

*Theodor Mommsen: Die Schweiz in römischer Zeit.* 3. Auflage, herausgegeben und Nachwort von *Gerold Walser*. Lebendige Antike. Artemis Verlags-AG, Zürich 1973. 63 p., 2 maps. DM 5.—.

This book is a reprint of a paper delivered by the young Mommsen to the Zürcher Dozentenverein in the 1850s. In spite of its age, it is still the most salient introduction to the general history of Roman Switzerland. In addition, Mommsen's magnificent phrasing makes reading it extremely enjoyable. This book could, indeed, serve any historian as an example of how to write for the general public in a perfectly lucid, yet rigorously scholarly way. The Artemis Verlag is very much to be congratulated on this new edition. Perhaps the publisher could, however, see to it that the frontier lines on map 1 are made more distinguishable for the next impression. In this edition they are maddeningly difficult to follow.

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*Actes du IX<sup>e</sup> Congrès international d'études sur les frontières romaines.* Mamaïa, 6–13 septembre 1972. Edités par D.M.Pippidi. Editura Academiei Bucuresti – Böhlau Verlag Köln, Wien 1974. 557 p., 74 plates, numerous maps and drawings. Lei 50.—.

*Pol Trousset: Recherches sur le limes tripolitanus du Chott El-Djerid a la frontière tuniso-libyenne.* Études d'antiquités africaines. Éditions du centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris 1974. 176 p., with drawings, plates and 2 maps. Fr. 75.—.

The fifty-seven articles of the *Actes*, some of them written jointly by two authors, show that the Roman frontiers are being studied by an amazingly large number of scholars today. The problems do not, however, seem to be decreasing. On the contrary. The courses of the frontiers are, of course, seldom in doubt any longer. It also seems that purely historical problems have either been solved or are no longer fashionable. The main attention at least in this volume has been focused on archaeological questions. Much new insight can certainly be gained through studies in this particular field. Unfortunately, quite a number of these articles do, however, read like excavation reports, i.e. the authors have not bothered to work out their results and set them into historical contexts. This would naturally have made the volume far more useful for non-archaeologists as well. The readers would certainly also have been able to judge the results of this book better if it had been provided with a general map of the Empire with the names of all the sites discussed in the various articles on it.

Trousset's study of the *limes* in Tripolitania represents a major undertaking and it contributes much to our understanding of the Roman history of the area in general. One hopes that other volumes of this type will follow. It is a pity, however, that the descriptions of the sites and features are often extremely short and that Trousset's photographs are not quite on the level of his text.

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