

Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz: Studi epigrafici e papirologici. A cura di *Lucio Bove.* Società Nazionale di Scienze, Lettere e Arti in Napoli, Accademia di Scienze Morali e Politiche. Giannini Editore, Napoli 1974. XX, 724 p. Lit. 24000.

Salutiamo con grande piacere l'apparizione della raccolta di scritti epigrafici e papirologici di Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz, uno dei più grandi romanisti italiani dei nostri tempi. Questi scritti sono un esempio della combinazione del perfezionismo tecnico in epigrafia e papirologia con le grandi vedute sintetiche. Ma gli scritti parlano da sè e ognuno dovrebbe leggere un po' di Arangio-Ruiz per capire quale ricchezza di idee è contenuta in essi. Non minore importanza riveste il volume per il fatto che molti degli articoli sono apparsi in pubblicazioni non sempre accessibili in una normale biblioteca classica. *Heikki Solin*

Nachrichten aus dem Wüstensand. Eine Sammlung von Papyruszeugnissen von *Hubert Metzger.* Lebendige Antike. Artemis Verlag. Zürich und München 1974. 88 S., drei Umschlagbilder. DM 10.-.

Dieses Büchlein enthält 78 Briefe und Urkunden aus dem reichhaltigen griechischen Papyrusmaterial, eine Anthologie, die uns einen klaren und vielseitigen Überblick über den ägyptischen Alltag der hellenistischen und römischen Periode in populärer Form verschafft. Wenn es sich um eine Anthologie für ein breites Publikum handelt, kann man doch immer die Frage stellen, warum einige Gebiete der täglichen Kultur ganz und gar ohne Beispiele ausgelassen sind. Die Familie wird nur "in frohen und schmerzlichen Tagen" vor unsere Augen gestellt, aber wir finden keine Dokumente, die den juristischen Hintergrund der Institution erhellen könnten. Der Gegenwartsmensch hätte mit Interesse auch Eheschliessungs- und Ehescheidungsverträge ebenso wie Adoptions-, Testaments- und Lehrlingsurkunden gelesen. Von den letztgenannten haben wir ein Beispiel (39 = P.Oxy 724), aber dieses gehört nicht zu den besten Beispielen der Institution, obwohl der Inhalt im übrigen interessant ist. Ebenso fehlen die farbenreichen strafrechtlichen Urkunden, Beschwerden und Prozessurkunden. Die Texte sind mit kurzen Erläuterungen versehen, und die Bibliographie deckt einen beträchtlichen Bereich des Gesellschaftslebens des griechisch-römischen Ägypten. *Jaakko Frösén*

J.-B. Colbert de Beaulieu: Traité de numismatique celtique. I: Méthodologie des ensembles. Annales littéraires de l'université de Besançon vol. 135. Centre de recherches d'histoire ancienne vol. 5, série numismatique. Les Belles Lettres, Paris 1973. 454 p., ill.

M. Colbert de Beaulieu, the well-known French savant of multifarious academic interests has published the first part of a *Traité* of Celtic coins, material that is impressive in scope and in dimensions.

The problems of Celtic coinages are often, unjustly, regarded as of peripheral interest only to students of classical antiquity. The attitude to this type of material would have been different had the coins been easier to identify, classify and date. After all, they reflect the economic life and outlook of peoples who absorbed certain elements of Mediterranean civilisation and subsequently became formidable opponents to Roman expansion.

Desperate attempts in the past to come to grips with the Celtic coinage have failed miserably, despite the sustained efforts of such masters as Adrien Blanchet. M. Colbert de Beaulieu offers a new avenue of approach and introduces a new system of research, *la méthodologie des ensembles* based on characteroscopy (p. 40 *la characteroscopie* "pour designer la méthode consistant principalement à rechercher les marques distinctives de chaque coin monétaire, présentées par les pièces qui en sont venues, afin de reconnaître ces marques

et de grouper ces pièces pour leur étude"). The definition of the method quoted gives a very inadequate picture of how the writer tackles his material, but the process of research is explained in minute detail in the work itself. One need only remark here that the coins and hoards are studied as groups, as autonomous entities. The analytical method used comes very close to that introduced 10-15 years ago in Sweden by the archaeologist Mats P. Malmer and his numismatist wife, Brita Malmer, now Director of the State Museum of Coins in Stockholm. The latter uses the method above all in her doctoral dissertation of 1966, "Nordiska mynt före år 1000" (Nordic Coins before A.D. 1000, with a comprehensive English summary).

Dr. Malmer's Nordic Coins has attracted far too little attention, apart from that shown by those experts who participated in the research project into the Viking hoards in Sweden (I have seen a short summary, but not proper evaluation, by M. Jean Lafaurie in the *Revue Numismatique* 1966, 343-345). Now, there are remarkable affinities both in approach and in subject between the studies of M. Colbert de Beaulieu and Dr. Malmer. Both have as their field the study of uninscribed anonymous coins, both are consequently forced to elicit all their information from that inherent in the coins themselves or that can be obtained from the circumstances of the discovery or the burial of the hoard. The French characteroscopy does not, however, differ very much from the Swedish typological method, although in the latter case typological criteria (*characteristics*) also include technical data, such as weight, diameter, metallic composition of the coin, and die axis. These criteria are to be considered valid evidence in the classification of the coins given that their properties are independent of other aspects of the process of coin production. Thus, Mrs. Malmer's methodology takes us somewhat further than the characteroscopy of M. Colbert de Beaulieu. I may add that Mrs. Malmer is severe in her disapproval of references to "style" and "stylistic criteria" unless the meaning of the reference is exactly defined verbally. Numismatists who cannot obey this rule are regarded as "impressionists".

M. Colbert de Beaulieu would most certainly not rank among them; his efforts to make characteroscopy and *la méthodologie des ensembles* an exact science are commendable and impressive. And the historical results of 360 pages of painstaking analysis are certainly of the highest interest although some of them at least may not remain unchallenged. He maintains that Roman coins were not handled by the Gauls before 58 B.C., although they may have circulated among the invaders during the war. This goes both for the Roman province and for Gallia Comata. As regards the money circulated prior to the Roman conquest, one has to distinguish several phases of development and different areas of circulation, starting with the introduction of the gold stater standard. The foundation of Narbo effected considerable changes in the hinterland; silver coins of regionally varying standards came into use. Comata, however, stuck to the gold stater until c. 80 B.C., when in the territories of the *Aedui*, *Sequani*, *Lingones* and probably the *Leuci* in the East, the silver standard of the Roman denarius was introduced. Along the rivers Seine and Marne the *Parisi*, exceptionally, were able to maintain a stable gold standard almost to the end of the period of independence. All, however, changed with the arrival of the Romans, although the process of Romanization and unification was slow and painful. It was brought to its conclusion only through the coinage of Augustus.

Patrick Bruun

Peter-Hugo Martin: Die anonymen Münzen des Jahres 68 nach Christus. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz 1974. 95 p., 12 plates. DM 78.-.

A systematic study of the autonomous coinages issued in the course of the rebellions under Nero and after his death has long been overdue. Harold Mattingly dominated the field for 40 years (his first contribution was published