

G. Cresci Marrone and M. Tirelli (eds): *Viglia di romanizzazione. Altino e il Veneto orientale tra II e I sec. a. C.* Atti del Convegno, Venezia, S. Sebastiano, 2-3 dicembre 1997 (Studi e ricerche sulla Gallia Cisalpina 11). Pp. viii + 327. Rome: Edizioni Quasar, 1999, pbk. ISBN: 88-7140-154-9.

This volume assembles fifteen papers from a conference devoted to the ‘crucial moment of transition that signalled for the settled communities of the eastern Veneto the passage to *Romanitas*’ (1). The focus of the enterprise is Altinum (mod. Altino) in the second and first centuries BC. Margherita Tirelli’s opening chapter discusses the importance of recent archaeological data from Altinum for understanding ‘Romanization’ in north-eastern Italy (5-31). This material is presented in detail in a chapter edited by Silvia Cipriano (33-65), and further chapters examine various aspects of it (e.g. coinage and cult objects). Inscriptions command considerable treatment. Anna Marinetti surveys the pre-Roman epigraphy, tracing the influence of Latinate modes of expression in Venetic texts (75-95). Giovannella Cresci Marrone studies onomastics in the late-Republican Latin inscriptions and postulates the persistence of pre-Roman *gentes* after the arrival of the Romans (121-39). A perceptive essay by Claudio Zaccaria points out various problems in the epigraphic record for the late Republican period in the eastern Veneto (193-210). Most of the early documents are of a public nature (mentioning Roman officials, public buildings, and economic life), while private documents (such as funerary inscriptions) only begin to appear in substantial numbers from the mid-first century BC. Zaccaria also notes (196-7) that many of the names found in early private inscriptions from Aquileia suggest that its population originated in central Italy. Monika Verzár-Bass confirms this

picture in her study (undertaken with Flaviana Oriolo) of the earliest funerary monuments from Aquileia (261-83, at 262-4).

In addition to the focus on Altinum (and, inevitably, Aquileia), there are studies of the pre- and early Roman phases of settlement elsewhere in the eastern Veneto that seek to flesh out our picture of the processes of 'Romanisation'. Luigi Malnati examines new evidence for pre-Roman housing at Opitergium (mod. Oderzo) that suggests the influence there of regions further south in Italy well before the Roman conquest (171-91).

Pierangela Croce Da Villa catalogues evidence for cultural change from along the route of the Via Annia, laid down in 153 or 131 BC (211-28). Of particular importance are traces of *vici* and *pagi*, sometimes dating to the period before the foundation of urban centres (214-15). Such details seem to belong to an ongoing process of developing settlement patterns in the Veneto that precedes the arrival of the Romans. A similar picture emerges in Elena Di Filippo Balestrazzi's paper on the origins of Iulia Concordia (229-57). Two final papers (by Gino Bandelli and Ezio Buchi) present the history of the eastern Veneto between the Gallic wars of the late third century BC and the early Augustan period in the light of the archaeological material. They provide a satisfying conclusion to a thought-provoking and valuable set of papers.