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Book Reviews



THE FIRST SOUVENIRS: ENAMELLED VESSELS FROM HADRIAN'S WALL.
Edited by David J. Breeze. Pp. xiii and 120, Illus 70. Cumberland and West Moorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, 2012. Price: £15.00. ISBN 978 187312 458 1.

First Souvenirs is a brief, but detailed, study of the small handful of vessels bearing names of forts from the western end of Hadrian's Wall. The publication followed the display of the Rudge Cup, Amiens Patera, and Ilam Pan at Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, for the thirteenth Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage in 2009. This was the first time that many of the contributors to *First Souvenirs* had been able to view all three vessels together, and the spirited discussion resulted in this work.

The book opens with a useful catalogue of the 'pans' that are the focus of the volume by D. Breeze, summarizing each vessel's discovery, context, and general appearance. E. Künzl follows with an essay on the use of enamelled vessels in Britain, and then each vessel is given individual treatment: the Rudge Cup by L. Allason-Jones; the Amiens Patera by N. Maheo; the Ilam Pan by R. Jackson; and the Hildburgh Fragment by L. Allason-Jones. A focused study of the inscriptions on the vessels is provided by P. Holder, while S. Worrell and F. Hunter provide broader context for the Wall souvenirs by examining the evidence revealed, respectively, by the Portable Antiquities Scheme England and Wales and from north of the Wall in *barbaricum*. D. Breeze then offers a concluding paper, drawing together the sometimes conflicting suggestions of the contributors.

There is a general agreement that the pans date to the second century, with divergence of opinion as to a more specific production date. But there is consensus that the Ilam Pan is the first of the souvenir vessels to have been made, on the basis of its decoration and subsequent inscription. It is also thought that all the souvenir vessels are likely to have been made in the same workshop, with a cogent argument for that workshop being near the Wall, perhaps Carlisle (pp.70, 108). The main point of disagreement, however, is the intended market and use of the pans, though the importance of context for interpretation shines through a number of papers. A further highlight of the volume is the fresh look at the Hildburgh Fragment (Chapter 6), which has not been examined in such detail in recent decades.

The volume is concise, with contributions written for an interested public rather than the dedicated academic; the strength of such plain English is clear in the straightforward conclusions offered by each contributor, and readers will be intrigued on points of disagreement among such specialists. The text is excellently supported by very full illustration, showing details of the vessels as well as the vessels themselves. Perhaps one

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type of illustration that does seem lacking is a distribution map, which may have been useful, particularly for the evidence presented by Worrell and Hunter. This comment aside, the volume very neatly engages the reader and presents a number of thought-provoking conclusions, not the least of which is how the next discovery may change our current views.

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