

are, however, destined to fail. Scipio's success ensures that most land- and waterscapes of the Second Punic War eventually become places of remembrance for the Romans despite Hannibal's best efforts to claim them for the Carthaginians, and the Roman triumph over the Carthaginians is permanently preserved by Silius' epic.

All in all, this volume is a well-researched literary study about the semantic functionalisation of space in ancient epic in general and waterscapes in Silius Italicus' *Punica* more specifically. Haselmann demonstrates in great detail that watersides do not only serve as background descriptions and settings for warfare, in particular Roman defeats which appear to be inextricably linked in the *Punica*, but that personified and semantically charged bodies of water also hold a key to the interpretation of Silius' historical epic and his very creative and variable treatment and expansion of these firmly established epic (water)structures.

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*Variation within and among Writing Systems: Concepts and Methods in the Analysis of Ancient Written Documents.* Edited by PAOLA COTTICELLI-KURRAS – ALFREDO RIZZA. LautSchriftSprache / ScriptandSound 1. Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden 2017. ISBN 978-3-95490-145-6. 384 pp. EUR 98.

The volume in focus is the first part of a new series, LautSchriftSprache | ScriptandSound. The series focuses on the study of writing systems, naturally centring around historical language situations as they are the "birthplace" of writing systems of very different kinds.

The origins of the volume lie in a conference of the same name as the volume series, LautSchriftSprache (ScriptandSound; Verona 2013), which was the third one in the series. Twenty-one papers out of those presented in the conference have been published in the volume. The volume therefore presents an impressive collection of languages, and the topics range from the writing systems used in the Middle East to Iceland, from ca. 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE to the 20<sup>th</sup> c. CE. Included are e.g. Luwian hieroglyphs, Mesopotamian and Hittite cuneiform, Linear A and B, Old Italian, adaptations of the Etruscan alphabet to serve the various languages of pre-Roman Italy, Icelandic, Old and Middle High German, Old English, and Ossetic. A bit surprisingly, however, the volume contains no writing systems from Asia (or Egypt), which would have made a nice contribution to the study of logograms and ideograms. Nor is there a single article on Arabic, which is one of the

best reference examples of a consonantal writing system. Clearly, the volume being based on the conference papers, researchers of these languages were not present in the conference, and hence this apparent oversight could be remedied in the future with more volumes on future conference outcomes.

However, the true richness of the volume does not lie in the collection of languages and their writing systems discussed, but on the analysis concerning the different structures of writing systems and their fit with the (morpho-)phonological structures of other languages, when borrowed (“the perfect fit”). Of special interest regarding this concept are Bauer’s chapter on the development of the orthophonic spelling of Icelandic, which was very similar to the creation of the Coptic alphabet from the Greek one, and Consani’s discussion on Linear B. In addition, the volume takes steps in discussing connections between historical writing systems and modern language studies. One example of this is a nice article on child writing samples, which, when compared with e.g. runic writing, display similar tendencies of omitting pre-consonantal nasals, apparently connected to a bottom-up spelling universal.

There are other volumes that discuss the same type of connections between phonology and orthography, for example *Scripts and Literacy: Reading and Learning to Read Alphabets, Syllabaries and Characters*, eds. I. Taylor – D. R. Olson, Dordrecht 1995, and *Second Language Writing Systems*, eds. V. Cook – B. Bassetti, Clevedon 2005. However, as the editors Cotticelli-Kurras and Rizza point out in the introduction, the aim of this volume is research of writing systems in a multifunctional context, i.e. not limited to the differing writing systems (e.g. consonantal vs. alphabetic, grapheme-based vs. logographic, etc.). Indeed, the volume also includes studies on the chronology of the development of writing systems, studies on writing support, and cultural context, to mention a few. In this way, the volume certainly brings in something novel to the field, and is a welcome addition to the more traditional approach to research on writing systems.

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JUAN SIGNES CODOÑER – JOSÉ DOMINGO RODRÍGUEZ MARTÍN – FRANCISCO JAVIER ANDRÉS SANTOS: *Diccionario jurídico bizantino: griego-español. Sobre la base de la Introducción al derecho del patriarca Focio y de las Novelas de León VI El Sabio*. Colección Derecho Romano y Ciencia Jurídica Europea, Sección Nexum, 12. Editorial Comares, Granada 2019. ISBN 978-84-9045-789-4. LXXXI, 544 pp. EUR 48.