Thus very difficult to recapitulate briefly. This results in some uncertainties and inconsistencies, for example on the critical issue of the chronology of the first Forum floor, alternatively dated to the seventh and the sixth century BC. In two consecutive pages (pp. 101–102) and elsewhere apparently confused with the Comitium floor (which was never part of the Forum and has had a very different early history, as shown decisively by Ammerman). Similarly the *mur us terreus Carinarum* is seen as a rampart defending the Forum area since the eighth century (p. 81); at that time, however, the Forum valley was unoccupied and marshy. It is far more likely that the wall was part of a fortification of the Velia, together with the *mur us Mustelminus*. Some confusion is also detectable in the treatment of the pomerium and its expansions, while on the date of the Servian fortifications, now widely acknowledged to contain tracts built during the sixth century, Smith adopts a position that is perhaps too conservative.

The two concluding chapters provide a most interesting analysis of the main trends recognizable throughout the period. In the context of instructive comparisons with Greece, the move toward an urban society, where communal and public buildings, spaces, laws, and cults replace private ones, is lucidly described. A *Stadtwerdung* framework is clearly adopted here, which, although disputed recently, remains more robust than the bold guesswork sometimes cornering itself in the realm of *événementielle* history. Smith's book also has the outstanding merit of adopting exactly the right format for a synthesis on early Rome: in this sense it shows the way and is a most useful tool for the compilation of a really comprehensive handbook, which will only be possible a few years from now, once final excavation reports and long-awaited books by Ampolo, Stoddart, and Carandini eventually come out.

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This book is the result of Hans Eschbach's corrections to and completion of his studies in Pompeii, which he carried out from 1978 until his death in 1982 and which were taken up after his death by his wife, Lisalotte Eschbach, with the help of their daughter, Erika Eschbach, and the architect, Jürgen Müller-Trollius. The first publication resulting from this work was L. Eschbach and J. Müller-Trollius, *Gebäudeverzeichnis und Stadtplan der antiken Stadt Pompeji* (Böhlau 1993)—a register of buildings and an updated plan of Pompeii, which is republished here. The text of this current book is divided into three sections. The first short chapter uses ancient reports as well as recent proposed reconstructions to discuss the natural topography of the Gulf of Naples, as it was likely to have been prior to the A.D. 79 eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, and the impact of this topography on the settlement of the region.

The second chapter concerns the development of the town of Pompeii, particularly its evolving access routes and fortifications. This development is divided into three phases in which the volcanic activity of Mt. Vesuvius, the Samnite wars, and Romanization play major parts. On the basis, largely, of reduced volcanic activity in the area in the eighth century B.C. and on the foundation of other Italo-Etruscan towns in the seventh century B.C., phase I is considered an Oscan "oppidum" in the southwest area of the current town. Recent finds in this area have been employed to show that, by the end of the sixth century, this area was more than just a marketplace with a few domestic dwellings. Phase II is largely equivalent to the traditional Altstadt, and includes the Forum Triangolare, Via di Stabia, Via di Mercurio, and a road leading to the Porta di Ercolano. Phase III is divided into A, B, and C. Phase IIIA commences in the early fifth century, and consists of the pre- and early Samnite period; during this phase the circuit wall, with eight gates and associated access roads, was built. Phase IIIB commences in the second half of the fifth century, after a brief period of volcanic activity. This is the Samnite period proper when the Neustadt achieved its final form. Phase IIIC consists of the Republican and Early Imperial periods, commencing with Pompeii being "Romanized" from the end of the second century and ending with the town never fully recovering from the devastation traditionally attributed to a recorded earthquake in A.D. 62.

The last chapter on land use takes up the second half of the book and investigates the development of particular urban features, namely the street system, the water systems, public establishments, housing, and open areas such as gardens. The development of house construction is based on dated building techniques, the reliability of which is much debated in recent scholarship, and traditional perspectives on evolving house plans. This chapter concludes with a discussion of the sources for examinable building materials.

The text concludes with a brief summary of some of the events since A.D. 79 (e.g., earthquakes, volcanoes, excavations, bombings, tourism, research projects) that have both affected the site of Pompeii and our knowledge of it.

This volume is lavishly furnished with maps, plans, charts, drawings, and photographs, of wide-ranging quality and format. The plans and charts vary from sketch maps, provided by the Soprintendenza archeologica di Pompei or made during excavations, to the reprinting of previously published plans, to detailed topographical maps. The usefulness of each illustration, however, is by no means directly related to its quality. Some of the sketches include otherwise unavailable information, such as on settlement distribution and the town of Pompeii. While the plans and drawings are placed within the text, they are not necessarily found in association with the relevant text, which can be a little frustrating.

Among the plans is a foldout reproduction of Eschbach's 1970 town plan (scale 1:2000), which uses color to differentiate between building phases before 89 B.C.,
before A.D. 62, and after A.D. 62. Unfortunately, it is difficult to distinguish between the black and green used to indicate the last two phases. It is also a pity that a copy of this old plan, at a scale that is difficult to read, was used here, rather than a copy of the updated plan, which includes plans of more recently excavated houses.

While the updated map, presented as a loose foldout inside the back cover (scale 1:1000), includes these recently excavated buildings, it cannot be considered a wholesale improvement on the 1970 plan. This is particularly notable in Region XIII insula 2, where the differentiation between ground and lower floors is still unclear and inconsistent, and where entrances between houses are inaccurate (e.g., there should not be any entrances between houses VIII 2, 30 and VII 2, 34; cf. F. Noack and K. Lehmann-Hartleben, *Baugeschichtliche Untersuchungen am Stadtrand von Pompeji* [Berlin 1936] pl. 36). But this new plan now has additional errors. For example: there is now no connecting door between rooms L and M in the Casa della Ara Massima (cf. K. Stemmer, *Casa della Ara Massima* [Munich 1992] fig. 40), and hence area VI 16, 17 is presented as a separate establishment; a window appears to have been added between rooms f and l in the Casa dei Cei (cf. D. Michel, *Casa dei Cei* [Munich 1990] fig. 48); the lower ground floor of house VIII 2, 29 is not depicted at all; entrance VIII 2, 31 is indicated as being connected to house VIII 2, 30 (cf. Noack and Lehmann-Hartleben, pls. 38–40); and entrances from house VIII 2, 34 to lane VIII 2, 32 are missing (Noack and Lehmann-Hartleben, pl. 36). It is obviously very difficult to present these features accurately at this scale. An awareness of such errors, however, can warn scholars not to use this plan for studies that depend on accurate knowledge, either of the limits of each establishment (e.g., numerical assessments of Pompeian building types or functions) or of the features within these buildings (e.g., domestic spatial function).

In summary, this book provides useful and accessible information on the changing urban fabric of Pompeii, principally on the built environment, but also to a certain extent on its inhabitants, through the synthesis of more specific studies of particular aspects of that fabric.

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The history and urban development of towns, and the analysis of settlement pattern and rural organization of their territory, has always attracted scholarly attention. Even so, in the great majority of cases the urban development of the centers of the classical world has been only briefly outlined. Moreover, relations between a town and its territory have rarely been considered in reconstructing the main events that comprise the history of the town itself. Despite appearances, Pompeii represents one of these “famous cases.” The layout of the city within its fortification walls is well known, even if there is still a great deal of debate about the earliest phases of the settlement and the way the town was definitively structured. On the other hand, despite 250 years of data, bibliographical notes, discoveries, and ever more accurate archaeological excavations (V. Kockel, “Archäologische Funde und Forschungen in den Vesuvstädten 1,” AA 1985, 495–571), the territory still remains “la grande incognita di Pompei.”

This book by De Caro takes the first important steps toward something more than a superficial knowledge of the components of this territory. He has already concerned himself with rural settlements near Pompeii (S. De Caro, “Villa rustica in località Petrarco (Stabiae),” *RivistaArch* 10 [1987] 5–89), but here the analysis is more accurate and complete, because the identified building was entirely dug and restored, under the direction of the author himself.

The book opens with an introduction by F. Zevi. The author expounds the choices of the Soprintendenza archeologica that led to the discovery, excavation, and preservation of the Boscoreale building; the importance of studying Pompeian territory, in order to understand the pattern of urban development in the city and the historical conditions that provoked it; and the growth of ancient rural settlements in the area. In the first four chapters, the method applied in the excavation of the Boscoreale building is outlined; the individual parts into which the villa is divided (including the kitchen garden and the vineyard, thanks to a note by W.F. Jashemski) are analytically described; and a reconstruction of every identified building phase, from the construction of the villa until its destruction, is suggested. A fifth chapter, representing half of the entire book, lists all the finds from the excavation. After this catalogue comes a very interesting appendix, in which the author tries to work out the quantity of wine that could be produced every year at Villa Regina and the profits that the small community that lived there could gain from the vineyard. The book is enriched by noteworthy tables and figures.

De Caro has surely succeeded in telling the history of this small villa as a whole, and in describing its components and furnishings. For the first time, we can have some idea of the development and improvement of a Pompeian farm, from initial land division until the very last moment of its life. Summing up in just a few words, the essential core of the interpretation proposed here is that the villa’s discovery constitutes just one of several elements corroborating the following theory. The city of Pompeii was created between the end of the seventh and the beginning of the sixth century B.C. by the synoecism of a number of minor villages. Then, between the end of the fourth and the beginning of the third century B.C., such a high degree of political autonomy was achieved by the Pompeian community that the agricultural exploitation of the whole area between the slopes of Vesuvius, the Tyrrhenian coast, and the Sarno valley could be planned. The Boscoreale farm is placed within the framework of a pre-Roman land division, linked with the layout of the main urban streets.