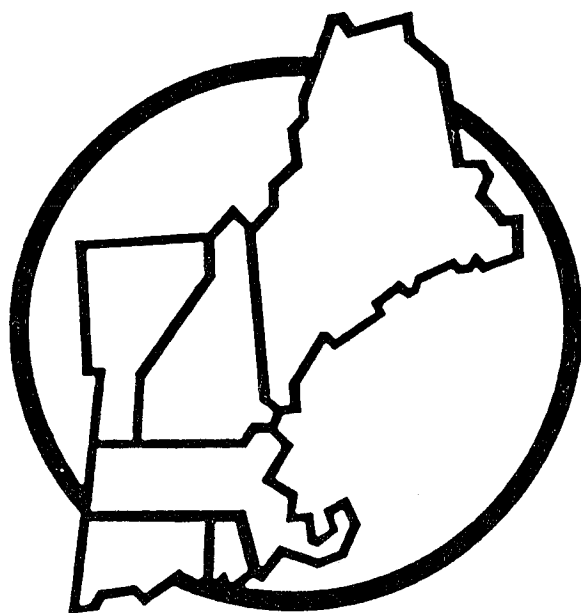


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ANCIENT ATHENIAN BUILDING METHODS.
By John McK. Camp II and William B. Dinsmoor, Jr. "Excavations of the Athenian Agora Picture Books," no. 21. American School of Classical Studies at Athens; obtainable from

Publications Committee, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ 08540. 1984. 32 pp., paperback, illustrated (ISBN 87661-626-0). \$1.50.

The excavations of the Athenian Agora have done much to expand and clarify our knowledge of classical antiquity. This latest Picture Book in the Agora series takes a new and enlightening look at Greek building techniques and their development over the centuries. Public buildings ranging in date from the 5th century B.C. to the Roman period are emphasized in the discussion, and private dwellings also receive attention.

The reader learns how public buildings were financed, how sites were chosen and prepared, and how water was supplied to them, what building materials were used and how they were made or quarried or transported, what tools were used in quarrying and building, how walls were made, and how columns were put together and carved (at the end of the 5th century B.C. it took five men working 70 days each to flute a column of the Erechtheion). Other architectural topics briefly treated include entablatures, ceilings, roof tiles, simas (gutters), antefixes, doors, windows, floors, exterior and interior painted surfaces, moldings, and sculptural decoration. Even masons' marks are made to tell their tale. Some of them show that buildings were torn down, moved to the Agora, and rebuilt in the Roman period.

The text of the book is simply written and clear, and the photographs, drawings, and watercolors are well chosen and helpful. The book is a "must" for teachers and students of the Classics and will provide even specialists in the

history of classical architecture with fresh insights.

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THESE WERE THE ROMANS. By G. I. F. Tingay and J. Badcock. Dufour Editions, Booksellers & Publishers, Box 449, Chester Springs, PA 19425. 193 pp., paperback, illustrated (ISBN 0-7175-0591-X). \$8.95.

These Were the Romans, like its companion volume *These Were the Greeks* by Amos and Lang [reviewed in *NECN* XI.1, pp. 24-25], is aimed at the high school student who is enrolled in a World History or Classical Civilization course. It is also useful general reading for Latin students who want to place the authors they are reading in a social and political setting. The chapter on "Writing and Writers" has a wonderful description of scribes and the making of scrolls including the smoothing of the edges with pumice. Most students would find this interesting, but for those who are reading Catullus, it should add meaning to the reading of his first poem: *Cui dono lepidum novum libellum / arida modo pumice expolitum?* I would even use the book as a reference for academically talented eighth graders, especially the chapters dealing with everyday life, growing up, houses, the army, roads, and the Imperial City.

The book is divided into twenty chapters which cover the broad areas of Roman history, Latin literature, the monuments of Rome and the Empire, as well as the lifestyle of the Romans themselves. Despite the diversity of the chapters, I found the material woven together with the