

periods. Mr. Ray suggests that Demotic was reacting to the increasing use of Greek with a conservativeness which Coptic, for example, later does not show. There are also chapters on Roman Britain and Judaea as well as on Europe in the migration period. In such a wide cultural and chronological frame it is somewhat surprising that a paper on the early Imperial period in Rome is missing.

To conclude, generally speaking, this is a most interesting and handsomely produced volume, which everyone interested in the problematics of literacy should make acquaintance with.

*Tiina Purola*

*Antonio Agustin between Renaissance and Counter-reform.* Edited by M.H. Crawford. Warburg Institute Surveys and Texts XXIV. London 1993.

Antonio Agustin, 1517-1586, Spanish high ecclesiastic, is also known for his contributions to the study of Roman Law and institutions. He was modern enough to understand the relevance of Roman inscriptions to these studies. There were already collections or *syloges* of inscriptions, for the most part in manuscript form, but their unsystematic arrangements made their use unduly laborious. Agustin, in collaboration with Jean Matal, composed a rich collection of epigraphs, provided with meticulous references, but he also drew upon inscriptions to explain the genesis of the Roman Law, both from historical and from linguistic points of view. Although the collection has remained unprinted, Agustin's system of classification influenced M. Smetius's well-known collection, 1588, and consequently later epigraphy as well.

The collective volume contains contributions by 13 scholars in five languages, including Latin. The papers more immediately concerned with epigraphical studies are J.J. Wilkes's on Cyriac of Ancona's copying of Dalmatian inscriptions, R. Cooper's on epigraphical research in Rome in Agustin's times, which is certainly of considerable interest to a historian of epigraphy, M.H. Crawford's on the development of Greek epigraphy, and A.M. Prestianni Giallombardo's on Sicily's Greek and Latin epigraphy. The other papers discuss Agustin's biography, his legal scholarship etc. All the papers are scholarly and sufficiently well documented.

*Iiro Kajanto*