

Edward Dabrowa's contribution, too, concerns Syria. It is a prosopographical study of the legates of four of the Syrian legions: *III Gallica*, *VI Ferrata*, *XII Fulminata*, and *XVI Flavia*. A comprehensive prosopographical study of the officers of another legion associated with Syria was provided by Dabrowa in a former work (*Legio X Fretensis*, Stuttgart, 1993), and the officers of the legion *IV Scythica* are dealt with by H. Devijver and M.A. Speidel in another supplement of *JRA* (D.L. Kennedy ed., *Zeugma Archaeological Project*, forthcoming). Together these studies form an up-to-date revision of the lists of the commanders of Syria published by E. Ritterling in 1925 (*RE*, XII, cols.1529-30, 1561-2, 1575-7, 1594, 1708-9, 1766). A brief, informative history of every legion opens the list of its legates, following which Dabrowa discusses the family origin and career of every one of them, with the relevant epigraphic evidence cited in full. Altogether 31 legates are listed (*III Gallica* — 17; *VI Ferrata* — 7; *XII Fulminata* — 2; *XVI Flavia Firma* — 5). Given this limited evidence, the inference that many commanders of the Syrian legions played important roles in the political life of Rome may be hasty, and so is the claim that appointment to the post was determined by specific criteria.

In sum, this collection presents an illuminating cross-section of many of the sub-themes which make up the central theme. The various subjects treated emphasize most of the key problems with which the historian of the Roman army in the East has to deal. The scarcity and problematical character of the sources, underlined by the editor in the introductory essay, is demonstrated time and again almost through all the essays. Controversy over interpretation is thus inevitable. None the less, the editor may be satisfied with the results, for the essays not only constitute a useful, substantial contribution to scholarship but also provide a stimulus to further research on the history of the Roman army in the East.

Israel Shatzman

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

J.E.H. Spaul, *Ala<sup>2</sup>: The Auxiliary Cavalry Units of the Pre-Diocletianic Imperial Army*. Andover, 1994, 327 pp.

This is a useful, informative and succinctly presented book, defined by the author as a revision and updating of the article which C. Cichorius wrote on the same subject (*RE* I, 1893, cols.1224-70). Cichorius' article is indeed the starting point of almost every discussion, whether on individual units, questions of methodology or particular topics. No bibliography is given, although the author provides, in the introduction, an instructive (but not exhaustive) survey of works relating to the subject which have been published since Cichorius' *ala*. References to the works mentioned in this survey are used throughout the book. Some omissions seem odd, e.g. H. Wolff and W. Eck, eds., *Heer und Integrationspolitik. Die römischen Militärdiplome als historische Quelle*, Cologne, 1986; and even more so, the volumes of M.M. Roxan, *Roman Military Diplomas*, London, 1978, 1985, 1994 (of course the more recent volume appeared in the same year as Spaul's book). Not less curious is the fact that Roxan's editions of diplomas are not mentioned in the list of abbreviations of 'major printed sources', but the abbreviation *RMD* does appear, rightly, throughout the book. It is fair to add that many more relevant publications are exploited and mentioned where appropriate. In addition to somewhat affectionate appreciation of Cichorius, the introduction also provides general remarks and explana-

tions concerning the classification of the names of the units (eight groups as against seven of Cichorius), the structure of the unit entries, the assumptions made in interpreting or drawing inferences from the evidence (e.g., 'a unit's name is a question of usage; most units have a formal and an informal name'). A convenient and helpful check-list of pre-Diocletianic units is also included in the introduction.

The core of the book is a presentation and discussion of all the units known: five early ones; *alae* 1-86; 26 suspect and fourth-century units; and 5 units whose identification or existence is problematic. Under each entry come the name of the unit with all the ethnic, imperial and honorary titles; the province(s) where it served; the name as attested in the various diplomas and inscriptions and relevant literary sources now available; the known personnel of the unit; summary of modern discussions of the unit together with Spaul's own discussion and conclusions; specific bibliography and concordances of the epigraphic publications of the relevant evidence. The provenance of inscriptions, excluding diplomas, is also given, and so are dates where known.

On the basis of this list of units, Spaul concludes that 'at any time less than 86 permanent auxiliary cavalry units served in the Roman army' during the period from Augustus to Diocletian. He is of the opinion that before the Varian disaster each legion had a force of two *alae*, that is, there ought to have been fifty-six units. In fact only forty-nine units are attested in this period, which might be explained either by shortage of evidence or incorrectness of the assumed ratio. According to Spaul, the number of units was subsequently increased to sixty-three by 68 CE and to eighty-five under Trajan. Under the Flavians and Trajan several units became milliary. Several modifications occurred during the second century, but it was in the Severan period that a significant reorganization took place resulting in eight milliary and seventy-one quingenary units. The total number of units in the mid-3rd century, eighty, remained almost the same.

The total number of units arrived at by Spaul may seem surprising if compared to previous discussions. Cichorius listed more than 120 *alae*, G.L. Cheesman gave a list of 107 *alae* according to the provinces where they were enlisted, including 26 units with non-ethnic or inexplicable titles (*The Auxilia of the Roman Imperial Army*, Oxford, 1914, 170-89), and more recently P.A. Holder listed 104 units in his revision of the relevant appendix of Cheesman, including 26 non-ethnic units and units of doubtful origin (*The Auxilia from Augustus to Trajan*, Oxford B.A.R., 1980, 215-41). The discrepancy arises from Spaul's identifying and registering together not a few units which his predecessors considered as distinct. For example, for Spaul Ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana and Ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata were one unit, and so were III Augusta Thracum and III Augusta Thracum Sagittariorum. Cichorius and those who followed him considered these *alae*, in both cases, distinct units. In addition, Spaul assumes that all the five early units were later renamed, for instance Ala Rusonis becoming Ala Picientiana; thus they all probably lurk behind other known units. In one case Spaul is surely wrong to list under one heading Ala Frontoniana and Ala I Tungrorum, for he himself states that these had been two distinct units until their amalgamation into Ala I Tungrorum Frontoniana around 130. On the whole, however, Spaul is right to reduce the list. Of course, no one has claimed that all the units listed existed simultaneously at any time, and it is worth mentioning that Cheesman, too, listed 85 *alae* in the provinces for the period 117-161. Indeed what is amazing, and perhaps instructive, is that all the evidence that has been accumulated since the publication of Cichorius' article, the number of known diplomas now amounting to more than 400, has added very few new names of *alae*. Of the 86 units

listed by Spaul only five do not appear in Cichorius' list, excluding two of the early units (*MEFRA* 104, 1992, 178), which probably should be identified with later units.

The epigraphic evidence is the most important source of information for the study of the individual units, but Spaul does not exploit sufficiently the literary sources in his analysis of the ratio and connection between legions and *alae*. He posits that in the earlier periods each legion should have had two *alae*, which is partly incongruous with the available evidence. According to Velleius (2.113) Tiberius had 10 legions and 14 *alae* under his command for the suppression of the Pannonian revolt in 6 C.E. In 69 the Danubian provinces had 16 *alae* (*Tac. Hist.* 3.2) to 6 legions (E. Ritterling, *RE*, XII, col.1363; H.M.D. Parker, *The Roman Legions*, Oxford, 1928, 140-1). True, Vespasian commanded 3 legions and 6 *alae* in Judaea in 67 (Joseph. *BJ* 3.65-6) and Titus had 4 legions, in effect, and 8 *alae* for the siege of Jerusalem in 70 (*Tac. Hist.* 5.1), but none of these cases is discussed by Spaul. In point of fact, the literary evidence and Spaul's own findings show that there was no fixed ratio even in the earlier periods: in some cases it was indeed 1:2, but there were cases of 6:7, 5:8, 2:3, 1:3, etc. Presumably local conditions, tactical considerations and manpower constraints determined the ratio to a large extent in each and every case.

This is a valuable addition to the literature on the Roman army, an indispensable work of reference for all those who deal with the cavalry units of the Roman army; its usefulness is enhanced by various, detailed indexes and lists. It suffers from a number of misprints and inaccuracies, but these should not cause confusion.

Israel Shatzman

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

M. Fischer, B. Isaac and I. Roll, *Roman Roads in Judaea 2. The Jaffa-Jerusalem Roads*, Tempus Reparatum BAR International Series 628, Oxford, 1996, 434 pp.

This volume is the second in a series, the purpose of which is to describe travel routes during the Roman period in the province of Judaea. The first volume, which appeared in 1982, also published in this series, dealt with the Roman road from Legio to Scythopolis. The difference between the first and this second work is a very real one and it represents the great progress in research on ancient travel routes in the land of Israel which has taken place in less than twenty years.

The book before us is not only a technical description of the ancient roads from the coast and the coastal plain to Jerusalem in the Roman era. It is a broad analysis of road planning to Jerusalem going from the Bronze Age to later periods. This is done by a combination of methods: the systematic collection of evidence from written historical sources describing road planning between Jaffa and Jerusalem; a survey of more than 130 sites along the course of the roads; the analysis of a number of exploratory archaeological digs at interesting military sites; and an historical-archaeological analysis of written sources vis-à-vis the broad archaeological findings along the path of the roads connecting the civilian and military settlements which were established along the way.

In this important volume will also be found appendices on the roads to Jerusalem during the Hellenistic and Hasmonean eras and descriptions of a number of subterranean hideouts which were prepared for rebellion against Rome in settlements along the road to Jerusalem. Another appendix describes the Seleucid general Bacchides in Judaea who