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# The study of Roman triumphal and honorary arches 50 years after Kähler

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SANDRO DE MARIA, *GLI ARCHI ONORARI DI ROMA E DELL'ITALIA ROMANA* (Bibliotheca Archaeologica 7, L'ERMA di Bretschneider, Roma 1988). Pp. 374, 80 figs., 113 plates. Lit.650.000. ISBN 88-7062-642-3.

ERNST KÜNZL, *DER RÖMISCHE TRIUMPH. SIEGESFEIERN IM ANTIKEN ROM* (Verlag C. H. Beck, München 1988). Pp. 171, 100 figs. DM 38,-. ISBN 3-406-32899-7.

FILIPPO COARELLI, *IL FORO ROMANO 2. PERIODO REPUBBLICANO E AUGUSTEO* (Quasar, Roma 1985) (The discussion here is restricted to pp. 258-308).

ELISABETH NEDERGAARD, "ZUR PROBLEMATIK DER AUGUSTUSBÖGEN AUF DEM FORUM ROMANUM," in *KAISER AUGUSTUS UND DIE VERLORENE REPUBLIK* (von Zabern, Mainz 1988) 224-39.

FILIPPO COARELLI, *IL FORO BOARIO DALLE ORIGINI ALLA FINE DELLA REPUBBLICA* (Quasar, Roma 1988) (The discussion here is restricted to pp. 363-437 with appendix by G. Ioppolo pp. 443-50).

JAMES C. ANDERSON, JR., "THE DATE OF THE ARCH AT ORANGE," in *BONNJBB* 187 (1987) 159-92.

XAVIER DUPRÉ I RAVENTOS, "EL CAPITELLS CORINTIS DE L'ARC DE BERÀ" in *EMPURIES* 45-46 (1984) 308-15.

Fifty years ago Heinz Kähler published his "Triumphbogen (Ehrenbogen)" in *Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*,<sup>1</sup> a classic article that is still the starting point for any serious inquiry into Roman triumphal and honorary arches. Although since 1939 there has never been any lack of interest in the subject, the last five years have seen the publication of an exceptional number of important studies on Roman arches. The 50th anniversary of the appearance of Kähler's *RE* article is a good opportunity to review several of the most important of these contributions individually and as a group.<sup>2</sup>

The most ambitious of these recent studies is Sandro De Maria's 1988 reassessment of all the honorary arches of Italy, but since 1984 scholars have been treated to a steady stream of new and important discoveries and hypotheses, including the finding of the *Tabula Siarensis* containing details about the lost Arch of Germanicus in the Circus Flaminius, a monument of the very highest interest; the reevaluation of the important series of arches constructed by Octavian/Augustus in the Forum Romanum; the redating of the 'Tiberian' arch at Orange and the 'Trajanic' arch at Bará, two major fixed points in the chronologies of the arches of Gaul and Iberia; a new attempt to pinpoint the location of the *Porta Triumphalis* in Rome; as well as a new book on the triumph itself by Ernst Künzl in which 'triumphal' arches receive a good deal of attention, although they are not the author's primary concern. I begin my review of these new studies with the impressive volume by De Maria.

## The arches of Roman Italy

*Gli archi onorari di Roma e dell'Italia romana* opens with a brief overview of the literature on Roman arches from mediaeval itineraries like that of the Anonymous Einsiedeln to the scholarship of today.

1 *RE* VII.A,1 (1939) 373-493.

2 My own recent book, *The Arch of Nero in Rome. A study of the Roman honorary arch before and under Nero* (Rome 1985) will, for obvious reasons, not be evaluated here; it has, in any case, been widely reviewed. In 1983 Michael Pfanner's *Der Titusbogen* was published in Mainz. I have reviewed (with D. E. E. Kleiner) that volume separately in *ArchNews* 14 (1985) 69-70.