WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Original citation:
Newby, Zahra (2017) Review of Attitudes towards the past in antiquity. Creating identities. Proceedings of an International Conference held at Stockholm University, 15-17 May 2009 edited by Alroth B., Scheffer C. Classical Review, 67 (1). pp. 309-310.

Permanent WRAP URL:
http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/79810

Copyright and reuse:
The Warwick Research Archive Portal (WRAP) makes this work by researchers of the University of Warwick available open access under the following conditions. Copyright © and all moral rights to the version of the paper presented here belong to the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. To the extent reasonable and practicable the material made available in WRAP has been checked for eligibility before being made available.

Copies of full items can be used for personal research or study, educational, or not-for profit purposes without prior permission or charge. Provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.

Publisher's statement:
This article has been published in a revised form in Classical Review https://doi.org/10.1017/S0009840X16001888 This version is free to view and download for private research and study only. Not for re-distribution, re-sale or use in derivative works. © The Classical Association 2016

A note on versions:
The version presented here may differ from the published version or, version of record, if you wish to cite this item you are advised to consult the publisher's version. Please see the 'permanent WRAP URL' above for details on accessing the published version and note that access may require a subscription

For more information, please contact the WRAP Team at: wrap@warwick.ac.uk

warwick.ac.uk/lib-publications

Alroth (B.), Scheffer (C.) (edd.) ***Attitudes towards the Past in Antiquity. Creating Identities. Proceedings of an International Conference held at Stockholm University, 15-17 May 2009.*** **(Stockholm Studies in Classical Archaeology 14.) Pp. 325, figs, b/w & colour ills, maps. Stockholm: Stockholm University, 2014. Paper. ISBN: 978-91-87235-48-1.**

This conference proceedings taps into a wider contemporary scholarly interest in memory and the use of the past, and will be of interest to many. It comprises twenty-eight papers plus a summary of themes, and I can only discuss some here. While the papers share a number of links, the organisation does not help to elucidate them since papers with very different concerns are collected under general headings such as 'past of early Greece' or 'religious settings'. Rather than replicating the programme of the conference (Edlund-Berry, p. 321), it would have been better to reorganise the papers for publication, either along the lines suggested in Edlund-Berry's summary or (differently) as identified below.

One recurring theme is the use made of the past and the *mores maiorum* in the creation of Roman identities. Brandt's paper looks at uses made of the Lupercalia and Lupercal by Julius Caesar and Augustus, while Cox considers the Flavian evocation of Republican values via the revival of older coin types. Her consideration of the importance of *exempla* also has resonances with Karivieri's discussion of the iconographic programme in the House of C. Iucundus at Pompeii which combines myth and familial imagery to present the owner as a man of education, *virtus* and *dignitas*. The contested uses of tradition in the formation of Roman identity in Late Antiquity are discussed in Bureau's analysis of the poetry of Claudian and Prudentius, while Trout looks at how accounts of Christian martyrs and their memorialisation in the cityscape of Rome, create a new sort of Roman identity. Conversely, Östenberg considers deliberate forgetting, in her analysis of Roman attitudes towards military defeats.

Another theme is the creation of civic identities through appropriation of symbols with a long history. Higbie's paper on the forging of Homeric pasts in the Roman period has an interesting discussion of authenticatory devices and bears relation to Scherrer's paper on civic foundation myths as well as Schörner's discussion of the revitalisation of interurban burial cult in the Roman period. Papalexandrou's discussion of Messenian tripods identifies this as deliberate appropriation for the creation of civic identity, while Taylor stresses the distinctiveness of local cult in the worship of the Sirens around the Bay of Naples. In many of these discussions the Roman period emerges as one in which traditions were created or revitalised, as is also clear in Rocca's analysis of the construction of Hippodamus as the father of medicine.

While two papers consider the creation of identity through opposition (Scheffer on representations of the Etruscans and Skwara on Plautus' *Poenulus*), elsewhere Rathje and Nielsen show how external traditions (Greek myth) can be combined with Etruscan history for familial self-representation in the Francois Tomb at Vulci and the tomb of the Purni near Chiusi (c.f. Karivieri).

The majority of the papers are case studies, with little explicit discussion of methodology. Morgan's paper is the exception, posing the important methodological question of how to identify intent and distinguish between deliberately objectified memory and the material results of changing rituals. Overall there are many interesting papers here, and much food for thought, though a theoretical introduction would have been a welcome addition.

University of Warwick ZAHRA NEWBY