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The series of archaeological repertories produced in Belgium continues with this volume on the province of Luxembourg, an area which is only just emerging from the comparative neglect which has long bedevilled it, a fact which renders this publication the more welcome.

The general lay-out is sensible and practical. To gather the maximum of information into the minimum of space, repetition is avoided by a preliminary list of general books and articles which are only cited under individual headings if they have new or corrected information to offer. In the main part of the text, bibliographical information is grouped under the names of communes, as is normal. This is followed by very brief resumé of the archaeological discoveries from palaeolithic to Merovingian. The village which gives its name to the commune is dealt with first, followed by other separate villages or hamlets. A system of inverted commas and question marks is employed to indicate that an interpretation is quoted without being endorsed. Inaccuracies in the books and articles cited are also at least sometimes mentioned: anyone making detailed use for this area of A. van Doorselaer's repertory of Roman cemeteries would be advised to check the relevant references here.

The communes cited are the old ones prior to the 1975 re-organization, and the collection of bibliography was

stopped at the end of 1975 (which means a delay of more than two years to publication). Nevertheless, the final index incorporates the new commune names after the old in cases of change. This leaves a problem only in certain instances, viz. where the territory of one old commune has been dispersed among two or more new ones. This could only have been resolved by compiling a further list to show which villages or hamlets have been assigned to which new communes, or else by additions to the main body of the text at a late stage. The last would have been ideal, and it is a pity it was not adopted in view of the annoyances which administrative changes such as these can cause, especially to non-nationals who do not have conveniently at their disposal whatever official lists and maps may have been issued.

The assembly of bibliography seems to have been competently and carefully done: it is noteworthy that a short article published in the *Annu. Mus. Art and Arch. Univ. Missouri-Columbia* has not escaped the net (under Ebly). Certain points can however be raised. For ease of consultation, references to such standard collections of inscriptions and reliefs as CIL and *Espérandieu* might best have been made in a separate section at the beginning of the bibliographical lists, instead of appearing at the end after the undated items. The cumbersome manner of citation employed for the CIL references suggests unfamiliarity with epigraphical publications and this may be the cause for the omission of references to AE or to the 1959 supplement in *Ber. RGK*, which contains the standard publication of an important inscription from Arlon (No. 7). Otherwise the references seem to be accurate, though on p. 225 CIL 39–3976 must be read as 3970–76.

The usefulness of the book could also have been greatly enhanced by the addition, in the margin, of some standard notation indicating the period of the finds. Such a system was employed by J. Steinhausen in his *Ortskunde Trier-Mettendorf* (1932), and it could without trouble be evolved further to indicate habitations or graves when the nature of the evidence allows firm identification. As things are, if the reader wishes to form any impression of the total numbers of different types of sites, or of their relative frequency, he must do this work himself. For equally lacking are any lists of sites according to period, and even the sketchiest of maps to indicate the location of sites and give some idea of their density. These last are serious omissions, and raise the question of the purpose of inventories.

The provision of more analytical summarizing chapters as was done by M. Lesenne for Tongeren in Volume 10 of the series may be thought to go beyond the necessary scope of an inventory, welcome as it was in that instance. But that does not restrict an inventory to being a mere bibliographical list. Already this volume does go one stage beyond that, in the provision of the brief summaries, and it is the more regrettable that it did not pursue this path further. For one of the purposes of inventories is surely to allow a general overview of an area, while another is to provide data that can be quantified. While quantification may not be an answer to everything, it is a useful and often indispensable tool if social and economic history is to be written, and the archaeological record, no matter what its faults, is the main and often the only source of data to this end. It is surely not too much to ask that the information in an inventory can be produced in a form which makes it readily available for those who wish to use it in this way. Of course the summary information given in tables may need to be checked against the text, but at least these and accompanying maps would provide a starting point, and prevent much frustration. Although it may still be argued that distribution maps best illustrate the zones of activity of archaeologists rather than the true distribution of sites, of what use is it to have numerous mentions of sections of Roman roads, if there is not a map which shows, even approximately, their general course?

The book remains a welcome source of systematically arranged information. Further thought, time and organization could however have enhanced its value greatly. Sadly too, the omissions will be most keenly felt by archaeologists in countries outside of Belgium. It would be well if such considerations are borne in mind when future volumes of this series are produced. A list of previous volumes on the cover or inside would also be welcome.