

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

for an examination into the 'Wohnkultur' of Late Antique Ostia, looking at the functional aspect of these houses as workplaces as well as spaces for social interaction. Chapter 2 provides an overview of the excavation and scholarly history of Ostia generally and also specifically of its building-history.

Chapter 3 introduces the methodology used here, especially highlighting the importance of the dating of the buildings in question. It also lays out the main research questions for this book. The next two chapters examine the second century AD urban development of Ostia (Ch. 4) but also the renewal which took place in the city during the Severan period (Ch. 5). Chapter 6 offers an overview of the urban development of Ostia from the third to the fifth century AD. The next three chapters (Ch. 7–9) each focus on individual aspects of these *domus*: their specific characteristics. The goal is not to follow or create a strict typology for these houses, but to examine which elements commonly occur and what this can reveal about how these houses were used. The outer walls and the differences between main and side entrances are discussed in Chapter 7 while Chapter 8 looks, among other things, at *tabernae*, porticoes, access to the rooms, and upper floors, systematically examining each of these elements. The decoration of these houses and how they were furnished is explored in Chapter 9, with attention given to floors, wall decorations, water-installations, kitchens and heating apparatus, and sculptural decorations.

With Chapter 10, Danner wants to address the question of how representative these Ostian houses were for the general 'Wohnkultur' of Late Antiquity, or if these developments were strictly regional in nature. He looks at the Late Antique houses in their context, comparing those in Ostia with the senatorial houses located in Rome, Northern Italy, Roman North Africa, Greece, Asia Minor, Syria, and with small villages in the western part of the empire. This comparative analysis reveals that, barring some smaller regional variations, the changes to domestic space were an empire-wide phenomenon, affecting houses all over the Mediterranean.

How these houses were used and the movements which took place within these *domus* is examined in Chapter 11, while Chapter 12 looks at the connections between the decoration of these houses and aristocratic ideals. Sub-chapters explore the importance of water installations (their placement in prominent positions within the house but also the location of these houses close to external water sources) as well as how marble was used as a way to display wealth and status. Chapter 13 examines who the people living in these houses were and also looks more generally at the inhabitants of Late Antique Ostia. Special attention is given to the senators who lived here and those who imitated them. This is followed by a chapter of conclusions (Ch. 14), a short summary of conclusions in English and Italian (Ch. 15), an extensive bibliography, alphabetical index, and list of illustrations.

The strength of this volume is two-fold. First, the extensive catalogue and detailed maps will prove to be an invaluable resource for future scholars examining Late Antique Ostia and its houses. The second is the analysis provided here, looking at the Ostian 'Wohnkultur', the wider urban developments which were taking place in the empire at this time, and how emblematic these Ostian *domus* were of these changes. Danner notes how the older peristyle tradition was maintained in the 3rd-century *domus* and how these luxurious dwellings were commonly located in the southern part of the city. The buildings located in the north of Ostia were not rebuilt after they fell into decay and ruin, but walls were constructed around these in order to hide them from view by the senatorial inhabitants of the city. The discussion of the significance of these houses as markers of urban change, and how they were used as markers of wealth and status, i.e., their social aspects, will attract a wide

audience. The dual approach provided here broadens the use of this work and make it highly valuable to scholars of Ostia and those looking at domestic space and living cultures more widely.

Ghislaine van der Ploeg

FEDERICA IURESCIA: *Credo iam ut solet iurgabit: Pragmatica della lite a Roma*. Studia Comica 9. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen 2019. ISBN 978-3-3946317-38-8. 267 pp. EUR 74.99.

The book begins by calling on the reader's personal experience, presuming that everyone will have been involved in a quarrel (It. *lite*) at least once in their life, either as a participant or a spectator, and will therefore know from direct experience that it is "a communicative exchange in which the participants use words explicitly as weapons to attack, offend, injure" (p. 9). This is the first definition of quarrel given in this book – it is in fact included in the very first paragraph – the first of many, since this is precisely what the author's method consists of: resolving case after case of quarrels in Roman theatre and novel, constantly refining its definition. And this is how the author, Federica Iurescia (hereafter F. I.), does it.

The introduction presents key concepts from the metalinguistic dictionary of pragmatics such as "face", "politeness" and "impoliteness". The author's is an extremely compact, economical and – so to speak – pragmatic approach: she reviews the recent studies of pragmatics while constantly and contemporarily updating the definition of a quarrel. The introduction concludes with examples of how to apply methods of linguistic pragmatics to material from dead languages: the author names her predecessors in historical pragmatics, noting that their number is constantly growing, meaning this book is also part of this movement. For a layman in linguistic pragmatics – such as the reviewer – a few examples of arguments could revive this very theoretical presentation. From the introduction it is especially clear that the book is a doctoral dissertation by the author: a very neat, exemplary one which is undoubtedly worthy of the highest quality evaluation and vast publication.

However, very soon the choice of deliberately dispensing with the examples in the introduction becomes particularly justified: the entire second chapter, the most extensive of the whole book (more than 80 pages out of 265), is devoted exclusively to examples. In fact, the number of pages allotted to the second chapter is even larger, as a further 60 pages of addenda are necessary to include the texts under discussion: Latin originals with a minimal key apparatus and the elegant translation thereof into Italian.

And here is how the author presents examples of quarrels in her work: first, grouping them by genre, the *palliata* (2.2) and the novel (2.5). Inside the first group, F. I. distinguishes quarrels between representatives of equally high origin, and therein between two *senes* (Ter. *An.* 144–149), or between wife and husband (Plaut. *Cas.* 228–278): this last kind has a variation when a husband has a double (Plaut. *Amph.* 675–854; *Men.* 707–752). The author continues further by analysing quarrels between characters of unequal status (2.2.2) and then proceeds with numerous examples of arguments between various representatives of the so-called *demi-monde* of Plautus: slaves, pimps, prostitutes, soldiers, merchants and usurers (2.2.3). Here, predictably, the material manifests a greater variety, a real treasure trove for an enthusiastic classifier. So, for example, in quarrels between slaves in Plautus's *Persa*,