

**ANCIENT HISTORY:
RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS**

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MACQUARIE ANCIENT HISTORY ASSOCIATION

ANCIENT HISTORY: RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

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Bill Leadbetter	Editor, 1996–1998
Rosalinde Kearsley	Editor, 1988–1991
Edwin Judge	Editor, 1980
Doug Kelly	Editor, 1973–1974

Agrippina the Younger (Option O: Rome: Julio-Claudians and the Roman Empire AD 14-69)

- Political developments: role of significant imperial women: Plotina, Julia Domna, Julia Mamaea (Option P: Rome: The Roman Empire AD 69-235)

In addition, the general rubrics 'Cultural Life' and 'Everyday Life' (in Part II: Ancient Societies) imply the location, selection, description and evaluation of sources dealing with information about the nature, position, function, occupation, and representation of women in the ancient world.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the Case Studies in the History Extension syllabus requires an understanding of issues relating to women and gender relations. Option 8 (Tacitean View of the Early Principate) asks students to examine and evaluate Tacitus' characterization of women and men with regard to similarities and differences.

Peter Keegan
Macquarie University

Marcel Le Glay, Jean-Louis Voisin, Yann Le Bohec, *A History of Rome*. 4th ed. Blackwells, Oxford, 2009; 586 pp. ISBN 0-631-21859-9 (pb). \$47.95.

Table of contents: <<<http://au.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1405183276,descCd-tableOfContents.html>>>

The proposed National History Curriculum (a Federal government initiative overseen by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) foreshadows a brave new world of K-10 history education in Australia—and will, at a time yet to be announced, impact in ways yet to be fully understood on the current NSW Board of Studies Ancient History syllabus. It is fortuitous, then, in view of what will be for many teachers of ancient world studies a demonstrable need for historical resources that cater for a wider range of student ages and interests, that Wiley-Blackwell has published the 4th edition of the popular *A History of Rome*.

Originally intended as a work for European students of Roman history, written by three eminent French scholars, this textbook is an enlarged revision of the original English edition (1996) with new material by David Cherry (editor of Blackwell's *The Roman World: A Sourcebook*) and Donald G. Kyle (best-known as author of *Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World* and *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome*). In its most recent incarnation, the book aims to provide a synthesis of Roman history from its legendary origins to its appearance on the world stage as one of the most potent empires ever known. While aimed at undergraduate students in the main, this edition offers teachers of Roman Personality, Society and Historical Period options in Stage 6 Ancient History an extremely useful survey of recent scholarship on literary sources and clear interpretations of archaeological evidence pertaining to the history of the Republic (pp.2-184), the Augustan age (pp.185-256) and the Roman empire to the establishment of the Ostrogothic kingdom in 493 (pp.257-557). As this would suggest, the book provides a comprehensive overview of the key historic events, personalities, and powerful political, social and economic forces that shaped Rome's trajectory. In this light, teachers of upper primary and lower secondary History (Years 5-8) as well as Stage 5 Elective History should find *A History of Rome* a useful reference work and amenable to judicious adaptation in supporting class projects and depth study scaffolds.

The main additions in the volume include an augmented range of maps, illustrations, charts, timelines, and the like; an expanded selection of literary material and inscriptional evidence; and updated notes on further reading. The text treats in greater detail the causes of the First and Second Punic Wars (pp.72-76)—both given limited coverage only in the third edition. Greater attention is paid also to Pompey's annexation of Syria, Caesar's Gallic campaigns, and the conspiracy of Catiline (pp.144-145, 179). Of considerable interest to teachers of late republican and early imperial Roman history will be the judicious appraisals of the first Triumvirate (pp.145-148) and the events leading to civil war in 49 BCE, the second Triumvirate, and the prelude to Actium (pp.165-167). For those interested in broadening the palette of the Preliminary course—or with a junior or lower secondary class of high-achievers—the introductory sections dealing with the intersection of surviving literary and recent archaeological evidence for the origins of the city of Rome offer potential for further exploration (pp.5-18, 26-39).

It should be noted, however, that the book's coverage of the republic is limited in certain respects. We hear little to nothing, for example, about colonial foundations and provincial reductions as part of the early process of 'Romanisation' in peninsular or continental Italy; nor, surprisingly, is the war

with Jugurtha touched on. In comparison, its articulation of the Roman empire from the principate of Augustus to the deposition of Romulus Augustulus is vivid and multidimensional, providing balanced, individual treatments of emperors in the Julio-Claudian period (pp.258-287) or illuminating thematic sections (on topics like Italy and the provinces, the military, and paganism and Christianity) covering the Antonine and Severan periods (pp.321-403, 407-435) and the third and fourth centuries (pp.441-484, pp.487-544)

While providing a substantial synthesis of Roman history, the book allows plenty of scope for the enthusiastic teacher to integrate supplementary source material or historical detail where necessary. As such, and especially given the authors' stated intention to provide "a volume of *initiation* into the history of Rome" (p.xix), teachers should find the book's framework of inscriptional evidence, literary documentation, and iconographic illustration extremely beneficial as a foundation for closer critical examination of political, social and cultural history and related ideological issues—not to mention a neatly balanced overview of the two fundamental components of the Roman *imperium*, the Latin West and the Graeco-Latin East. If used as a reference work, there is more than sufficient grist for students keen to extend their historical understanding. Here, student and teacher alike will find select exemplary support for units focusing on history, culture and society: for example, the social and political transformations of the Gracchan crisis (pp.111-120); slave rebellions and the *bellum sociale* (pp.130-132); the role of women and the family (pp.179-182); Greek and Roman writers (pp.526-530); not to mention, as those of you familiar with the recent output of Donald Kyle would recognize, the rise and early development of gladiatorial combat (pp.82-88); the Roman triumph (pp.103-106); and spectacles in the Roman empire (pp.382-393).

Unlike most textbooks, the type is set in two-colour throughout, with marginal glossary items, clear chronological tables, expanded genealogies, and only a minimum of factual and typographical infelicities. This makes *A History of Rome* suitable for a catholic readership: Stage 6, undergraduate-age and mature-age students, as well as the interested non-specialist.

In all, the fourth edition of this comprehensive history of ancient Rome improves on its earlier iterations. It incorporates a revised, expanded and updated presentation of visual material into an eminently readable narrative survey of key trends in the "enthraling history of a small town which became

the capital of the greatest and most enduring empire history has known” (p.xviii).

Peter Keegan
Macquarie University

Roberta Tomber, *Indo-Roman Trade*, Duckworth, London, 2008; pp. 216. ISBN 978-0-7156-3696-1; £12.99.

This book is a welcome addition to the growing corpus of scholarship on Rome’s interaction with ancient India, especially on the topic of trade, and forms part of the Duckworth Debates in Archaeology series. Tomber sets out to provide an updated account of Indo-Roman trade using archaeological discoveries and developments in modern scholarship over the past 60 years. In doing so she provides an accessible summary of the more complex account of Indo-Roman trade which has been building in scholarship during that period. More specifically, Tomber spells out the aim of her book on page 17 as a re-evaluation of Indo-Roman trade by asking questions such as “What goods were exchanged and what others travelled alongside?”; “Who controlled the trade?”; “Where did the traders live?”; “What routes were followed and how do artefacts inform these routes?” While Tomber’s primary method is the use of pottery, especially amphorae, she also uses a range of other sources such as coins and texts, especially the *Periplus Maris Erythraei* (hereafter PME) which was written sometime in the Julio-Claudian period. Pottery is clearly the author’s specialty and this allows expert insights into the complexity of pottery as a source for understanding some of the complexities of Indo-Roman Trade.

The term Indo-Roman trade is used synonymously with Indian Ocean Trade in this book, which is problematic, because they are different phenomena. The book’s focus is, more accurately, Indo-Roman trade *in the context of* Indian Ocean Trade, including the Red Sea trade. It investigates Rome’s trade with India using evidence from the Red Sea, east Africa, south Arabia, the Persian Gulf and, of course, India from the first century BC to the seventh century AD. One of the useful contributions of the book is an emphasis on evidence from all of these areas to provide a more complex account of Indo-Roman trade. Older studies tended to emphasise evidence of a Roman nature