

Die zahlreichen Beispiele, die der Autor im Laufe der Studie vorstellt, unterstreichen die Vielseitigkeit des Squalors, sowohl in der Art seiner Darbietung, als auch in seinem oft komplizierten Wechselspiel mit dem Zielpublikum bzw. der Zielperson. So konnte deren Reaktion ebenfalls sehr unterschiedlich ausfallen – angefangen von kollektiver Missachtung, zu Sympathiebekundung, bis hin zu offener Gewalt. Das Risiko, das der Protagonist bei der Ausführung eines Squalor einging, war dabei immens, doch auch die Missachtung eines Traueraktes durch die Person, auf die der Akt abzielte, konnte schwerwiegende Folgen haben, wie Degelmann ebenfalls anschaulich beschreibt. Zuletzt war es sogar möglich, aktiv auf einen dargebotenen Trauerakt zu reagieren und dessen Stoßrichtung und Wirkmächtigkeit zu untergraben, wobei man sich ebenfalls eines umfangreichen Zeichenrepertoires bedienen konnte (S. 261). Es stellt sich hier aber auch die Frage, ob die Reaktionen immer so gut planbar waren, wie der Squalor selbst, da die Trauerakte vermutlich selten angekündigt waren und somit überraschend kamen. Reaktionen könnten daher also oft auch spontan erfolgt sein, um schnellstmöglich zu reagieren, da zu langes Warten wiederum als Schwäche ausgelegt werden konnte. Zumindest könnte man überlegen, ob man zwischen spontanen Reaktionen und durchgeplanten Gegenmaßnahmen unterscheiden kann.

Das benutzte Quellenmaterial umfasst vor allem die schriftliche Überlieferung, aber auch einzelne gut ausgewählte Gemmen und Münzen. Die akribisch zusammengetragenen Zeugnisse spiegeln die Thematik nicht nur adäquat wider, sondern bieten einen umfangreichen Einblick in die politische Streitkultur der römischen Republik und Frühen Kaiserzeit. Auffällig ist allerdings das Fehlen des maßgeblichen Livius-Kommentars von John Briscoe, der bei der ein oder anderen Stelle des in dieser Studie vielgenutzten Autors eine gewinnbringende Ergänzung darstellen dürfte. Der ansonsten vorbildlich und umfangreich zusammengetragene Forschungsstand rundet das Bild schließlich ab und belegt deutlich, dass Degelmann auf dem Gebiet der politischen Kommunikation absolut auf der Höhe der Zeit ist.

Die Studie von Christopher Degelmann fügt sich ausgezeichnet in das Forschungsfeld der politischen Kultur Roms ein und setzt gerade auf dem Gebiet der politischen Kommunikation neue Impulse. Die in dieser Form bisher noch nicht vorliegende Systematisierung des Phänomens Squalor füllt zudem eine wichtige Leerstelle und bietet zahlreiche Anknüpfungspunkte für weiterführende Studien. Das Werk kann also jedem Interessenten der politischen Streitkultur in Rom und politischer Kultur im Allgemeinen nur empfohlen werden.

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SONJA NADOLNY: *Die severischen Kaiserfrauen*. Palingenesia 104. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2016. ISBN 978-3-515-11311-3. 257 S. EUR 52.

The female members of the Severan dynasty were some of the most influential and powerful women of the Roman Empire. Even so, they have generally received less attention in modern scholarship than the female members of other imperial dynasties. Scholars have also predominately focused on the representation of these women in literary sources, which only offers a limited and biased repre-

sensation of their lives. The work reviewed here aims to update modern understanding of the lives of these Severan women and their impact upon contemporary society. An interdisciplinary approach is taken for this examination, looking at the representation of these women in literary sources, on coins, and in inscriptions, focusing in particular on the four Julias of the dynasty, namely Domna, Mammaea, Maesa, and Soehamias. Less attention is given to the wives of the Severan emperors, as these women were often quickly divorced and did not have enough time to establish their own representations. The book consists of five chapters, an introduction, bibliography, and appendixes. It argues that the female members of the Severan dynasty enjoyed a central political role as guarantors of dynastic legitimacy, something which, in part, argues against what is believed in current scholarship.

The introduction places this book within current scholarship and comments on some of the issues with the modern discussion of these women. Nadolny notes that while the roles of the Julias as mothers, grandmothers, and wives have previously been examined, none of these works have defined the position of these women within imperial rulership. Their position of power was in no way formally sanctioned and they have mainly been regarded in a negative light, as these women were viewed as ambitious and power-hungry. The negative image of these women is connected to the belief that their powerful position was a sign of the degeneration and 'Orientalization' of the Severan era, a notion which was successfully argued against in the 1970s by Kettenhofen (*Die syrischen Augustae in der historischen Überlieferung: ein Beitrag zum Problem der Orientalisierung*. Habelt, Bonn 1979).

This book, in particular, examines the self-representation of these women as a way of understanding their political and social position. Nadolny notes the importance of numismatic sources for this exploration as there are roughly 3000 coin types which were struck during this period. These coins illustrate the ways in which the emperor and members of his family wished to be seen and highlight personal traits and characteristics which they thought were the most important. How people in the provinces reacted to this imperial imagery is shown through an examination of provincial coinage and inscriptions. Imperial coinage is looked at in the second chapter while provincial inscriptions and coins are examined in the third. The chapters are richly illustrated with diagrams which show, among other things, the number of coins minted for each member of the imperial household, the distribution of mints, the occurrence of titles such as *mater castrorum* as well as the number of coins listed in certain corpora, for example SNG von Aulock.

The second chapter explores how imperial coinage was used by the members of the Severan dynasty as tools of self-representation as well as who precisely their intended audience was. Nadolny argues that these coins were mainly aimed at imperial and provincial elites as well as soldiers and, therefore, traditionally female attributes do not commonly occur on these coins. The Severan women are represented here as fully-fledged members of the dynasty and were depicted as guarantors of dynastic stability. Nadolny's examination of the *Mater* titles examines the connections between their role as mothers, the concept of family unity, and the fortune of Rome, also illustrating the social importance of these women.

The author examines provincial coins and inscriptions in the third chapter and looks at local reactions to imperial expressions of identity. The source material is approached with a methodology similar to the one applied in the previous chapter and special attention is again given to titles such as *Mater Augusti*. The epigraphic and numismatic sources are examined for whether the political and

social position of the women, represented as being a core part of the dynasty, was accepted by people in the provinces, and Nadolny's analysis shows that this was indeed the case.

The fourth chapter examines whether the literary sources, namely Cassius Dio, Herodian, and the *Historia Augusta*, present an alternative view to what is shown in numismatic and epigraphic sources. While this literary analysis is very comprehensive, little new is offered here and it is the chapters focusing on the representation of the Severan women in other types of sources which are the most important in understanding their societal impact and political role. Nadolny's systematic analysis of the available source material is especially commendable.

The strength of this work, thus, lies in its methodology and its focus on numismatic and epigraphic sources as well the analysis of the ways in which the Severan women were represented in these. While some of its conclusions are perhaps already familiar to people acquainted with this time period, this work presents an important updated understanding of the political and social representation of these women and will provide scholars a firm basis from which to undertake future research.

Ghislaine van der Ploeg

MARCEL DANNER: *Wohnkultur im spätantiken Ostia*. Kölner Schriften zur Archäologie 1. Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden 2017. ISBN 978-3-95490-128-9. X, 323 pp. EUR 78.

This richly illustrated book is the first in a new series of monographs, the *Kölner Schriften zur Archäologie*. This series aims to publish research which was undertaken at the Archaeological Institute at Cologne or that fits into the Institute's research themes. As such, the work presented in this book was undertaken as a doctoral dissertation at Cologne, completed in 2012.

This volume focuses on the presentation and discussion of Late Antique houses, dating to between the third and fifth centuries AD, that were located in the ancient city of Ostia. In undertaking this analysis, Danner aims to improve the current understanding of the urban development of Late Antique Ostia. The work consists of 15 chapters and an extensive catalogue which discusses the visible remains of 18 Late Antique houses located in Ostia. This extensive catalogue takes up about a third of this volume (pp. 189–295). Each catalogue entry lists the precise measurements of the building in question, excavation and restoration history, state of preservation, building techniques used, building history (including individual phases), inscriptions found, sculptures present in the house, detailed bibliography. One of the most important aspects of this catalogue is that it provides new and updated plans of the discussed *domus*. Permalinks to the ARACHNE archive are also given where scholars can access more detailed and colour-coded plans of these houses. The goal of the catalogue is to provide the reader with as transparent and comprehensive an overview as possible of the available evidence (p. 189).

The Introduction (Ch. 1) broadly lays out the aims of this work, mentioning that the publication history of these Late Antique houses has often been unsatisfactory in the past. This is something this work aims to rectify as well as to place these archaeological remains in their socio-historical context (p. 1). In undertaking a discussion of these *domus*, Danner wishes to create a pathway