

*Romana Gothica IV. Barbares dans la ville de l'Antiquité tardive. Présences et absences dans les espaces publics et privés. Actes du Congrès International, Museu d'Història de Catalunya (Barcelone, 12–13 novembre 2010).* Edited by Paolo de Vingo & Joan Pinar Gil. 20 × 29 cm. 219 pp, 88 colour and b&w pls and figs. Sesto Fiorentino: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2020. ISBN 978-88-7814-956-4; epub: 97888-7814-957-1. Price: €55.00 hb.

The last in a set of four conferences held in 2010 (at Ravenna, Budapest, Toulouse and Barcelona) exploring themes related to western Roman power, frontiers, barbarians and the provinces in the 5th century AD, *Romana Gothica IV* centres on 'barbarian' presences in towns and their archaeological visibility, plus wider changes in urban form. Of the 19 papers delivered in 2010, 11 are published here, along with three additional contributions (most papers are in French or Spanish): two of the new papers are by Michel Kazanski who explores wider 'Grand Migration' archaeology, considering finds types, locations and questions of incomers vs native take-up; while co-editor Paolo de Vingo reviews the evidence for and interpretations of the late 4th- and 5th-century 'Foederati graves' of N Gaul. Three contributors have text-based studies: Salvatore Cosentino neatly discusses issues of barbarian names, identity and community in the western capital of Ravenna across the 5th to mid-6th century, with Ostrogothic rule the focus; Assorati debates the politics/strategy and reception of the short-lived marriage between the Gothic king Athaulf and the empress Galla Placidia in 414–5; and Alvaro Jiménez Sánchez considers Visigothic (urban) settlement and politics from Athaulf through to the early 6th century in Spain's Tarraconensis region.

While histories record barbarian movements and control, supporting archaeology in towns remains sparse. Finds from/of burials are the principal guides, but are rare; frequently, however, they occur in pre-existing (ie Roman) cemeteries. Thus, for Angers (Gaul) Brodeur discusses the distinctive group of six burials which featured Černjahov-culture finds of c AD 370–410; for W and SW Hispania, López Quiroga considers 5th-century evidence from towns such as Conimbriga and Merida, while Pinar Gil discusses some of the same finds, but cites wider parallels, seeking signs of Vandals, Alans and Sueves. Esmonde Cleary, meanwhile, outlines 'barbarian' presences in Britannia, asking how we should read these finds and people, and citing the need for wider stable isotope analyses (he discusses studies at Lankhills) to guide debate.

A further theme explored in some papers is the nature of the evolving townscapes inherited by Visigoths and others: Leone gives an overview of Vandal North Africa; Heijmans tidily covers Arles ('dernier bastion de la Romanité en Provence'); Fontes surveys Braga (the Suevic capital); while Sales Carbonell focusses on Barcelona's 5th-century 'Christian skyline', highlighting also 6th-century Visigothic extensions.

It is a shame these proceedings have been slow coming to print, since some authors note texts submitted in 2013/14; few cite works published after 2015, though a couple add a separate listing. Nonetheless, such does not make in any way redundant the evidence, questions and interpretations provided here of how (in)tangible the material visibility is/may be of urban 'barbarians' in the West.

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