

Anna Marguerite McCann, Joanne Bourgeois, Elaine K. Gazda, John Peter Olesen, and Elizabeth Lyding Will. *The Roman Port and Fishery of Cosa: A Center of Ancient Trade*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987. Pp. xxxiii, 353, plus 14 b/w maps, 6 color plates, 788 b/w plates. \$150.00. ISBN 0-691-03581-4.

Cosa is the site of excavations that began some forty years ago under the auspices of the American Academy in Rome, and which have generated, since 1951, an impressive list of thorough and careful monographic studies as well as a very satisfying overview (F. E. Brown, *Cosa: The Making of a Roman Town* [Ann Arbor 1980]). Before now, published research has succeeded in illuminating aspects of the town itself and the objects recovered there, but now we have, additionally, an ambitious study of the port/fishery complex that will have been the lifeblood of the Roman colony.

This monumental volume, resulting from the collaboration of archaeologists, scientists, and engineers, is generally excellent. One likes to have definitive studies of things, and this certainly is that. The essays, treating a broad variety of mainly interwoven topics, are uniformly fine. Among the book's more remarkable features are its demonstrations of how archaeology continues to be transformed by applications of modern technology, and of how highly developed the science of underwater archaeology has now become. The reader learns, moreover, not only about the nuts and bolts of what is, by any standard, an extraordinary architectural complex, but also, and perhaps equally important, about the economy that made Cosa tick: while the Portus Cosanus is naturally the focus of the study, the Ager Cosanus figures prominently in the discussion.

Auxiliary materials—figures, tables, plates (including some color)—are both abundant and instructive. Aside from some jarring typos, surprising in a product of the Princeton Press, the study is a model of scholarly publication. Its price is high, but fair for a book of this magnificence; sadly, it will be out of reach for most individuals and all but major university libraries.

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