

Livres reçus

Books Received

Volume 13, Number 1, 1986

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1073573ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1073573ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

UAAC-AAUC (University Art Association of Canada | Association d'art des universités du Canada)

ISSN

0315-9906 (print)

1918-4778 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

(1986). Livres reçus / Books Received. *RACAR : Revue d'art canadienne / Canadian Art Review*, 13(1), 88–88. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1073573ar>

the exclusion of technique and function. While Wackernagel's work is not suited to the non-specialist, due to its length, detail and lack of illustrations, Cole's book will whet the appetite of the beginning student and will be useful for the tourist who wants more than the usual guidebook provides.

BARBARA DODGE
York University

K.D. WHITE *Greek and Roman Technology*. Ithaca, New York, Cornell University Press, 1984. 272 pp., 177 illus., \$55.00 (cloth).

The main body of this new book on ancient technology is divided into two parts. The first of these contains chapters dealing with the physical and intellectual atmosphere in which Greek and Roman technology developed, and the sources and methods available for the study of this development. The second section explores in detail the progress made in several specific areas of technology. Throughout, the book is well-written and profusely illustrated.

The need for a survey of ancient technology, which is based on literary evidence (read in its original languages), representations of technological processes in art, as well as archaeological findings, is plausibly argued by the author in his Introduction. Here, Professor White also points out that technological development did not take place in a vacuum, but was at the mercy of the contemporary economic situation, of the reluctance on the part of those for whom new inventions involve changing their work habits. These two points are elaborated admirably in the first section.

The second part, however, suffers from a certain unevenness in the treatment of the processes described. In almost all cases, the contributions made by the Greeks are incompletely reported or dismissed as being unimportant, while those of the Romans are emphasized and described in detail. In Chapter 7, 'Building,' the author states that Greek architects did not provide detailed instructions for the builders who would have to erect the structures they had designed. In his book entitled *Greek Architects at Work*, J.J. Coulton states (p. 16) that the architect was expected to supervise the

construction of his building, inspecting and approving each stage of the procedure before the next was begun. Clearly, this would obviate the need for more precise written directions for the builders. Further on in the same chapter (pp. 82-83), White mentions in passing the optical refinements which provide Greek architecture with the near visual perfection still admired today. But the methods for adjusting the lines used in Greek buildings are only hinted at in this chapter.

The author seems most at home when discussing agricultural technology and the processing and transportation of food. This is not surprising, as a glance at the bibliography reveals that a great deal of his research has been in these areas. The depth with which agricultural processes are explored reflects the author's interest and expertise, and we are presented with a very detailed account of the problems encountered by ancient man in feeding himself, and of the measures he took to overcome them.

In Chapter 4, 'Innovation and Development: A Survey,' the author describes briefly several areas of technology, most of which are not dealt with elsewhere in the book. Notable among these is pottery production. Pottery is one of the criteria on which the chronology of the ancient world is based, and for this reason deserves more than the minimal treatment accorded here.

Greek and Roman Technology is a valuable book in that it initiates a study of this important aspect of man's past based on all the evidence available to us. As the author himself says in his conclusion (p. 173), it is 'a survey, and a starting-off point.'

DONALD SEDGWICK
Concordia University

LIVRES REÇUS BOOKS RECEIVED

ARCHER, JOHN *The Literature of British Domestic Architecture 1715-1842*. Cambridge (Mass.) and London, The MIT Press, 1985. xxvi + 1078 pp., 11 illus. (cloth).

BRYSON, NORMAN *Tradition & Desire: From David to Delacroix*. Cambridge University Press, 1984. xxii + 228 pp., 122 illus. (cloth).

CHICAGO, JUDY *The Birth Project*. New York. Doubleday & Company, 1985. 231 pp., illus. (cloth).

DORMENT, RICHARD *Alfred Gilbert*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press (Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art), 1985. vii + 350 pp., 201 illus. + 8 colour pl. (cloth).

GAUGUIN, PAUL *The Intimate Journals of Paul Gauguin*. London, KPI Ltd., 1985 (1923). x + 138 pp. (paper).

HESS, HANS *George Grosz*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1985. 272 pp., 200 illus. + 16 colour pl. (cloth/paper).

LAMBLIN, BERNARD *Peinture et Temps*. Paris, Klincksieck, 1983. xiv + 654 p., 120 illus. (broché).

MEISENHEIMER, WOLFGANG, et al. (eds.) *Daedalos. Berlin Architectural Journal*. Contents 13 (15 Sept. 1984): Between Inside and Outside.

MERLIÈS, VICTOR *Correspondance de Paul Gauguin*, vol. 1: 1873-1888. Paris, Fondation Singer-Polignac, 1984. xiii + 561 p., illus. + 12 pl. couleur.

WATSON, JENNIFER *George Romney in Canada*. Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University Press (Exhibition catalogue for the Kitchener/Waterloo Art Gallery), 1985. 102 pp., 47 illus. + 6 colour pl. (cloth).

Correction:

In RACAR, XII, 2, p. 125, last line,

read '... Guelph; and the Friends of the Department of Art History at Carleton University.'