

AFTER HANNIBAL Barry Unsworth
(*Doubleday, \$22.95*) In the small
Italian town of Umbria, a British
couple feud with greedy local peas-
ants; two gay Italian lovers head to-
ward an acrimonious split; a Ger-
man wrestles with guilt over his
Nazi father; an Italian historian
reels from his wife's departure; and

two sweet elderly Americans are
bilked by a British "buildings ex-
pert." Almost all of them consult
with a drolly philosophical lawyer
named Mancini, who is far more in-
terested in justice than mere legali-
ties. Their relationships, like the
buildings that fascinate the histori-
an, are in various stages of disre-
pair, and few of them have founda-
tions strong enough to withstand
the seismic jolts delivered. *Hanni-
bal* is marred only by Unsworth's
reserve—apt for his previous his-
torical fiction, but too dispassionate
here. **B-** —*Michael Giltz*
