

place in the II century A.D. between C. Julius Agrippianus, a veteran, and his debtor, Valerius Apollinarius, and renewed after their death by the son of the creditor, C. Julius Agrippinus, and the widow of the debtor, Tertia Drusilla; see also H. Maehler, in *Amer. Stud. in Pap.* 7 (1970), p. 263 ff. The issue was an unpaid loan and a subsequent seizure of a mortgaged piece of land. An edition of the whole *dossier* with a good commentary would be much rewarding.

Quick publication and analysis of recently discovered documents, especially of unedited ones, is the most welcomed contribution to the study of Greek law. This could have been done on a much larger scale in this *Symposion*. The situation, from this point of view, is not better in the other volumes of this otherwise highly commendable series.

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*Inscripțiile antice din Dacia și Scythia Minor*, colecție îngrijită de D.M. Pippidi și I.I. Russu. Seria a doua, *Inscripțiile din Scythia Minor grecești și latine: Volumul I, Histria și împrejurimile*. Culese, traduse, însoțite de comentarii și indici de Dionisie M. Pippidi. Ed. Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, București, 1983, 544 pp., Plates 1+1 — 427.

It is numerically the first, but chronologically the second volume to appear in this important series of inscriptions of Scythia Minor (Dobrudja), the other one being *Capidava-Troesmis-Noviodunum* (ed. by E. Doruțiu-Boila, 1980); a third volume which will include the inscriptions of Callatis, by A. Ștefan and D.M. Pippidi, is in preparation. Other volumes for the remaining Greek or Hellenized settlements on the Black Sea shore and the lower Danube would be much welcome. The whole series has been designed as a separate publication beside the *Inscripțiile Daciei romane* (three volumes in four have already appeared); both series are edited by D.M. Pippidi and I.I. Russu on behalf of the Romanian Academy of Social and Political Sciences.

Istros (*Histria* is the Latin form), a Milesian colony founded *ca.* 657 B.C. (Eusebian date), is the oldest and northernmost of the Greek coastal settlements. A useful collection of Greek and Latin literary sources on Istros, from Herodotus to Festius Rufius and the *SHA*, is included in the introductory section to this volume (pp. 39–43; see a plan of the city on p. 34, and an aerial view, *facing* p. 544). 430 texts, 88 of them unedited (see list on p. 517), all from Istros and vicinity, are published here accompanied by a Romanian translation, a comprehensive commentary, an almost complete series of corresponding plates at the end of the volume (n. 1–427) and exhaustive indexes (pp. 518–544). Most texts were originally published in *Dacia*, in the seven volumes of *Histria*, in *Studii clasice* and *SCIV(A)*. Here they are arranged quite traditionally in sections of public decrees, letters and dedications; private dedications;

honorary inscriptions; lists of names; epitaphs, milestones, etc. Within each section the order of the texts is strictly chronological.

Apart from a few archaic inscriptions datable to the VIth century B.C. (see the dedications n. 101–103, and n. 361, on a lecythos discovered in 1961 at modern Istria), the bulk of the texts belongs to the six-hundred years between the late IVth century B.C. and the late IIIrd A.D. (the last Roman emperor mentioned is Decius (249–251); see n. 322). The collection as a whole is therefore of great value only for the Hellenistic and Roman ages. Seven important historical documents from Istros were recently included by L. Moretti in his *Iscrizioni storiche ellenistiche* II (1976), nr. 125–131; another important text (*ISM* I, nr. 54) was since long known to students of Dittenberger's *Sylloge*<sup>3</sup> (nr. 708). Among the documents here published for the first time, n. 12 (p. 80 f.) can be usefully compared with those previously known (esp. nr. 8 = Moretti, nr. 125) to illustrate Istrian foreign troubles in the IIIrd century B.C. with both Greek cities and barbarian neighbours. It is a 'non-probuleumatic' ('ἔδοξε τῶν δήμων) decree put forward by the archons in honour of one Dioscurides, son of Strouthion, who is much praised for his help to the city by means of "many embassies to both Greeks and barbarians concerning peace" (l. 8–10). As usual in Istrian documents, this new one is dated by the current ἐπιμήνιος (i.e., the president of the *boule* and assembly), not by the eponymous magistrate of the city (the priest of Apollo Iētros).

This volume can justly be considered a crowning achievement of D.M. Pippidi, who has dedicated much of his life to the history and antiquities of the Dobrudja in general (see esp. his part in *Din istoria Dobrogei* I (1965), and the Italian version of the same, *I Greci nel basso Danubio* [1971]), and particularly to the archaeological excavations of ancient Istros itself.

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Nicolaio di Damasco, *Vita di Augusto*. Introduzione, traduzione italiana e commento storico a cura di Barbara Scardigli, in collaborazione con Paola Delbianco. Nardini ed., Centro Internazionale del Libro, 1983. 276 pp.

Herod's lovers (and haters), in this country and elsewhere, would be happy to hold in their hands a good new commentary on Nicolaus Damascenus. But the preserved part of his encomiastic *Vita Augusti* says, of course, nothing about Herod, since it deals only with Octavian's youth until the end of 44 B.C. A sizable portion of it is concerned with the conspiracy against Caesar and its immediate consequences. The text is fragmentary (a rough estimate is that the extant is about one tenth of the original work).