

sociétés rurales ..., Strasbourg 1987 [rev. in this volume of *Arctos*] and J. Strubbe, *The sitonia in the Cities of Asia Minor under the Principate I*, *Epigr.Anat.* 10 [1987] 45-81).

Christer Bruun

Gabriel Herman: Ritualised Friendship and the Greek City.
Cambridge University Press, 1987. XIII, 212 p. GBP 25.00.

It is astonishing that the phenomenon of *ksenia*, usually translated as guest-friendship, has hitherto not been adequately dealt with in classical scholarship – neither in detail nor in its larger contexts. However, it is a concept which we meet all the time when reading Greek literature – in Homer, in drama, in history – and an institution which apparently was as important in ancient Greek society as it is strange to our modern minds. Gabriel Herman sets out to map and examine this concept in its different forms. He sees it as a social institution belonging to the anthropological category of ritualised personal relations, marked by clear rules of initiation and behaviour and clear social group boundaries – it is essentially a relationship between persons originating from different social systems and, at the same time, between persons belonging to the upper social strata. The institution is fully developed in the Homeric epics, and one of the most fascinating views offered by this book is to follow how it survived in the sociological and political changes brought by the development of the Greek city state. The conflict to be expected between the inherited loyalties of ritualised friendship and the new loyalties demanded by the democratic state is graphically pictured in the confrontation described in two passages of literature. First Herman opens his discussion with the meeting of Diomedes and Glaukos in the battle (Il. 6, 224ff.), in which they cease hostility when they discover that their grandfathers were bound by *ksenia*; and then gives the incident related by Xenophon from the year 394 B.C. (Hell. 4,1,34-5), where the Persian satrap Pharnabazos reproaches King Agesilaos of Sparta for having ravaged his private estates, despite the fact that Pharnabazos had been a friend and ally of Sparta, and Agesilaos disclaims all personal responsibility, with an appeal to his duty towards his state, which surpasses any obligations of ritual friendship. Discussing these obligations, which can take the form of exchanged gifts (natural products, money, or landed property) and of assistance (ranging from the education of the friend's son to political or military support), Herman throws new light on many aspects of the social and political life of the Greeks. This book will be read with profit by students and scholars of literature, history and sociology alike. The exposition of the theory and its

data, in itself very lucid, is made very approachable by the help of indexes to sources, of proper names and of subjects.

Maarit Kaimio

The Imperialism of Mid-Republican Rome. Edited by William V. Harris. The proceedings of a conference held at the American Academy in Rome, November 5-6, 1982. Papers and Monographs of the American Academy in Rome XXIX. Rome 1984. 194 p. USD 16.50.

This volume includes the proceedings of a colloquium held in Rome in 1982 and contains the papers by the six principal contributors with various comments by other attendants. The book opens with a paper by Harris: 'Current Directions in the Study of Roman Imperialism' which is in effect a reply to reviewers of his book, 'War and Imperialism in Republican Rome'. Next Musti discusses economic and political aspects in Polybius, mostly on the basis of his views already discussed in his 'Polibio e l'imperialismo romano'. Then Gruen who – as we know also from his 'The Hellenistic World' – returns to the old view that Roman policy in the middle Republic was not aggressively imperialistic and that in the war declarations Rome would have given more emphasis on economic than on political and military viewpoints. Gruen is one of the few exponents of this view today (cf. Gabba's discussion, e.g.). After Gruen comes Harris again, who in 'The Italians and the Empire' argues against Momigliano, who had suggested that Polybius underestimated Rome's relationship to her Italian allies. Gabba speaks of the mass of Roman plebs as enthusiastic supporters of expansionist politics in the middle Republic, and Linderski gives acute observations on the ideological contents of the views of Roman imperialism taken by Mommsen, Holleaux, T. Frank, De Sanctis and Fraccaro. In the last paper Clemente discusses the relationship between economy and politics from the viewpoint of the senatorial aristocracy.

Heikki Solin

J.F. Gardner: Women in Roman Law and Society. Croom Helm, London - Sydney 1986. 281 p. GBP 9.95 (paperback ed. 1987).

This is a satisfying and useful book on a theme that certainly needed treatment on this scale, and, since the price (of the paperback edition, at least) seems quite reasonable, it should prove to be quite a success. There is perhaps more *law* than *society*, but since there seems to be more to be found in the