

ältesten Hss. stammen aus dem 9. Jh.), die RA, RB und RC bezeichnet werden. Der ursprüngliche Text ist also nicht erhalten und auch nicht wiederherstellbar, außer hier und da, wo alle Hss. übereinstimmen (Schmeling hat aber den unrealistischen Anspruch, dies erreichen zu können: er will die erhaltenen Redaktionen zurückführen auf R, der "forma veterrima quam nunc attingere possumus"; dieser Mißgriff hat dann weitreichende Folgen in Schmeling's Editionsarbeit).

Über die handschriftliche Überlieferung gibt die lange Einführung ausführlich Rechenschaft und verdient so alle Anerkennung. Dagegen ist die Edition selbst sehr ungenügend. Erstens hat Schmeling sich keine rechte Vorstellung darüber gebildet, wie dieser Text eigentlich zu edieren sei. Er wählt freilich den einzig richtigen Weg, die drei Redaktionen gesondert zu edieren, ist aber nicht konsequent dabei und scheint die drei Versionen stellenweise miteinander zu kontaminieren. Noch schlimmer ist, da er des öfteren den Text völlig unnötig ändert, indem er viele für das Spätlatein charakteristische Eigentümlichkeiten aus dem Text entfernt. Wenn er z.B. *transiebat* in *transibat* "verbessert" oder *fugire* in *fugere*, so zeugt das von einer verblüffenden Ignoranz der historischen Grammatik des Lateinischen. Solche Fälle, die stutzig machen, lassen sich in großer Zahl finden. Leider haben wir es mit einer Ausgabe zu tun, die der althehrwürdigen Bibliotheca Teubneriana keine Ehre macht.

*Heikki Solin*

*Epigrafia. Actes du colloque international d'épigraphie latine en mémoire de Attilio Degrassi pour le centenaire de sa naissance, organisé par le Comité promoteur des Rencontres franco-italiennes sur l'épigraphie du monde romain dans le cadre de la convention entre l'Université de Roma-La Sapienza et l'École française de Rome, sous le patronage de l'Association internationale d'épigraphie grecque et latine et avec le concours des Universités de Vienne, Trieste, Padoue et de la Commission pour les Inscriptions Italiae auprès de l'Unione accademica nazionale, Rome, 27-28 mai 1988. Collection de l'École Française de Rome 143. Rome 1991. X+738 p. I.T.L. 175. 000.*

This volume is a worthy tribute to the great Italian epigrapher, born in Trieste in 1887. The rich content is dominated by works in fields of research where Degrassi himself made lasting contributions: Fasti and *elogia*, inscriptions from the Republic, and local administration.

Werner Eck leads off with the carefully documented "Consules ordinarii und consules suffecti als eponyme Amtsträger". When did the practice of dating official or private documents according to suffect consuls disappear? In official documents the dating according to suffect consuls can be followed up to Severus or perhaps Caracalla. But in private documents and in documents pertaining to local administration the *consules ordinarii* are used for dating purposes (after having left office) with increasing frequency from the early second century onwards. Consequently, the status of ordinary consuls increased.

The wax tablets from the so-called archive of the Sulpicii found near Pompeii in 1959 have proved a real treasure-trove not only for epigraphers but for Roman historians at

large. The first publication appeared in time for Degrassi to see (and disapprove of) it: "non dobbiamo vedere altri 'saggi' come quello pubblicato" was his comment. Since the early 1980s Giuseppe Camodeca has been publishing new tablets and reediting old ones with admirable accuracy and energy. His "Novità sui fasti consolari" presents both new material and new discussions concerning the consuls from A.D. 26 to A.D. 61. Nobody who consults Degrassi's classic *I fasti consolari* for that period can afford to overlook this new study.

Silvio Panciera's paper discusses nothing less than some formerly unknown parts of *elogia* belonging to the Mausoleum of Augustus. Of difficult interpretation, they may, according to the author's preliminary suggestion, have been referring to Agrippa and Gaius or Lucius Caesar.

Other studies in this section include new fragments of the *Acta Arvalia* presented by J. Scheid, a discussion of the "Imperial Fasti" from Brescia by G. Di Vita-Évrard, and a discussion of the Augustan census figure in the *Fasti Ostienses* by Cl. Nicolet (suggesting an emendation of the text that brings it in line with the number of Roman citizens given in Augustus' *Res gestae*).

In the section on Republican inscriptions it is Heikki Solin's "Sul consolidarsi del cognome nell'età repubblicana al di fuori della classe senatoria e dei liberti", which looms largest. In accordance with its title, the paper investigates at what point common freeborn Roman citizens began using the *cognomen* in inscriptions, based on a very wide survey covering Rome, Lastium, Campania, and Delos. Early cases can be found as early as during the mid-second century B.C.

The implications of a new inscription found on the site of S. Omobono in Rome and originally belonging to an honorary monument, naming two (or three?) Cn. Domitii Cn. f., are discussed by Filippo Coarelli. Further contributions are by M. Cébeillac-Gervasoni on the nomenclature of local city magistrates in Latium and Campania, and by S. Demougin on ILLRP 549 from Asculum Picenum naming the *praef.fabrum* T. Sabinus Sabinus.

The largest part of the Republican section (pp. 241-491) is however taken up by a very useful presentation of unedited (or almost) inscriptions, running to 154 numbers, and a survey of recently published ones.

The section on local administration contains contributions by R. Fauro Rossi on Venetia et Histria, M.S. Bassignano on the *praefecti iure dicundo*, E. Weber on cities north of the Alps, J. Gascou on *duumviri* and *quattuorviri* in the Narbonensis. There is also a paper by P. Le Roux on the concepts of *municipium Latinum* and *municipium Italiae* inspired by the *lex Irnitana*, by the late Fr. Jacques on *municipia libera* in Africa *proconsularis*, by M. Christol on the first century *pagus* of Carthage, and finally M. Corbier's "Cité, territoire et fiscalité".

In the concluding section labelled "Varia" Géza Alföldy presents one of his by now customary stunning epigraphic reconstructions. Fragments from the Area Sacra di Largo Argentina, which formerly were thought to derive from four epigraphic monuments, in fact belong to two inscriptions dedicated to M. Licinius Crassus Frugi (cos. 14 B.C.) by the *Damasceni*.

Finally, the volume contains a study by F. Paci dealing with measures taken by Titus after the Vesuvian eruption in A.D. 79, and studies of local inscriptions by A. Donati, L. Gasperini, and G. Sotgiu.

The many extremely valuable contributions in this volume are bound to achieve precisely what the organizers of the 1988 colloquium had in mind: that the name of Attilio Degrassi lives on in the work of future epigraphers and historians. The reviewer can think of just one problem. Considering the frequent use that will have to be made of the volume, a convenient title or abbreviation ought to be found, like we have "Epigrafia e ordine senatorio" for a similarly important Roman colloquium of the early 1980s. "Epigrafia", the name given the volume by the editors, seems to general; "Actes Degrassi" would make it difficult to retrieve the publication, considering its official name.

*Christer Bruun*

*Lawrence Keppie: Understanding Roman Inscriptions.* B.T. Batsford Ltd., London 1991. 158 p. GBP 14.99 (Paperback).

*Knud Paasch Almar: Inscriptiones Latinae. Eine illustrierte Einführung in die lateinische Epigraphik.* Odense University Classical Studies vol. 14. Odense University Press, Odense 1990. 569 p. DEK 328.

There are quite a few books on Latin epigraphy, some even of fairly recent date (see the bibliography in Keppie, p. 148f.; that in Almar, p. 518f., omits some titles of interest). The problem with these books is that it is hard to find an introduction to the subject of which one could say with confidence, addressing e.g. a student who says that he or she wishes to become an epigraphist, "read this; here's everything you need to know". On the archaeological side of Latin epigraphy there is, of course, I. di Stefano Manzella's *Mestiere di epigrafista* (1987), which I think is very good; but looking at the books which aim at being general introductions to the subject one cannot help thinking that the definitive book on Latin inscriptions is yet to be written. To take only two books published in the eighties, G. Susini's *Epigrafia latina* (1982), though offering much of interest and some elegant phrasing, is on the whole rather disappointing and has annoyingly no index at all; as for A.E. Gordon's *Illustrated Introduction to Latin Epigraphy* (1983), it is certainly a useful book and one worth reading, but instead of saying things of general interest it concentrates perhaps a little too much on commenting upon those inscriptions - which are mainly from Rome and Italy - which were fortunate enough to be included in the selection; there is a "general" section, to be sure, but this does not (I think) tell the whole truth.

Of course, writing a good book on Latin epigraphy is a difficult task, though perhaps not as difficult as writing one on Greek inscriptions (at least if those of the Roman period are included): the concept "Latin epigraphy" covers a large field, both chronologically and geographically, to say nothing of all the different *types* of inscriptions, and there really is a significant difference not only between early Republican and late Imperial inscriptions, but also between those from, say, Gallia Lugdunensis and Africa, the "epigraphic culture" varying somewhat from region to region (on this specific point the