

defines key terminology and provides untranslated examples of them, drawn from the selections in the book. The Introduction ends with a 'List of Names of People and Places' (pp. 11–16) and some brief suggestions for 'Further Reading' (p. 16). The 'List of Names' (and to some extent the 'Synopsis' too) may serve better as aide-mémoire than as introduction, as only those with existing knowledge will be able to understand some of the comments (for example, the entry for Iulus: 'Cognomen of Ascanius, the son of Aeneas; thus became the founder of the Julian gens', p. 14). A map (p. vii), showing the route of Aeneas' journey from Troy to Italy, is useful only to a limited extent, as many places mentioned in either the poem or the notes in this volume are not shown.

The majority of the book (pp.17–191) presents the selected passages from the *Aeneid*. Latin text (without macra) appears on the left-hand page of each double page spread, with a vocabulary list beneath; the facing page is taken up with notes and suggested questions. Each of the first six books of the epic receives its own section in this volume, each containing a number of Latin extracts, with English summaries provided for the sections of the poem not included in Latin. The Latin selections are of variable length: the shortest is just four lines (Book 6, lines 756–759), whereas the longest (by far) is 182 lines (Book 5, lines 286–467). The preface notes that each book 'has contributed around 250 lines of text' (p. vi), and in general, the selection made (when combined with the English summaries) allows a reader to gain a good impression of a book as a whole, although on a few occasions it feels as though something relevant is omitted (for example, neither the Latin selections nor English summaries in Book 3 make it clear that the Trojans take Achaemenides with them, which leaves his story – much of which is told – feeling incomplete). The Latin presented on each page generally ends with a full-stop (or at least a semi-colon), but sometimes it feels as though the page breaks would, ideally, have been placed differently; for example, it is a shame that the extract comprised of Book 6 lines 255–263 is split so that lines 255–262 appear on page 170 with just line 263 on page 172, and that the direct speech of Palinurus in Book 5 lines 13–14 is split across pages 136 and 138.

'The principle behind the glossing of words is that all except for the commonest words are glossed, with meanings appropriate to the context' (p. vi). Taking the first extract as an example – Book 1, lines 1–11 – we find that 40 Latin words are glossed in the vocabulary list on page 18, with the meanings of another 28 not given. Once a word has been glossed, it is not supposed to reappear in the vocabulary lists for that book (unless with a different meaning); although this practice (occasionally not followed) helps to keep the size of the vocabulary lists manageable, it does mean that readers will not always find all the meanings they need on the same page as the part of the text they are studying, which could particularly hinder those reading only some of the sections chosen from a given book. The meanings of all words can, however, be looked up in the useful 'Word List' at the back of the book (pp. 193–215), and overall the glossing will speed the process of reading the text.

The Notes provide relevant contextual information and explanations to help the reader understand the grammar of the Latin and appreciate its style. Although not a substitute for a full commentary and at times not expressed as clearly as one might wish, they are, for the most part, likely to be of great use to the reader. Some readers, however, might find the use of unexplained technical terminology a little inaccessible; on a single page we find 'ablative of manner', 'ablative of material', 'local ablative', and 'the genitives are subjective' (p. 81), and elsewhere we read of 'a hypermetric syllable' (p. 73) and an 'epexegetic infinitive' (p. 147). Where the notes draw attention to stylistic features of the text, terminology (e.g. 'alliteration') is used and underlined to indicate

that an explanation of the term may be found in the Introduction. The notes sometimes suggest what the effect of particular stylistic features might be, and are to be commended for prompting the reader to consider these aspects of the text. The notes also very helpfully draw attention to metrical effects.

The Questions given on each double page vary in type; some are factual, often inviting a short answer, but others address style and content in a way that will prompt contemplation and discussion (and potentially written work for students); a few encourage research on a particular point. Suggested answers are not provided, which teachers and their students might regret, especially when the answers expect identification and discussion of stylistic features that are not always easy to spot. On one occasion the line numbers quoted in a question are incorrectly given (p. 185) – one of a very few errors in the text.

This book, despite some shortcomings, does constitute a mostly student-friendly edition of large parts of the first half of the *Aeneid*, and will surely find extensive use in schools and universities.

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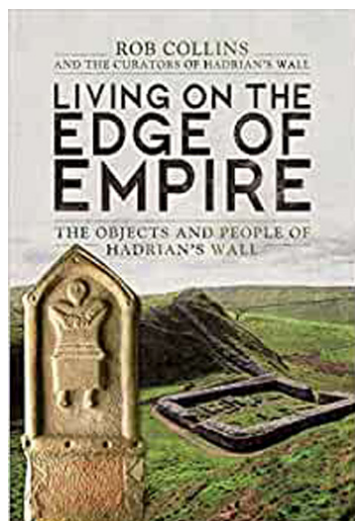
Living on the Edge of Empire: The Objects and People of Hadrian's Wall

Collins (R.), Birley (B.), Croom (A.), Laskey (J.), McIntosh (F.), Padley (T.), Parking (A.), Price (E.)
Pp. 168 Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 2020.
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There are many books about Roman Britain, but arguably few as engaging as this one. *Living on the Edge of Empire, The Objects and People of Hadrian's Wall* offers a fascinating insight into the lives of those individuals living in the area around Hadrian's Wall through a varied and wide-ranging selection of artefacts. The artefacts included in the book range from the famous (such as the birthday party writing tablet from Vindolanda) to much lesser-known finds, which makes this book a particularly interesting read. The aim of the book is to explore the lives of those present at Hadrian's Wall over three centuries of occupation, using artefacts which are often forgotten outside of museum trips. If one is unable to visit the Wall in person, this book offers an excellent alternative for the armchair archaeologist. The language used is accessible and engaging, with colour photographs of the artefacts interspersed throughout its eight chapters. I could not recommend this book highly enough to fellow Roman Britain enthusiasts, for the reasons outlined below.



Firstly, the book provides a clear historical overview of the occupation of Hadrian's Wall and the chronology and geography are easy to follow. The situation and functions of Hadrian's Wall are contextualised, with the authors pointing out that Hadrian's Wall was only part of the Roman frontier, with the frontier itself extending far beyond that. A map is provided in the introduction which is helpful for understanding the location of finds. This book emphasises that Hadrian's Wall was far more than just a

military frontier: it was a hub for military and civilian life, with its finds offering unrivalled insight into the social, religious, economic, military and civilian interactions between individuals during its 300 years of occupation. Indeed, the authors do not stop at the end of the Roman period, but instead consider subsequent occupations of Hadrian's Wall and the evidence from the period after the Romans were said to have left the island.

Secondly, the choice of objects sets this book apart. The artefacts discussed have been judiciously chosen, ranging from well-known and exquisite items to recent, rare and intriguing mystery finds. Even seemingly mundane objects are presented in such a way that they offer a personal and intimate window into the lives of those living on the Wall. Whilst the content is by nature from a military context, the authors have made great efforts to reflect the diversity of those living on the Wall as well as the communities and lives outside of the military settings. This is a really refreshing approach to what we know was a diverse period of occupation and is explored successfully through the themes chosen in the chapters. The objects are considered thematically in several dedicated chapters: communities and homes; dress and appearance; eating and drinking; security, business and pleasure; and finally, belief in life and death. Those which do not fall into a clear category find themselves in the penultimate chapter, titled 'Unknowns'. This collection of mystery objects was a welcome and thought-provoking addition to the themes already considered in the previous chapters, with the authors suggesting possible uses for weird and wonderful unidentified Romano-British objects, and inviting the reader to consider the contexts of production and purposes. The final chapter, entitled 'Last Days of the Roman Wall' provides an interesting exposition of the end of the occupation of Hadrian's Wall and considers the changes which inevitably took place over the three centuries of its occupation. The chapter extends its scope beyond what is considered the official end of Roman rule in Britain, acknowledging the uncertainty of events in the early 5th century and the archaeological evidence for occupation and activity at the site beyond this date. For example, the granaries at Birdoswald were converted and eventually replaced with structures which may have been feasting halls, well into the 5th century. The inclusion of details about Anglo-Saxon England allows the significance of Hadrian's Wall to be fully appreciated in its context and prompts the reader to consider what subsequent periods of occupation may have made of Hadrian's Wall.

Thirdly, the book is easy to navigate and there are usually colour illustrations or photographs on most double pages. In many

respects it is verging on a museum catalogue, or is reminiscent of a book accompanying a special exhibition. The focus is very much on what the artefacts, archaeology and objects can tell us, rather than making those items fit to the usual narrative. Where the conclusions are unclear, they are left open for future study rather than whittled out of the narrative altogether. *Living on the Edge of Empire* is far more than a collection of colour plates and commentary; this is a book which encourages scrutiny of source material and allows its readers to engage with the archaeological record themselves.

The fourth and final commendable aspect of this book which I would like to highlight is its usefulness for school teachers and those planning educational trips to Hadrian's Wall. The appendices contain a helpful index of museums and sites to visit (Appendix 1), such as Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort and the Tullie House Museum, as well as suggestions for further reading in Appendix 2. For each site or museum, Appendix 1 includes practical details such as the address, website, what can be found in each location, and whether or not there is an admission fee. This could save hours of research for those planning trips. Appendix 3 is also particularly useful for students or teachers wishing to find out more about the objects included in the book. Figure references are followed by the name of the object, the site at which it was discovered, the museum which holds that object, and the accession number. This is clearly a considered and carefully planned book, designed to be accessible for students and teachers, as well as those with an interest in Roman Britain. It is an enjoyable and easy read, with a few surprises along the way, and comes highly recommended.

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Marcus Tullius Cicero: *How to tell a joke. An ancient Guide to the Art of Humor*

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How to Tell a Joke is the latest in the Princeton series 'Ancient Wisdom for Modern Readers'. In this new addition to the series, Professor Michael Fontaine starts with, what to the modern reader and avid watcher of stand-up comedy is a simple question. Can the art of humour be taught? Can a person be taught to be funny?