

The following contribution by A. Parma is on municipal decrees, a subject on which Parma is a well-known authority. This is a short but informative overview of the contents and the formulations of the decrees as preserved to us. Parma is surely right in assuming that the decrees we have are in most cases heavily edited summaries or even mere extracts of what was in fact said at the meetings of the decurions (p. 406). In any case, one hopes that Parma's much-awaited corpus of the decrees will soon materialize. Finally, there is R. Wolters' contribution on the formula (*ex senatus consulto*) found on a large number of Roman coins, both republican and imperial. The use of this formula had several functions, its use being in no way stipulated by law (p. 427).

The volume is concluded by remarkably detailed indexes.

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ORNELLA SALATI: *Scrivere documenti nell'esercito romano. L'evidenza dei papiri latini d'Egitto tra I e III d.C.* Philippika 139. Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2020. ISBN 978-3-447-11451-6; ISBN (e-book) 978-3-447-39025-5. 244 pp. EUR 64.

The Roman army operated its basic communications in written form. As can be expected, this communication included official as well as more private documents. The official dealings were written mainly in Latin, even if in Egypt Greek was also used, especially in more private relations. The contents and themes of army files have been studied earlier, but the layout and other technical details of the documents have not been tackled so far. In addition, the general production and archiving of army information have been defectively studied. This production and archiving forms the main focus of this book.

Many kinds of texts were needed for Roman soldiers: commands, instructions, reports, passwords, various lists of personnel, provisions, correspondence and so on. All this documentation shows clearly that the Roman army was enormously organised in striving to register every activity in its units, which implies, moreover, that the daily production of various written documents must have been extraordinary. The practice also suggests that the output was, at least partially, archived. However, only a tiny part of these documents are extant, mainly in the few climatically suitable conditions where papyrus or wood has survived.

Ornella Salati (S.) has collected and analysed all the accessible Latin documents written on papyrus together with a few ostraka from Egypt from the 1st to the 3rd centuries. S. has also chosen comparative data from Bu Njem, Dura Europus and Vindolanda, if similar types of documents

have been found from these sites. The book looks for an answer to the question whether the army documents were uniform in their layout and form. The total number of documents studied is 77, and among the Latin ones some Latin-Greek bilingual texts are included. The analysis is divided into four chapters: 1) Reports relating to Units: *acta diurna*, various daily, monthly and strength reports and *pridiana*, 2) reports relating to personnel, 3) reports relating to administration, and 4) further official correspondence between soldiers.

The chapters all have the same structure and proceed by rigidly following the same order of analysis. This arrangement makes the reading of the volume somewhat monotonous, almost like going through an uninspired student paper, offering, finally, as its result that the layout and typology of the documents were quite similar in the Roman army, even if minor exceptions also existed.

The analysis primarily describes the layout, structure and procedural style of the various document types, and it is competent and careful. There are, however, some unfortunate shortcomings in the book's layout. The most conspicuous defect is the relation between the photos and the document numbering: there is no connection between the 43 photos of the documents and S's own numbering of the documents (1–77). It is irritating to follow the analysis without a reference to a possible photo, if one is included. As it is now, the reader must remember the actual source reference to connect a photo plate with the number of the document analysed in the text. This lack of correspondence is even more annoying if one wants to check the author's analysis of a document without immediate access to its edition(s) at hand. The option to check it in, for example, www.papyri.info, is useless, as this otherwise most useful tool seldom if ever has photos of the Latin papyri that are included in it.

S. has included an adequate bibliography and the volume has a special value for those who are interested in the mostly technical aspects of Latin documents written in the Roman army.

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Emotion and Persuasion in Classical Antiquity. Edited by ED SANDERS – MATTHEW JOHNCOCK. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2016. ISBN 978-3-515-11361-8; ISBN (e-book) 978-3-515-11364-9. 321 pp. EUR 56.

Emotion and Persuasion in Classical Antiquity collects selected papers from the workshop held at Royal Holloway, University of London, in June 2013. As the editors note, these are among the best papers and have been selected because they fit together into a coherent collection. This is clearly the case, although any real discussion between the papers is not easily found.