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# SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA

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+ y (p. 204 n. 21); freeborn citizens could be clients, contra pp. 51–5;<sup>3</sup> the Cantabri and Scythians are not the same, contra p. 138. There are also some truly bizarre sentences, such as the statement that poets engaged in ‘resistance that... supports the state and lends it legitimacy’ (p. 124); supporting and legitimizing power is the opposite of resistance.

One closing caveat for this review: I was trained as a historian, while R.-C. is a scholar of literature. After reading this book, I suspect that it is aimed at an audience of fellow literature scholars, and its assumptions might be less opaque to readers in that world. Yet R.-C. seems to assume an additional audience of non-specialists in Roman culture (by, for example, explaining key aspects of Roman culture such as the *cursus honorum* and the triumph [p. 5]); with a better understanding of the premises on which this book is based, I may have better appreciated its arguments.

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Giulio Iovine (ed.) *Latin Military Papyri of Dura-Europos (P.Dura 55–145): A New Edition of the Texts, with Introduction and Notes*, Cambridge University Press, 2023. ISBN: 9781009183130.

The British soldiers stationed at Dura (in present-day Syria) in March 1920 could not have imagined the archaeological time capsule they were standing on, nor what the excavation of a trench accidentally uncovering the wall paintings of the temple of Bel would lead to. Their discovery was followed by major French and American archaeological expeditions, which unearthed *inter alia* archives of papyri, a unique find as these largely come from Egypt. These papyri provide a window into the Roman period, the last phase of the city, before it was abandoned following the Persian siege and conquest of 256/7 CE. Many of the documents belonged to the large Roman garrison that inhabited up to a third of this frontier town lying on the border between the two empires. The papyri, especially the Latin ones, have been heavily researched. However, updates and publications of new fragments are more than welcome and are

<sup>3</sup> See evidence in Neel (2022), 48–53.

essential to academic discourse. The present volume republishes the known papyri alongside new unpublished fragments, following a fresh examination of the collection in the University of Yale archives, conducted with the help of new tools such as advanced microscopes.

The volume opens with two introductory chapters in which Giulio Iovine provides readers with the information necessary for understanding the texts and making use of them. The first presents the city and its garrison. It is well written, which is typical of the book, and will be useful for any newcomer to the topic or the documents. The second chapter is similarly vital to anyone who wants to work on the collection, as it sets out a typology of the documents. The third chapter, titled 'Who's Who in the XX Palmyrenorum' (the main unit of the garrison), is a prosopographical study of the names in the Latin documents. The key part of this chapter is a 111-page-long table of the occurring names (pp. 51–161), with all instances which may refer to a single individual gathered into one entry. This is an important part of the edition as most of the documents from Dura are lists of soldiers for different functions, including rosters. The newly published fragments include some names, and this edition also provides a number of improved and corrected readings of previously published papyri. The updated prosopographical survey is therefore important and fully justified.

The fourth chapter, called 'Scripts and Scribes in the Cohort', is not merely a palaeographical review of past research, but includes extensive analysis of the archive. The chapter features a stylistic and palaeographical comparison of the documents with two other major ancient collections of Roman army documents, the Vindolanda tablets and the Bu Njem ostraca. This chapter is relevant reading for anyone conducting palaeographical research, and is especially valuable for those conducting research on or using the P.Dura collection. Furthermore, it is also helpful in understanding the commentary on some of the papyri.

The heart of the volume is the fifth chapter, encompassing the republished papyri numbering 55 to 145. Interestingly, the editor chose to organize them according to their dating rather than the old numbering system or by types. This new approach is welcome, but several remarks are in order. First, not all the documents are securely dated, and so some were grouped under the subtitle 'Uncertain Dates' (pp. 618–45). The tentative dating assigned to these documents usually covers a larger range than documents in the other sections. However, many of the papyri in the other sections, spanning a decade each, are not always securely dated, either. Moreover, not all of the other documents are securely dated to a single decade, yet the editor felt compelled to put them in one of the sections. For example, P.Dura 104, dated 238–47 CE, was included in the section covering the years 240–50 CE. This is an indication of how categorising according to dates is inherently arbitrary to a degree, and yet unavoidable, as different categories and periods are still essential in this field, as in any other.

Another interesting decision made by the editor is to indicate the function of the documents in bold on the first page of the text describing each of them, rather than provide titles for them. Unfortunately, this was done for only some of the papyri, as the content and function of many are not sufficiently clear. This system may be less intuitive for some readers. Conversely, many of the papyri have the names of some of the officers mentioned in them marked in bold in the descriptions of the contents of the documents. This is very useful, and hopefully this practice will become more common in the future.

The volume ends with two appendices. The first is an edition of P.Dura 54, the *Feriale Duranum*, a famous calendar for ceremonial events and festivals. It is separated from the rest of the documents as it was not originally intended to be included in the volume, despite being in Latin. This is because there is a debate whether it belonged to the garrison, and whether it was

meant to commemorate military or civilian dates of celebrations, prayers and sacrifices. Usefully, it ensures that all the Latin military (and possibly military) papyri from Dura are included in the volume. The appendix features a short introduction and review of the vast scholarship regarding this singular document. It is followed by another appendix, two pages long, referring to the Greek papyri found at Dura which were part of the archive of the 20<sup>th</sup> cohort but due to their language are not included in this volume. However, a more detailed discussion with regard to them and their content would have been preferable.

All in all, this volume is a magnificent work not only of scholarship but also of art, with the numerous pictures of the papyri it provides. The content of the book is vast in scope and thorough, and is in fact richer than the title implies, given the eventual inclusion of P.Dura 54 alongside many new fragments. This volume is a must for any university library, and a useful addition to the book collection of any enthusiast of the period and especially of the Roman army—if they can afford this very expensive book, as too many academic books unfortunately are.

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Walter Ameling, Hannah M. Cotton, Werner Eck, Avner Ecker, Johannes Heinrichs, Benjamin Isaac, Alla Kushnir-Stein (†), Jonathan Price, Peter Weiß, Ohad Abudraham, and Ada Yardeni (†) (eds.), *Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae, Volume V: Galilaea and Northern Regions*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2023. 2098 pp. ISBN: 9783110713565; 9783110713589.

In 2023 the *Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae*, announced in this journal in 1999,<sup>1</sup> saw its fifth published volume of a projected six. The first volume, and the larger project, have already been reviewed in *SCI*, and the other four volumes have been thoroughly treated elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>

The method and scope continue the precedent of previous volumes. Inscriptions appear in individually signed editions with diplomatic and articulated transcriptions, English translations, commentaries, and facsimiles. Continued excavation and publication will surely bring additions,<sup>3</sup> but the editors have been exhaustive in their search, including published texts, unpublished ones where authorized, and lost but variously documented others, like an ‘[a]lleged Hebrew lintel inscription’ (no. 6109) from a thirteenth-century copy. Inscriptions on diverse media are included in all relevant languages from the Hellenistic through the Roman and into the late ancient period—the title page has ‘from Alexander to Muhammad’, but there a few Greek inscriptions from Islamic Palestine, one authored by an agent of the caliph Mu‘awiya in 662 (7441). The content is also apt to trace the history of smaller players than these titular great men. Funerary epigraphy

<sup>1</sup> *SCI* 18 (1999), 175–6.

<sup>2</sup> S.J.D. Cohen (2012), *SCI* 31, 232–3; J. Renz (2020), *Historische Zeitschrift* 311.1, 108–39, offers a synthesis for the first four volumes.

<sup>3</sup> The editors regret (pp. vii, 1733) that they could not include the known but not yet officially published inscriptions from Beth She’an-Nysa-Skythopolis. Three of the numbers devoted to descriptions of these (7610–12) may now be supplemented with the full editions of L. Di Segni (2022), in W. Atrash, A. Overman, and P. Gendelman (eds.), *Cities, Monuments and Objects in the Roman and Byzantine Levant: Studies in Honour of Gabi Mazor*. Oxford: Archaeopress, 70–83, who adds one more and identifies the building (‘so-called Church of Andreas’ here) with a martyrium of a local St. Basilus.