

among other things, the origin of tropes and figures and the ancient traditions and definitions of tropes. One might perhaps ask whether it is still necessary to argue in detail for the view that the Stoics did not invent the theory of tropes (p. 3 ff.). However, this is an indication of the thoroughness of Sandri's work: she re-evaluates the focal modern views on ancient tropes opening them up to the reader for examination. Part 2 of the introduction presents the treatises on tropes, their structure, the examples used, their relationship and their circulation and fortune. The credibility of Sandri's analysis and interpretation of various aspects of the treatises is strengthened by the Appendices.

As has become clear by now, I find the book quite excellent and a fine example of philological ἀκριβεία. There is an index of the manuscripts and an index of the loci; what might be considered a drawback is the lack of an index of the tropes – there is, however, something better. Appendix A (p. 55 ff.) presents the literary examples used for each trope in each of the treatises – and makes quite evident the fact that the list (and number) of tropes is different from treatise to treatise. This is even more evident in Appendix B (p. 65 ff.), which allows us to see in which of the treatises each autonomous or generic trope is found. As becomes clear from Sandri's chapter on the classifications of tropes (p. 22 ff.), the question is truly about classifications, not about a classification, and what is a trope for one author may be a form of trope for another, or, it may even be a σχῆμα, a figure. The various systems found in the treatises are illustrated by Appendix C (p. 68 ff.). There is, in addition, Appendix D (p. 556 ff.), which discusses some of the poetic examples found in the treatises.

The edition cum translation of each treatise is furnished with an informative text of its own. The translations, adhering quite closely to the text of the treatises, are clear and useful. I myself will profit from this book when, for instance, preparing a course on ancient grammar and rhetoric. This edition, with its introduction, is an excellent instance of the way these two seemingly separate fields of ancient learning interacted in antiquity.

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ALFRED SÖLLNER – CHRISTIAN BALDUS: *Römisches Recht*. Jedermann-Verlag, Heidelberg 2022. ISBN 978-3-86825-353-5. 312 S. EUR 24.90.

Crocodiles are part of a group commonly known as evolutionary survivors, having remained largely unchanged in their structure and characteristics since their first ancestors emerged two hundred million years ago. While dinosaurs came and went, mammals evolved and life in general flourished in countless variations, subspecies upon subspecies, crocodiles stuck to their strong tails, sharp teeth,

thick skin and single-minded pursuit of prey, not really evolving much or developing new subspecies. What there is still works and thus why would one change a winning concept?

This brings me to the work at hand, a textbook of Roman law which first appeared in 1971 as *Römische Rechtsgeschichte*. Written originally by Alfred Söllner, a well-regarded Roman law scholar, as an introductory textbook for the course on Roman legal history, it has now been revised by Christian Baldus and given a new title. The new title is slightly misleading, because the content is still Roman legal history, not Roman law, but this is not a major issue outside of Germany where they occupy two separate disciplines. The bigger issue is why such a work is needed and why it has been extensively revised instead of writing a completely new book. The answer, which lies behind similar revising of textbooks elsewhere (in the field of Roman law, there is also the textbook of Borkowski going through numerous revisions), is classroom usage and sales (a more poetic explanation is given on pp. 229–234, although a really good answer is still lacking).

The content of the book is straightforward: there is an introductory section on Roman law and its history as a subject, followed by the standard outline of Roman legal history from preclassical to classical and postclassical, with major institutions presented in a very succinct manner. For a book of some two hundred pages, it covers a lot of ground in terms of institutions, legal thinking, political developments etc. There are quotations of key texts with German translation and a useful updated thematic bibliography, mainly in German (pp. 269–305). There is also a website on offer, with cases and other teaching material related to the book.

The positive is that the book seeks to give the reader, which I assume is the first-year German law student, as much information about Roman law and its history as is humanly possible in such a short space. The negative is that it gives so much information, with every sentence quite possibly being backed up by one or two doctoral theses on the topic, that it becomes quite a heavy read. There is also an inherent conservatism of the textbook on display, which is understandable but is perhaps not the best way to convey the enthusiasm of the authors to prospective students. While textbooks of newer fields (if they even have them) tend to be bubbling with expectations and future developments, this one is stocky and solid, heavy with the weight of past millennia, much like the crocodile.

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