

the early history of Rome, recounting the early mythology of Aeneas, Romulus, Remus, and the ruinous exploits of the last King of Rome, Tarquinius Superbus. This section is engaging, and the mythological history of Rome will be enjoyed by both student and casual reader alike.

After this early mythology lesson, Trafford dedicates a chapter each to a particular aspect of life in Rome. Written in an amusing, and often informal style, this work keeps the narrative fast-flowing while providing the

reader with a suitable depth of knowledge on various topics. The work asks, 'What was it like living in ancient Rome?' while also providing advice on 'How best to get along' if you ended up living there. While informative, Trafford does not aim to overwhelm the reader with unnecessary academic language, often using a type of internal monologue (presumably provided by Ajax or Hortensia), to keep the tone light. For example, when noting the lacklustre efforts to assassinate Romulus and Remus, the narrator observes that to accomplish the job properly and drown the twins, the assassins would have needed 'effort and a decent overarm' (XIV).

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the work can be found in the form of 'did you know' boxes. These are interspersed throughout the work and provide the reader with interesting facts on a variety of different topics. These interesting asides are mentioned in relation to the topic of a particular chapter, for example, while chapter 4 is about accommodation in Rome (pp. 35–42), one 'did you know' box in this chapter highlights the fact that the emperor Nero had a running waterfall in his dining room (p.41). Although there are footnotes throughout the work, it is a shame that the 'did you know' boxes themselves do not contain footnotes. As these boxes are often referencing the more weird and wonderful aspects of Roman history, it would aid the reader in seeking out these pieces of information and investigating further, should they wish.

Throughout the work, Trafford seeks to involve all aspects of life in Rome, be that as a tourist or as a permanent resident. For example, in the chapter on entertainment, Trafford details several ways in which a resident or visitor to Rome may pass the time. This chapter is particularly entertaining as it informs the reader about the various events and competitions which occur at the games. Here the reader is regaled with outrageous tales of the emperor Nero, who rather than running the Empire, embarked on a two-year chariot racing and theatrical tour of Greece! Along with these light-hearted elements, there are more extreme and sometimes violent instances too. We hear of a pacifist gladiator who committed suicide by choking on a lavatory sponge rather than fight, and a racing fan so overcome by the death of his favourite racing driver, he threw himself onto the man's funeral pyre!

In Rome, Trafford argues, there are many people to keep on the right side of. These she examines in individual chapters: the gods, in chapter 11 on Religious Beliefs, and the emperor in chapter 12, on Law and Order. There are ways to appease both, yet as our guide, Ajax helpfully informs us, many ways to fall foul of both, particularly the emperor. In his guide to 'upsetting the emperor',

Ajax notes that there are many crimes for which the emperor may put someone to death. Some of these appear quite understandable, for example, plotting to replace the current emperor yourself or with someone in his own family. Other examples are less understandable, with such cases being that the individual in question was described as 'being tall and handsome' or another, where the individual carried a coin bearing the emperor's image into a toilet when they needed to use the facilities. Overall, *How to Survive in Ancient Rome* is an informative and enjoyable work which will provide readers with a good introduction to the Roman world. There are moments of genuine humour as well as a large amount of scholarly work which has gone into the creation of this volume. I believe this would be a fine introduction to Rome for those in key stage 4 or as a good summer text before an AS Ancient History course. In addition, it would make a good introduction to those who are not studying for a course but are interested in a more panoramic view of the Republic and Empire.

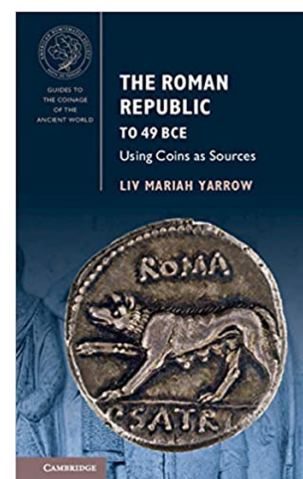
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The Roman Republic to 49 BCE. Using Coins as Sources

Yarrow (L.M.) Pp. xxxviii + 273, b/w and colour ills, maps. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. Paper, £19.99. ISBN: 978-1-107-65470-9.

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Yarrow's book is the latest in a series intended to provide non-specialists with an introduction to the use of coinage as historical evidence. Yarrow is largely successful in achieving this and has produced a work which will be useful for teachers and students alike. The work is organised thematically into four main chapters, although a useful chronological table acts as a 'temporal index' allowing coins relating to specific events to be easily located.

Chapter 1 ('Money') discusses the development and use of coinage as a facilitator of exchange in the Roman world, providing the reader with an introduction into many of the features and problems of Roman coinage. As an introduction it occasionally tends towards oversimplification of complex or controversial topics without adequate discussion or referencing, ('The Romans continued to use credit systems' (p.5) and give the 'impression that [they] cared far more about the quality of the coinage that they used

to settle obligations with Roman creditors than they did with those creditors whom they paid in drachms' (p.37)). Nevertheless, there is generally a healthy openness with regards to what is not yet fully understood about Roman coinage. What we do know is presented clearly, covering all the major aspects of coinage likely to be unfamiliar to a non-specialist, such as control marks and fineness. Explanations are supported by a large number of well-chosen examples illustrated with excellent, clear photographs – a feature of the work as a whole – as well as a useful infographic covering the whole coin-production process.

Chapter 2 ('Monuments') looks at coins as 'monuments in miniature', acting for the viewer as reminders of the glorious Roman past as well as conveying contemporary political messages. Examples are again well-chosen to clearly illustrate the common features of late Republican coinage and the reasons for their presence. The numismatic evidence from the 50s BCE is effectively examined to demonstrate both Pompey's growing influence and contemporary unease about it. In the remainder of the chapter Yarrow discusses religious imagery and the depiction of foundation narratives on Roman coinage, with discussion of images of Aeneas on the city's coinage offering a useful complement to study of the *Aeneid*.

Chapter 3 ('Mutinies?') is the book's strongest. Yarrow first analyses the minting of coins by Italian and Sicilian communities in revolt against Rome and the Romans' own numismatic responses to these revolts. The chapter then turns to internal threats against the Republic, focusing on Marius, Sulla and Pompey. This chapter,

alongside the previous chapter's discussion of Pompey, will be of particular interest to teachers of A Level Ancient History for its relevance to the 'Breakdown of the Late Republic' module, most notably for its excellent discussion of the two Sullan issues prescribed as sources.

Chapter 4 ('Mobilization') explores the role of coinage in the movement of people, both physically and metaphorically. Yarrow explores the ways in which Republican coinage reflects a rhetoric of concord, anxieties over the availability of food and land, and debates over the evolution of the Roman constitution, focusing on the depiction of the secret ballot and the concept of *libertas*, particularly as a response to Sulla.

The book concludes with an excellent section ('Learning More') detailing how those who so wish are able to delve deeper into the study of Roman coinage. The reader is directed towards the easily-accessible and continually-expanding online resources which have helped to make numismatics such an exciting and vibrant discipline over recent years.

The period to which Yarrow's book is confined limits its direct applicability to most topics studied in the classroom. Nevertheless, by providing a clear introduction to Roman coinage and its use as evidence for the Roman world it will be of use to teachers and – although the book is primarily written with undergraduates (and beyond) in mind – to A Level students who wish to explore a particular interest in coinage or the period in question.

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