

1513 *emeru(n)t; feceru(n)t* CIL VI 19960; XIV 726 etc.). – 4059 “Ex litterarum forma aetati Augusteae tribuerim”: mihi litterae videntur esse paulo posterioris aetatis; praeterea expectaveris in titulo posito sub ipso Augusto indicationem patris inter nomen et cognomen. – 4070: littera *I* in *Petidio* videtur esse longa (ita Mommsenus in *CIL*). – 4119: in titulo Sex. Tadi Lusi Nepotis Paullini cursus honorum mihi videtur enarrari male p. 2072; ex ipsis enim tituli verbis apparet hunc senatorem post praeturam et ante sortitionem proconsulatus fuisse (in hoc ordine) legatum Macedoniae, legatum Asiae, praefectum frumenti dandi, legatum denique Africae. Adde quod errore verba fiunt de legatis proconsulum quaestoriis, cum pateat Paullinum legationibus omnibus functum esse praetorium. – 4121: mihi videtur hic dici Crispinum in praetorio militavisse *Drusi Caesaris benefic(io)*, non Crispinum fuisse beneficiarium. – 8172: cur ad hunc titulum aut certe nomen *Pompusii* illustrandum memoretur titulus Carnuntinus AE 1977, 620, in quo fit mentio M. Valeri Albani veterani, non intellego; de errore quodam agitur sine dubio. – 4171: littera *I* in *niquis* videtur esse longa.

Carminibus quibusdam addita est versio Italica. In commentariis mihi non placet de formis quiusdam raris vel vulgaribus referri non ad libros notos formas linguae Latinae tractantes scriptos ab optimis eiusdem linguae studiosis, sed ad opus scriptum a M. G. Tibiletti Bruno in *Abruzzo. Rivista dell'Istituto di Studi Abruzzesi* 19 (1976), plenum erroribus et omnino ignorandum (nota e.g. 7800: “Nomen gentilicium Spedii ad formam Spendii referendum cogitat [T. B.]”; 3878: “*Torinia* pro *Taurinia* est interpretata [T. B.]”; 4128: “*Cresidio* pro *Chresidio* mavult [T. B.]”; si recte intellego, Tibiletti Bruno putavit formas *Spendius Taurinius Chresidius* esse bonas, formas *Spedius Torinius Cresidius* vulgares!).

Haec et quaedam alia (e.g. praenomen *Gaius* saepius scriptum male “*Caius*”) tamen nullo modo obstant, quominus concludi possit agi de libro cum optimo tum utilissimo scripto a homine rerum epigraphicarum peritissimo.

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EDWARD DĄBROWA: *Camps, Campaigns, Colonies: Roman Military Presence in Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and the Near East. Selected Studies*. Philippika 138. Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2020. ISBN 978-447-11381-6; ISBN (e-book) 978-3-447-19981-0. 216 pp. EUR 54.

Professor Edward Dąbrowa has during his career made a vast and important contribution to the study of Roman military presence in Anatolia, Near East and Mesopotamia. In 2020, a collection of his work on this subject was gathered from a variety of publications, many of which have become

difficult or impossible to find. The fifteen pieces were primarily published during the 2000s, with the latest being from 2015 and the earliest from 1981. Only some details in their language have been updated for this publication (p. 10). They are divided into three thematic subgroups: I. Camps, II. Campaigns and III. Colonies, as the name of volume itself indicates. In total they work as a good representative for Dąbrowa's impressive body of work in this special field of Roman military history.

The first section, Camps, is the smallest of the three. Starting with the article "The Roman Army in Syria Under Augustus and Tiberius", based on a presentation held in 2006 and originally published in 2009, is also a good introductory text to the intricate array of questions related to the study of the minutiae of military operations and the challenges of finding and evaluating sources. Given their scale and importance, it is astonishing how little is known about these operations, which, according to the author, might indicate a significant contribution by the local vassal kings. The other essay in the section, "La garnison romaine à Doura-Europos", originally published in 1981, explores the famous site of Dura-Europos and the impact of the Roman military presence there. As a multi-ethnic site with a rich history, it offers an interesting example of what a colonial frontier garrison may have looked like and provides insights into the dynamics of colonisation.

The second section, Campaigns, begins with the paper "...ostentasse Romana arma satis..." (originally presented in 2000 and later published in 2002). It explores the Roman relations with Parthia during the early Imperial period, including questions about the logistics of the campaigns – in this it shares many details with the first section of the book. Discussion on the return of the military standards from the Parthians, and the role of Tiberius – then acting as the emperor Augustus' envoy and a commander in chief of the army – is highly interesting, and the author could have elaborated their stance even further (p. 41).

"The Roman Army in Action in Judaea (4 BCE – 66 CE)", published in 2015, is a short foray into the complicated history of the Roman presence in Judaea during the early Imperial period. The author's emphasis on using Josephus as a main informant is understandable, given the lack of other literary and material sources, but regardless of this, some comment on his reliability as a martial commentator would have been in place. For instance, Dąbrowa's description of Pilatus' crushing of the Samaritan movement at Mt. Gerizim is really concise and only uses Josephus as a source, without any further context or critical comments (p. 53, 55).

Another essay related to Judaea, "The 'Camp of the Assyrians' and the Third Wall of Jerusalem", published in 2015, is an interesting approach to the location and periodisation of Jerusalem's defensive structures. A lot has been written about the question, but the definitive answer still eludes archaeologists, as has to be expected in the urban multi-period context of a city that has been almost constantly inhabited for several thousand years. Trying to tie the placename to the quasi-historical event of the Assyrian siege (which, if it ever happened, had taken place almost 800

years earlier) seems to me futile, since the Jerusalem of Josephus' day was most likely full of legendary toponyms, as is Jerusalem today (p. 58). Archaeology has shed some more light on the matter during recent years, but the total picture is still blurred (e.g. K. Arbib, "Evidence of the Roman Attack on the Third Wall of Jerusalem at the End of Second Temple Period", *'Atiqot* 111 [2023] 103–118).

"The *Bellum Commagenicum* and the *ornamenta triumphalia* of M. Ulpius Traianus" (presented in 1992 and published in 1994) explores the deeds of the legate Traianus, the father of the future emperor Trajan. A description of his campaign in the Commagene region is constructed neatly from a variety of sources, including Traianus' military decorations. Finally, section II closes with "Naval Operations during the Persian Expedition of Emperor Julian (363 AD)", given as a presentation in 2005 and published in 2007. It explores riverine military operations carried out during Julian's fateful invasion against the Persians. Dąbrowa gives an impressive account of the logistics and equipment needed for the traversal of the Euphrates during the campaign. However, the most interesting contributions and discussion regarding the types of the ships and the composition of their crews is only found in the footnotes, and would have benefitted from a more thorough treatment – the actual text only paraphrases the two accounts by Ammian and Zosimos (e.g. p. 80–81).

The title of section III is Colonies, but the subject is approached mainly through numismatic sources. Dąbrowa's main argument, featured in most of the following papers, is that a real Roman colonial process continued even after Hadrian's reign, instead of the later 'colonies' of the Greek east being only honorific titles granted to already existing cities. In the essay "Colonial Coinage and Religious Life of Roman Colonies" (published originally in 2009), Dąbrowa treats the question through the inspection of the blend of military and religious iconography in the coinage of Aelia Capitolina and Pisidian Antioch. The next piece, "Les colonies honoraires ou les colonies de vétérans?" (published in 2003) further compares the post-Hadrianic veteran colonies and Severan honorific colonies through their differing numismatic iconographies. This discussion is extended through the essay "Le *vexillum* sur les monnaies coloniales (II<sup>e</sup>–III<sup>e</sup> s. ap. J.-C.)" (published originally in 2004), where Dąbrowa makes a strong case for the use of the symbol of military standards being a proof of veteran colonies still being founded during the third century.

"Roman Military Colonization in Anatolia and the Near East (2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD)", published originally in 2004, paints a larger picture of the question. It serves also as an overview for the earlier three numismatic texts, while also elaborating on some individual honorific colonies. "Les colonies et la colonisation romaine en Anatolie et au Proche-Orient (II<sup>e</sup>–III<sup>e</sup> s. de n. è.): nouvelles observations" (published in 2003) continues arguing for the case of post-Hadrianic veteran colonies, while "La *legio III Gallica*, la colonisation militaire et les Sévères" (published originally in 2005) examines the influence of a single military unit on the colonies of the region. In the essay "Military Colonization

in the Near East and Mesopotamia under the Severi” (presented in 2009, but published in 2017) Dąbrowa describes the larger scale of things, with the area of Emesa as an example case. It would be interesting to see if archaeological remote sensing might bring more certainty to the questions posed.

The last essay, “Veterans and the Urban Policy of Roman Emperors”, describes several centuries worth of colonial policies of different emperors. This piece is particularly clearly written and easy to approach, and could act as a summary for the whole of section III, or even the whole volume. Incidentally, the third section also takes over a half of the book’s total length, with eight essays compared to the two in section I and five in section II. Despite intermittent almost verbatim repetition, the arguments made are strong and well constructed, though it would be nice to see some day a completely harmonised monograph dedicated to the theme, with more balanced and systematic comparisons concerning different materials and methods. Currently, the volume is a rather mixed collection.

One criticism is that the total lack of maps and pictures is a significant problem and makes the arguments hard to follow at times. In articles describing a multitude of locations, some of them quite obscure and either completely lost or differently named today, one would expect to find even a rudimentary map or two showing where the sites are located. Similarly, the discussion about the defensive structures of Jerusalem would have benefitted from a good visual illustration, since the complex discussion is difficult to follow, even for someone who is familiar with the city’s topography. Similarly, with several articles pertaining to numismatics, one wonders why the publication does not have a single picture of a coin. Despite precise and clear verbal descriptions, actually seeing what, for example, *vexilla* look like in coinage would have been a great help. This flaw is inexcusable since creating even a small cartographic and pictorial appendix would have been easy to produce and have made the texts more accessible.

Dąbrowa’s book, however, is a valuable addition to the study of the history of Roman military presence in the east. It brings several of his more obscure articles available to a contemporary audience, while also presenting them in a thematic context – albeit leaving section III quite inflated. As mentioned above, the lack of illustrations makes the volume somewhat laborious to read. There are some typos and inconsistencies, but none of them are so serious as to have an impact on the overall quality of the book.

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