Roberto Weiss. *The Renaissance Discovery of Classical Antiquity*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1969. Pp. xi, 222. 55s.

Roberto Weiss' contributions to Renaissance philology are so numerous that the readers of his latest book, *The Renaissance Discovery of Classical Antiquity*, will hardly be surprised by the accuracy revealed in his treatment of such a complicated subject. However even the expert Renaissance student is bound to be impressed by the scholarly standards shown by the writer in tracing the rise of modern archeological science and presenting it as one of the manifestations of the spirit of Italian humanism. Despite the difficulty of his task (his book being the first systematic treatment of the development of an interest in the tangible remains of classical antiquity) the synthesis attained by Professor Weiss is both lucid and provocative. Chronologically the work spans the period from the early Middle Ages to the sack of Rome in 1527. The author begins his study at a time when the main reason for collecting antique objects was not their antiquity, but rather their appeal to the eye, or the preciousness of their material, or even the belief that they were endowed with magical power. Professor Weiss concludes his work with the second decade of the sixteenth century, when the critical approach, previously introduced into philological studies, finds a counterpart in the new methods used by Renaissance archeologists, who thus become the fathers of modern archeological science. In the fourteen chapters of his book Professor Weiss takes his readers through a most illuminating journey of the humanistic cultural world. Familiar figures (Petrarch, Alberti, Poggio, Valla, Pontano) are made to reveal aspects of their contribution to humanistic culture overlooked before, or insufficiently explored. For less popular figures, like Flavio Biondo or even Ciriaco d'Ancona, we should speak of a re-evaluation and perhaps a rediscovery. The Italy of Renaissance Humanism comes alive again in the book of Professor Weiss: dramatically so, as the author illustrates the relentless undercurrent of destruction of classical monuments perpetrated by city rulers, speculators, building contractors, while the vehement protestations of the humanists were to no avail. Even in Renaissance Italy the vanity and greed of ignorant individuals did not spare the beauty and the glory of the past. A truly important work *The Renaissance Discovery of Classical Antiquity* is bound to prove invaluable to students of archeology as well as to cultural, philosophical and literary historians.

DANILO AGUZZI-BARBAGLI, *Tulane University*

Dennis Brailsford. *Sport and Society, Elizabeth to Anne*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1969. Pp. vii, 279. \$7.50

This study is of special interest to those concerned with the development of education in general and physical education in particular as recognized disciplines, but is of interest to anyone concerned with the interrelationships among the various facets of culture, and the manner in which the prevailing concepts of any period affect even peripheral cultural areas. The author's employment of sources to indicate contemporary attitudes is broad, but aside from the unavoidable references to Castiglione, Comenius, and Calvin he gives little indication of influences from the Continent. Throughout the period covered, for the most part