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Grandezza et Decadenza di Roma. Vol. IV. La repubblica di Augusto. Vol.V. Augusto e il Grande Empero. By Guglielmo Ferrero. Milan, 1906–1907.

G. H. Stevenson

The Classical Review / Volume 22 / Issue 03 / May 1908, pp 84 - 85

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00001219, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00001219

How to cite this article:

G. H. Stevenson (1908). The Classical Review, 22, pp 84-85 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00001219

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great statesman. It is the Augustan view of course, and Signor Ferrero always writes from the point of view of the Principate, or, as he would prefer to call it, the national Italian monarchy.

The author seems to suffer from an instinctive unwillingness to tread common ground. For instance, if ever there was a case of the working of impersonal laws in history it is the process begun so unwillingly and carried out so fitfully by which Rome crossed the Adriatic to secure Italy, crossed the Bosphorus to secure Greece, and finally cut through the tangle of Asiatic principalities to reach her military limit on the Euphrates. Of all this, hardly a word, while the economic aspect of the advance is painted with elaborate detail. So again, we have a careful and sympathetic picture of Cicero's government of Cilicia. Sertorius' enterprise in Spain is passed over in a few lines, possibly because it is better known, possibly because it is 'individual' and does not express a

tendency. We hear a great deal of debt and the money market between 78 and 70. The *Leges Aureliae* are passed over in silence. This is to be regretted. Provincial administration and army organization are dull things in themselves, and it is a pity that a writer with such pictorial gifts should leave them out of his canvas. One wonders what he will do when he gets among the milestones and memorial tablets of the Empire. We shall hear a great deal about Mithra and Isis no doubt. But the history that we need most is one which shall put together and bring to life the minute fragments that are left of the vast Imperial organism. And Signor Ferrero could do it if he cared. There is a spring and stir in his pages which makes the warning *Caute legendum* doubly necessary. He becomes convincing by being so readable. When all corrections have been made and omissions allowed for, his book remains in a high measure illuminating and suggestive.

G. M. YOUNG.

II.

Grandezza et Decadenza di Roma. Vol. IV. *La repubblica di Augusto.* Vol. V. *Augusto e il Grande Empero.* By GUGLIELMO FERRERO. Milan, 1906-7.

THOSE who have read the earlier volumes of Signor Ferrero's *Roman History*, which recently appeared in an English translation, cannot have failed to recognise in him a historian who combines to an unusual extent a careful study of original sources with a capacity for writing in a bright and readable manner. Whether or not one always agreed with his conclusions and judgments, one could not deny him the merits of bringing to the fore social and economic causes on which previous historians had laid insufficient stress, and of giving a clear expression to the reaction against the view of Caesar's character and work, which Mommsen did so much to popularise.

In the volumes before us, in which Signor Ferrero covers the period from the establish-

ment of Augustus' authority after the battle of Actium to his death, the reader will find an extremely interesting account of an epoch, in which, in spite of Gardthausen's excellent work, much remains obscure. Many of the most important events of the period are only known to us from passing references in Suetonius and Dio Cassius, and a writer gifted not only with learning but with historical imagination has an opportunity of doing admirable work in attempting to fit these references into their proper setting. This is what Signor Ferrero aims at doing, and the result is a picture of the age which, if not convincing in every detail, is at least interesting and consistent. Signor Ferrero is not, like Mommsen, afraid of the footnote, and whenever he makes a statement in the text which is not directly based on documentary evidence, he informs the reader of the fact. Sometimes his judgment on the relative value of authorities is open to question, as when he seems to prefer the

statements of Suetonius and Dio about the *cura morum* of Augustus to the explicit words of the Monumentum Ancyranum, but as a rule his critical sense is singularly acute. As in his earlier volumes, he constantly discovers economic motives for political actions, as, for instance, when he finds an explanation of many of the wars waged during the first ten years of Augustus' principate, e.g. those against the Salassi and the Cantabri, and, of course, the Arabian expedition, in a desire to open up districts rich in precious metals and to increase the amount of money in circulation in the Roman world. His account of the economic condition of Italy under Augustus in the second of these volumes seems to us excellent, and is based on a careful study of Strabo, Pliny, and other ancient authorities. It supplements admirably another recent work by an Italian writer, Signor Salvioli, whose book, *Le Capitalisme dans le monde antique*, has shown how much reason there is for revising the statements of older historians as to the conditions of production in ancient Italy.

Signor Ferrero is most successful when dealing with economic matters, and in his discussion of purely political questions he is occasionally misled by his experience of modern party politics. He is too fond of using terms which at any rate suggest political conditions unknown to the age of

Augustus. He is more interested in facts than in theories, and the student of the constitutional basis of the powers of the princeps will not receive much enlightenment from these volumes. At the same time there is hardly any event which occurred during the period about which they do not make some interesting suggestion. The retreat of Tiberius to Rhodes, for instance, is referred to the influence of a party which contained Julia and her young sons and Ovid, and which resented the 'puritanism' which had hitherto marked Tiberius as a man and a statesman. Signor Ferrero has the defects of his qualities, and is sometimes journalistic and rhetorical. His book, however, seems to us to supply a distinct need. It does not display much original research, but shows a knowledge of the best recent works, such as those of Déchillette on Gaulish pottery and of Chapot on the province of Asia. The writer's legal knowledge makes his discussion of the laws of Augustus against celibacy, luxury, and adultery very useful, and he makes constant use of contemporary poets in throwing light on the problems which Augustus had to face. The volumes are thoroughly to be recommended to students of the period. The first of them has already appeared in a French translation.

G. H. STEVENSON.

ROMAN SCULPTURE.

Roman Sculpture from Augustus to Constantine, by MRS. ARTHUR STRONG. Pp. xx+410; 130 plates. London (Duckworth and Co.) and New York (Charles Scribner's Sons). 1907.

In the last two decades the study of the innumerable works of ancient sculpture scattered over Europe has suffered a change, not so much in appreciation as in point of view. The change of view began, it is true, early in the last century, and many of the most impregnable positions were seized quite

early. The climax was reached, perhaps, on the publication of the late Adolf Furtwängler's *Meisterwerke*. This most brilliant and uncompromising critic attempted, it might almost be said, to assign every extant statue to one or other of the famous sculptors handed down to us by Pliny, Pausanias and other late compilers of lists of ancient artists. This method enriched empty names, but at the same time deprived the Roman world and Roman workers of productions tacitly assumed to be their own from their almost exclusive discovery on Italian soil. Nay, the