

Isaías ARRAYÁS MORALES *Morfología histórica del territorio de Tarraco* (ss. III-I A.C.),
Barcelone, Publicacions Universitat de Barcelona, 2005 (Instrumenta, 19), 30 × 21 cm,
303 p., 26 fig., 13 cartes, ISBN 84-475-3007-8.

This thought provoking work developed out of a doctoral thesis submitted by Arrayás Morales (hereafter AM) to the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona in 2002. AM analyses a wide range of literary and archaeological evidence for the settlement, economy and organisation of the territory surrounding the city of *Tarraco* (modern Tarragona, in the north east of modern Spain). I will briefly summarise the contents of the work before explaining AM's main conclusions in more detail and evaluating the book as a whole. — The introduction (p. 13-20) introduces the subject of the study, the sources to be used, and makes a strong justification for the methodology employed. AM argues that it is only through combining the archaeological evidence, especially that concerning the spatial organisation of the countryside, with the literary, epigraphic, numismatic and other materials at our disposal that we can come to a proper understanding of the historical transformations experienced by territory and its people. The introduction closes by defining the main geographical features of the region of Tarragona. — Part I (p. 21-116) focuses on the literary, epigraphic and numismatic evidence for effects of the Roman conquest of the Iberian Peninsula on the region of Tarragona. This section begins by examining the numerous sources on *Tarraco* during the period of the Second Punic War. AM moves on to examine the history of *Tarraco* in the second and first centuries BC, focussing on evidence for increased Italian involvement in the region and how this may have affected the indigenous Iberian population. The consequences for *Tarraco* of the actions of Sertorius, Pompey and Caesar are then explored. This part ends by analysing the two consequences of the increasing integration of *Tarraco* into the Roman political system : the granting of *colonia* status in the Augustan period and how this effected administration, society and religion; the establishment of *Tarraco* as the capital of the province of *Hispania Citerior Tarraconensis* and of the *conventus iuridicus Tarraconensis*. — In part II (p. 117-204) AM examines the voluminous archaeological material for the region. He begins by surveying evidence for the pre-Roman population, then explores the problem of the limits of the rural hinterland of *Tarraco*, before going into great detail concerning the main routes of communication through the region. Having established this basis, AM leads the reader chronologically through what the material remains can tell us about effects of greater integration into the Roman world on the indigenous population of *Tarraco* and its region. — Part III (p. 205-239) is much shorter than the preceding sections and is devoted to a study of the archaeomorphology of the region. AM is especially concerned to explore the effects of what he sees as conscious human planning on the spatial organisation of *Tarraco* and its region. AM argues that there was a concerted official effort to establish a centuriated

catastro system. Apparently, the *catastro* was, above all, an administrative and fiscal tool; it recorded the details of all existing lands and the identities of those who worked them (p. 207). — The bibliography comprehensively covers research on Tarraco in Spanish and Catalan. However, there is a lack of reference to English language publications. For example, Simon Keay's excellent work on *Tarraconensis* is condensed into just two entries in the bibliography. This is possibly because Keay's conclusions on the centuriation of the *ager Tarraconensis* are at odds with those of AM (p. 206). The main text and bibliography are followed by : a detailed index of the primary sources consulted by the author, a toponymic index, an onomastic index, an index of subjects covered, and an index of secondary source authors. The text is accompanied by an extensive and informative series of maps, tables, graphs and pictures. Unfortunately there is no introductory list of such illustrative material. I counted the following : 22 maps of provinces, cities, archaeological sites, reconstructions ; 16 good quality black-and-white photographs of sites, inscriptions, objects (coins, statues, reconstructions), some of which are helpfully annotated ; 2 further black-and-white illustrations ; 14 graphs ; 5 charts. Pages 197-204 are devoted to two inventories archaeological discoveries made in *Tarraconensis* between the Iberian and Imperial periods. Although this material is potentially very useful, I feel that it could have been more usefully included as an appendix, thus avoiding unnecessarily breaking up the text. — The conclusion (p. 241-243) briefly summarises AM's arguments chronologically. From the period from the end of the third century BC to the start of the second century BC there was continued occupation of many *oppida* and of the majority of the settlements of the plain and the uplands, but at the same time significant changes resulted from the Roman presence. For example, some of the *oppida*, which had played a defensive role in the Iberian period, disappeared. Such changes corresponded to patterns that occurred elsewhere in the northeast of the peninsula and were clear signs that the arrival of the Romans was beginning to alter both the spatial organisation of the population and the economy. From the middle of the second century BC, and coinciding with an alteration in Roman attitudes to the Empire, the pace of change quickened. The Iberian *oppida* and many rural settlements of the plain and uplands were abandoned, to be replaced by 'asentamientos rurales ibéricos finales', which differed in form and location from the settlements of the Iberian period proper. AM believes that this was the result of the imposition of a centuriated Roman *catastral* structure that resettled the Iberian population. Some existing Iberian structures were integrated into this system, others were simply abandoned. The first half of the first century BC witnessed an increase in the pace of reorganisation. It witnessed a proliferation of the 'asentamientos rurales ibéricos finales' and the development of new types of indigenous settlement in the plain and the highlands, both of which were responses to economic changes that encouraged increased production of cereal and wine. The second half of the first century BC and the Augustan period were fundamental for *Tarraco* and its region. The city was granted the legal status of a *colonia* and was chosen as a provincial capital. The urban centre of *Tarraco* consequently witnessed important improvements. On a territorial level, there was a significant increase in pottery production, which was thereafter predominantly dedicated to the production of wine *amphorae*. New rural settlements, some of which can be considered as villas, were established. These two developments evidence the increased commercialisation of the wine producing economy. Those formerly Iberian settlements that were linked with cereal production were increasingly abandoned, while those that had adapted to the new economic situation continued to be occupied. In AM's opinion the most important development of this period in the hinterland of *Tarraco* was the appearance of new rural villa settlements. — To conclude, this work makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the transition to Roman rule in the province of *Tarraco*. It makes a significant amount of new evidence available to a wider audience and offers an interesting new reading of

that evidence. Researchers in the archaeology and history of Roman Spain will take much from this work, as will those who are interested in the processes of change that are frequently labelled as 'Romanisation'.