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# Roman baths and bathing

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INGE NIELSEN, *THERMAE ET BALNEA. THE ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF ROMAN PUBLIC BATHS* (Aarhus University Press, Aarhus 1990). 2 vols, pp. 194 (text) + 212 (catalogue and 260 figs). ISBN 87-7288-212-3.

HUBERTUS MANDERSCHIED, *BIBLIOGRAPHIE ZUM RÖMISCHEN BADEWESEN UNTER BESONDERER BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DER ÖFFENTLICHEN THERMEN* (Wasmuth, München 1988). Pp. 244 + 431 figs.

FIKRET YEGÜL, *BATHS AND BATHING IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY* (Architectural History Foundation, New York, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, Cambridge MA 1992). Pp. ix + 501, including 506 figs. ISBN 0-262-24035-1.

*LES THERMÈS ROMAINS (ACTES DE LA TABLE RONDE ORGANISÉE PAR L'ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME, ROME 11-12 NOVEMBRE 1988)* (Collection de l'École française de Rome 142, Roma 1991, distributed by De Boccard, Paris). Pp. viii + 219 and ill. ISSN 0223-5099, ISBN 02-7283-0212-6.

To judge from the works under consideration in this review, the study of Roman baths is thriving. Nielsen provides a new synthetic account of the development of Roman public baths supported by a substantial catalogue, to which Manderscheid's bibliography forms a complement; together they are sure to replace Krencker<sup>1</sup> as the standard reference in the field. Yegül's account is more thematic, with the emphasis on Italy, North Africa, and the eastern empire, and with the Greek gymnasium as a recurrent motif. The proceedings of the "Table ronde" open up new lines of investigation and analysis in such areas as terminology, technology, the early history of baths in Italy, and the relation between baths and religion. Together these four works provide a substantial body of information and ideas which will no doubt be instrumental in shaping this field of study for a long time to come.

## I. INDIVIDUAL WORKS

### The catalogues by Nielsen and Manderscheid

Krencker's catalogue included only 72 baths, of which over one-third were from North Africa and only 9 from the eastern provinces. In contrast, Nielsen's catalogue (Vol. II) contains 387 baths — 132 from the eastern provinces — and Manderscheid's 611. Both purport to cover public baths, but the definition of this varies. Manderscheid includes spas, but excludes military and all private baths; Nielsen includes military baths and baths attached to imperial residences, but excludes spas and other private baths; both authors include baths attached to sanctuaries and *mansiones* as well as civic baths. Nielsen includes more buildings in the eastern empire outside of Asia and Lycia/Pamphylia, while Manderscheid's focus is on the west. Together they cover over 760 buildings, of which only some 230 are common to both.

The two catalogues should thus be seen as complementary, and need to be used together. This is not entirely straightforward as the entries are organised differently — in Manderscheid alphabetically by location favouring modern place-names, in Nielsen alphabetically by location within five provincial groups using ancient place-names wherever possible. As well as the expected information on location and date of construction, each entry in Nielsen also records construction techniques, state of preservation, and date of excavation. The bibliography for each entry is short, being restricted to modern works giving some kind of description of the building; for much of the detailed bibliography, Nielsen refers the reader to Manderscheid. His catalogue follows a short general bibliography divided into predictable categories such as "Entwicklung und frühe Thermen", "Architektur und Bautypologie", "Raumformen", "Länder", etc. The catalogue entries provide bibliographic details under 14 possible headings beginning with the primary published documentation (excavation report or survey) where this exists. This is followed by

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1 D. Krencker, *Die Trierer Kaiserthermen* (Augsburg 1929).