

PIERFRANCESCO PORENA: *L'insediamento degli Ostrogoti in Italia*. Saggi di Storia antica 33. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2012. ISBN 978-88-8265-745-1 280 pp. EUR 158.

Il volume tratta un'importante e centrale questione della storia romana tardoantica, vale a dire le modalità d'insediamento degli Ostrogoti all'indomani della caduta dell'Impero romano d'Occidente nel 476. Contiene interessanti considerazioni, oltre che sull'insediamento degli Ostrogoti, sul tema "Romani e Ostrogoti di fronte al fisco", soprattutto nei paragrafi "La Laus Liberii ed Ennodio sulla fiscalità del prefetto Liberius" e "Il sistema fiscale in Italia e gli Ostrogoti contribuenti", nonché in quello in cui si trattano le "tertiaie-tasse". Nel libro si parla molto di Cassiodoro, e infatti uno dei meriti del volume è la ricostruzione, condotta grazie a un'acuta interpretazione di alcuni passi delle *Variae*, del complesso quadro dell'insediamento dei barbari in Italia. Va comunque detto che il libro non è di facile lettura, specie per uno straniero. Finisco con una piccola osservazione. A pp. 243 sg. viene ricordato, per illustrare il sostantivo *terminus* nelle *Variae* di Cassiodoro, il *terminus* epigrafico, l'unico che resta della bonifica intrapresa, per volontà di Teodorico e per ordine del senato, dal senatore Cecina Mavortio Basilio Decio negli anni 507–511 (*ILS* 8956), un cippo che delimita l'area da bonificare; nel testo offerto da Porena si riscontra un piccolo refuso: da correggere *ex p(raecepto)* invece di *ex (p)r(aecepto)* (nonostante che nell'editio princeps in *NSA* 1893, 210–1 si trovi EX R D N, lettura poi corretta in *Bull.arch.crist.* 1894, 83–4). Da notare inoltre che Mommsen nell'edizione delle *Variae* p. CLXXXI dà come numero della serie dei cippi *XV* invece di *LXV* (ma forse si tratta di un mero refuso).

Heikki Solin

*Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum. Nova Series* I. Institutum Historicum Ordinis Praedicatorum. Angelicum University Press, Roma 2016. ISSN 0391-7320. 327 pp. EUR 65.

*Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum. Nova Series* II. Institutum Historicum Ordinis Praedicatorum. Angelicum University Press, Roma 2017. ISSN 0391-7320. 438 pp. EUR 55.

Sometimes old and venerable journals decide to upgrade their external look and mark the occasion by introducing the words "new series". In reality, nothing really changes. The case of the *Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum*, however, is slightly different. Surely enough, it is a venerable, old, quality journal (it was founded in 1931), and, yes, it has updated its visual image, but that is not all. The last volume of the original series was published in 2013 and the first issue of *Nova Series* came out three years later. This means that there was a gap of two years without an issue.

The first volume of the *Nova Series* does not have any editorial or other article that explains the reason for the extended gap between the last issue of the original series and the beginning of the *Nova Series*. It seems, however, clear that it was not just a question of updating the visual image of the journal. Be that as may, the *Nova Series* luckily carries on the high-quality tradition of the original *Archivum*.

*Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum* was and still is published by the *Institutum Historicum Ordinis Praedicatorum* and produced by Angelicum University Press. Angelicum, or more officially The Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas is the university of the Dominican order in

Rome. The Dominican profile of the journal continues with redaction and scientific committees that both consist mostly of Dominican scholars. That, however, does not mean that the academic level of these committees is threatened as they include some first-rate scholars, Dominican and not, such as Paul-Bernard Hodel OP, Augustine Thompson OP, Professor Nicole Bériou from Paris, and Doctor Michèle Mulcahey from the Pontifical Institute in Toronto.

As the name suggests, *Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum* publishes scholarly articles on the history of the Dominican order. They are published in the English, French, German, Italian and Latin languages. Indeed, it should be pointed out that all these languages are used in the first two volumes of the *Nova Series*, and volume II also includes two articles in Spanish. Such exceptional linguistic diversity gathers together scholars from all over the world without the pressure of writing in a foreign language. One could also add that publishing scholarly articles in languages besides English is a value in itself.

The articles within each issue are organized according to chronological order when possible, hence the first articles generally deal with the Middle Ages and the later ones come closer to the present day. The overall emphasis is, however, on medieval and the Early Modern period. As the *Archivum* is not a strictly commercial enterprise and is not run by a commercial publishing house, it publishes research on more obscure and less general issues than most of the mainstream journals.

It also publishes longer articles than most of the historical journals do; for example, the very first article of the first volume of the *Nova Series*, Simon Tugwell's "The Confirmation of the Order of Preachers: A Tale of Two Bulls" runs from page 6 to page 129, that is more than 120 pages. As such it resembles more a monograph than a journal article and could not have been published in most of the historical journals.

Even if the articles published in *Archivum* deal exclusively with the Dominican order, this does not mean that they are not relevant from the larger historical point of view. During the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, Dominicans were involved in numerous key events and processes of European and colonial history. To give an example, I mention Elias Füllenbach's article "Hunting Dogs? Dominican Mission to the Jews in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries" (*AFP*, *Nova Series*, Vol. II, pp. 157–168). In this short article, Füllenbach calls for a critical re-examination of Jeremy Cohen's more or less generally accepted theory that Dominican and Franciscan friars and their efforts to convert the Jews led to contemporary anti-Judaism becoming harsher (Jeremy Cohen, *The Friars and the Jews: The Evolution of Medieval Anti-Judaism* [Ithaca – London, 1982], passim). Here it needs to be pointed out that Füllenbach's article is not an apologetic pamphlet, but it relies sound and well-documented evidence.

Another example that shows the general relevance of the *AFP* articles is Sonja Reisner's "Die Bedeutung von Klosterbibliotheken als Überlieferungsträger Frühneuzeitlicher Privatbibliotheken. Ein Beispiel aus der Bibliothek des Wiener Dominikanerkonvents", *AFP*, *Nova Series*, Vol. II, pp. 191–241. Her article studies the private library of a certain Johannes Roland, who received the degree of doctor of medicine at the University of Padua in 1591. His personal library came, through several interesting turns, to the library of the Dominican convent of Vienna and has survived there. Consequently, it has been possible to re-collect this lost library on the basis of Roland's *ex libris* inscriptions. Thus, not only do we get important knowledge of what might have been found in the personal library of the late sixteenth-century doctor, but also invaluable knowledge on the

importance of the monastic libraries in reconstructing lost personal libraries. All this is extremely important from the point of view of book history and cultural history in general.

To conclude, the scholarly level of the articles of the *Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum, Nova Series*, is high, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in medieval or early modern ecclesiastical history. However, it is worth checking out for other *studiosi* working on these periods even if they are not directly interested in Dominican or ecclesiastical history, as the articles refer to numerous topics highly interesting from the point of view of social, intellectual, cultural, and even political history.

*Jussi Hanska*