor is Ward-Perkins concerned with the urban plan other than how an individual structure like the forum is made to fit.

Ward-Perkins describes the buildings in a straight forward manner which is deceptive in its form. Embedded within the seemingly neutral descriptions are both the bias that gives focus to the work and pieces of information that go beyond mere description. This can be seen in Ward-Perkins' opening discussion of the forum where he clarifies that the architect's solutions to the problems posed by the site resulted in an innovative architectural form of grandiose character with striking individual features. Shortly after, in his description of the archivolt mouldings of the arches he notes that there are stretches completely carved alternating with stretches that have been merely shaped on the same block. The information, presented as description, leads to a understanding that architectural details for the forum were carved on site when the block had been hoisted to place. The same descriptive passage also makes us realize that the work was never finished on the forum. Elsewhere, short analytical sections are worked into the descriptions, as when Ward-Perkins explains the rather odd treatment of the back wall of the Temple to the Severan Emperors as an architect's attempt to create a stronger visual statement for the rear gable of the temple by setting forward the crown of the pediment.

The two final essays, the first on materials, building techniques and labor organization, and the second on the chronology of Severan building at the site, provide the most completely analytical portions of the volume. Ward-Perkins had a long standing interest in materials as shown by his numerous publications on the issue, and no doubt, his early work at Lepcis influenced his initial studies. He had a fine sense of how buildings are built from the construction point-of-view, an interest often missing in other architectural historians. These concerns can be seen in his down-to-earth analysis of where specific materials were used, how they were employed, and what skill was required of the constructor to work with them. Ward-Perkins points out that where *opus quadratum* masonry and concrete masonry meet there is no overlapping, no construction linkage between the two. He reads the descriptive fact as evidence that the two work crews, both quite different because of the different skills needed to work the materials, were kept separate to avoid confusion in the construction process. His analysis of the building chronology demonstrates Ward-Perkins' ability to place the descriptive details of buildings into the larger picture of building programs. Using the epigraphic

evidence he argues for a short construction phase at the site – perhaps no more than thirty years (it has taken over fifty years to just restore the tetrapylon) – the reigns of Septimius Severus and his son Caracalla. He dismisses the thesis that the basic arrangement for the site had already been inherited from the previous generation and favors instead the idea of a Severan architect as the initiator of the entire design program, though he admits that changes were made after work began as when the circular plaza was abandoned in favor of a great fountain. Most of the other changes can be documented in the constructions themselves either by shifts in building styles or as in the podium of the temple of the Severan Emperors where rejected architectural elements were incorporated into the structure.

This volume is beautifully illustrated with plans and reconstruction drawings taken from the excavation archives and arranged by the editors to augment the text. These provide a useful aid to following Ward-Perkins arguments. The black-and-white photographs which are quite sharp and clear provide still more visual documentation.

The strength of this volume lies in its author's intimate knowledge of the monuments of the site and his deep and abiding interest in the details of the buildings themselves and the long period of time that he spent considering the issues. These strengths regularly surface in the individual essays. The volume's weakness is the lack of a coherent scheme because it is a collection of writings on buildings produced during the Severan period rather than a work conceived as a study of the building program of the Severan emperors. Some of the essays end abruptly; some of the ideas seem undeveloped; some of the discussions could have used a bit of reworking. However, we are lucky to have these papers, otherwise unpublished, brought together and ably compiled into a most useful volume. They are John Ward-Perkins' last words on a subject to which he devoted much of his professional life and, one suspects, much of his personal interest.

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Gabriela Martin, *Pré-História do Nordeste do Brasil*. 2a edição. Recife: Editora Universitária – UFPE, 1997

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Ao entrar no escritório de um arqueólogo geralmente se encontra livros numerosos de vários tipos, tais como relatórios de escavações, manuais técnicos, obras de metodologia e teoria arqueológica e trabalhos de diversos assuntos relacionados. Muitas vezes se nota também, separadas dos outros e ao alcance da escrivaninha algumas obras em condições precárias devido a anos e anos de uso. Estas são as mais valorizadas e consultadas pelo arqueólogo – suponho que será nessa estante onde *Pré-História do Nordeste do Brasil* achará seu lugar.

Dra. Martin, cuja contribuição à arqueologia brasileira é notável, observa que “escrever um manual ou introdução ao estudo de qualquer ciência é trabalho ingrato” – as centenas de referências bibliográficas e sítios citados é um bom testemunho da sua experiência e capacidade de lidar com essa tarefa. Ter

sido solicitado para avaliar uma obra assim é uma experiência gratificante e desafiadora – por isso, não tenho pretensões, sendo ainda relativamente iniciante na arqueologia brasileira, de cobrir todos os assuntos e levantar uma crítica muito ampla.

Embora o livro seja útil para o profissional, a autora o direcionou aos estudantes de arqueologia pré-histórica e os de ciências sociais que estejam interessados em mergulhar um pouco no assunto. A partir de uma discussão sobre a história da arqueologia pré-histórica nordestina, Martin, devido a sua perspectiva ecológica, descreve o meio ambiente da região. A seguir, os capítulos tratam de tópicos específicos à arqueologia do nordeste e inclui: a antiguidade da vida humana no nordeste, baseando-se nas pesquisas importantes de Niède Guidon no Piauí, as quais exigiram uma reavaliação mundial sobre o povoamento das Américas; áreas arqueológicas, a ser discutido adiante; tecnologia do povo pré-Cabralense, incluindo cerâmica, indústrias líticas e outros; a análise da arte rupestre e simbolismo; e, uma curta abordagem da arqueologia funerária. Martin fecha seu livro com observações sobre o futuro da arqueologia nesta região.