

SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA

YEARBOOK OF THE ISRAEL SOCIETY
FOR THE PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

VOLUME XXXIX

2020

The appearance of this volume has been made possible by the support of

Bar-Ilan University
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Open University
Tel Aviv University
University of Haifa

PUBLISHED BY
THE ISRAEL SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
<http://www.israel-classics.org>

Manuscripts in the form of e-mail attachments should be sent to one of these e-mail addresses:
scripta.classica.israelica@gmail.com or isaacb@tauex.tau.ac.il. For reviews, contact
Daniela.Dueck@biu.ac.il. Please visit our website for submission guidelines. All submissions are
refereed by outside readers.

Books for review should be sent to the Book Review Editor at the following address: The Editors,
Scripta Classica Israelica, c/o Department of Classics, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan 5290002,
Israel.

Price \$50

© 2020 The Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies
All Rights Reserved

Camera-ready copy produced by the editorial staff of *Scripta Classica Israelica*
Printed in Israel by Magnes Press, Jerusalem

SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA

YEARBOOK OF THE ISRAEL SOCIETY
FOR THE
PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

Editor-in-Chief: BENJAMIN ISAAC

Editorial Board:
AVI AVIDOV
GABRIEL DANZIG
DANIELA DUECK

Editorial Assistant: Naama Earon

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
OF *SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA*

François de Callatay, Brussels and Paris
Hubert Cancik, Berlin
Averil Cameron, Oxford
Hannah M. Cotton, Jerusalem
Werner Eck, Köln
Denis Feeney, Princeton
John Glucker, Tel Aviv
Erich Gruen, Berkeley
Benjamin Isaac, Tel Aviv

David Konstan, New York
Jaap Mansfeld, Utrecht
Doron Mendels, Jerusalem
Ra'anana Meridor, Jerusalem
John North, London
Peter J. Rhodes, Durham
Hannah Rosén, Jerusalem
Greg Woolf, London

THE ISRAEL SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION
OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

OFFICERS 2019-2020

President:	Jonathan Price
Secretary:	Lisa Maurice
Treasurer:	Shimon Epstein

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Adi Erlich
Merav Haklai
Lisa Maurice
Andrea Rotstein
Iris Sulimani
Uri Yiftach

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Hannah Cotton
Ranon Katzoff
Ra'anana Meridor

CONTENTS

	PAGE
ROBERT A. KASTER, Cicero's Economy of Praise	1
EVA ANAGNOSTOU-LAOUTIDES AND BART VAN WASSENHOVE, Drunkenness and Philosophical Enthusiasm in Seneca's <i>De Tranquillitate Animi</i>	15
FAYAH HAUSSKER, Plut. <i>Them.</i> 10.5: Generosity and Greek Public Education in Historical Memory	35
CARLO DELLE DONNE, Time and Time-Before-Time: An Ancient Puzzle	55
MERON PIOTRKOWSKI, On the Origin of the Jewish Historian Artapanus	73
RIVKA GERSHT, The Caesarea Maritima Asklepios and the Question of Glykon	85
MAREN R. NIEHOFF, From the "Theater of the World" to the "Mask of Christ" — and Back Again: Insights from Origen's Newly Discovered Homilies on Psalms	117
NOGA EREZ-YODFAT, The Inscribed Gold <i>Lamellae</i> from Roman Palestine: Old Questions, New Evidence	137
EMMANUEL NANTET, The Public Boats of Olbia: Warships or State Merchantmen?	149
REVIEW ARTICLES	
DAVID F. GRAF, A Major Catalogue of Toponyms for the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods	163
GUY D. STIEBEL, What Have the Romans Ever Done for Us?	175
BOOK REVIEWS	
Hallvard Fossheim, Vigdis Songe-Møller and Knut Ågotnes (eds.), <i>Philosophy as Drama: Plato's Thinking through Dialogue</i> (by Ivor Ludlam)	183
Lisa Maurice, <i>Screening Divinity</i> (by Adele Reinhartz)	186
Altay Coşkun and David Engels (eds.), <i>Rome and the Seleukid East: Selected Papers from Seleukid Study Day V, Brussels, 21-23 August 2015</i> (by Joshua Schwartz)	189
J. Alison Rosenblitt, <i>Rome after Sulla</i> (by Alexander Yakobson)	191
Miriam T. Griffin, <i>Politics and Philosophy at Rome. Collected Papers</i> (by Joseph Geiger)	194
Katelijn Vandorpe (ed.), <i>A Companion to Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt</i> (by Haggai Olshanetsky)	197
OBITUARIES: DAVID GOLAN (by Ephraim David)	
FERGUS MILLAR (by Hannah M. Cotton)	201
LISA ULLMANN (by Jonathan Price)	204
LISA ULLMANN (by Jonathan Price)	207
DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS	
PROCEEDINGS: THE ISRAEL SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES	211
	215

Not all the riches of this meticulously edited and skillfully produced volume could be sampled in the confines of a review; still, this reader would have been grateful for a division of the almost 800 pages into two less unwieldy volumes, with pages containing less than some 650 words.

Joseph Geiger

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Katelijin Vandorpe (ed.), *A Companion to Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt*. Malden, MA-Oxford-Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell 2019. 664 pp. ISBN 9781118428474.

This book is the latest in the series *Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World*, and is focused on Egypt, from the death of Alexander the Great (323 BC) until the Arab conquest of Egypt in the middle of the 7th century AD. This massive project includes 39 chapters written by 45 authors and co-authors. The authors are very diverse, not only by their origin and affiliation but also by their expertise and experience. It is possible to find scholars with many decades of experience alongside PhD students and recent PhD recipients. This diversity, especially the inclusion of young scholars who are researching new aspects, is most welcome and should be seen more often.

This is not the first companion in this series that concentrates on Egypt, as in 2010, the *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Egypt* was published. It was also a huge project, released in two volumes, covering the entire history of Egypt, from the old Egyptian dynasties until, and including, the Roman period. Each chapter was split in two with the first part describing the dynastic periods and the second part the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Vandorpe is well aware of the contents of the previous book and the influx of many companion books on Egypt appearing in the last two decades, especially ones concentrating on the Roman and Hellenistic periods. Accordingly, with this companion, she tries to bring a fresh and different view of the subject. The current companion has a more sociological approach. We can see this not only in the titles of many chapters, but also in the content of some chapters which have parallels in similar books, especially the companion from 2010. For example, chapter eleven, "Security and Border Policy: Army and Police", not only has an extensive and well-written explanation for the formation of the Hellenistic and Roman armies in Egypt, it also includes an extensive section on the social function of the army and the sources of its manpower. Furthermore, this chapter has a unique and rare reference to the police in Ptolemaic Egypt and in the later Roman period. Another example of the social issues that are rarely discussed, can be found in chapter twenty-one, "Family and Life Cycle Transitions". In this chapter, there is a section which deals with infanticide and the exposure of babies, titled "Shaping Families: Sex Preference, Infant Exposure, Adoption and Endogamy" (335). Because of her awareness of the other companions, especially the one from 2010, Vandorpe deliberately omitted subjects already touched on in the previous companion, such as the reception of Greco-Roman Egypt.

A main feature in the current companion is the usage of in-text citations. Unfortunately, this not only limits the contents of the citations, but also causes them to be too general and to refer to entire articles or books. Only a minority of the citations refer to specific pages. Therefore, many readers would find it difficult to read up on particular topics referred to in the book.

Another interesting issue in the book are the discrepancies in the authors' opinions on whether we should call the Roman Empire since 284 AD the Byzantine Empire. This issue is not only relevant to Egypt, where archaeologists and papyrologists describe the period from 284 AD until the Arab conquest as the Byzantine period, but also to Israel where archaeologists use the same

term, but starting from 325 AD. Cornelia Römer started chapter five, “Egypt in the Byzantine World”, with:

For the dock workers in the harbor of Alexandria, it cannot have made a big difference when, in the middle of the fourth century, ships stopped heading to the west and toward Rome with their loads of grain — the wealth of the country of Egypt, paid as taxes — but to the north and toward the newly founded city of Constantinople. (71)

Thomas Kruse, in the beginning of chapter eight, “The Branches of Roman and Byzantine Government and the Role of Cities, the Church, and Elite Groups”, seems to be indecisive on the term Byzantine period (119). On the other hand, in chapter ten, “Taxation and Fiscal Reforms”, Andrew Monson seems very certain that in fiscal matters the difference between the situations before 284 AD and after was so great that the term Byzantine Egypt is an accurate one (160). This question is not only a fundamental one but lately also one frequently debated. For example, one of the main aims in Elton’s and Heather’s recently published books was to show that only after the Arab invasion in the 7th century did the Eastern Roman Empire cease to exist, and instead became a new entity which should be rightly called the Byzantine Empire.¹

A third issue concerns chapter twenty, “Ethnic Minority Groups”, as it is not actually a chapter depicting all the different minority groups, but mainly depicts the Jewish community of Egypt. Indeed, as Sylvie Honigman explained, we have far more evidence regarding the Jewish community than any other minority, and thus, we can portray their continuous history. However, according to the chapter, the history of the Jews and their presence in Egypt ends after the Diaspora Revolt, in 117 AD, which is puzzling. It is hard to believe that such a large percentage of the population, where only a part of them were sufficient to launch such a huge rebellion, would be entirely expelled or annihilated. In my opinion, it seems more probable that the Jewish population, smaller in size after the Revolt, changed and assimilated, and the Romans modified their attitude and the way they referred to the Jews. This situation makes it impossible for us to identify the Jews in Egypt after 117 AD, and making it unfeasible to write their history from this point of time, just as it is nigh impossible to document the other minorities’ history in Egypt.

These issues do not undermine the general quality of the book and its many merits. It contains many chapters, some short and some long, some better than others; but generally speaking, all the chapters are well written and engaging, and most readers would find the book helpful. It adds new material and is different enough from other similar publications of the last two decades to justify its existence. This book is a worthy addition to any university’s library, or to any enthusiastic scholar highly engaged in the period. The current companion is less space consuming and more appealing to those who are only interested in the Hellenistic and Roman periods in Egypt, compared to the previous two-volume companion from 2010. Unfortunately, as in all cases, there is a “but”, which is the price tag of the book. The price contradicts one of the most basic purposes of a companion — to try to make it as accessible as possible to large audiences, especially students and newcomers to the field. The price of this volume makes it accessible only for university libraries where unless a teacher makes a chapter compulsory as part of the course, only a relatively small group would make use of it. There is an e-book version, which should be cheaper than the hard copy, although that is not the case, since in every site I checked the price

¹ Hugh Elton. *The Roman Empire in Late Antiquity: A Political and Military History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018; Peter Heather. *Rome Resurgent: War and Empire in the Age of Justinian*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

ranges from 159\$ US to 179\$ US, with no good explanation for this price. There are a few further problems with the e-book version. Firstly, the application for the e-book is not compatible with all e-readers in the market. Secondly, the page numbers are supposed to be the same as in the printed version, however, in reality they differ by a few pages. It is worth noting that the best feature of the e-book version is the colourful pictures, while in the hard copy the pictures are only in black and white. To sum it up, the book is very good. Hopefully, in the future, the publisher will provide a cheaper paperback or e-book version to allow larger groups of people to familiarize themselves with this very important and interesting subject.

Haggai Olshanetsky

Bar-Ilan University