

*Nomos. Essays in Athenian Law, Politics and Society*, eds. Paul Cartledge, Paul Millett and Stephen Todd. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1990, xv, 240 p. ISBN 0-521-37022-1. GBP 30.00.

The present book, a collection of papers originating in a series of seminars held in Cambridge in 1986-7, deals with the question of how legal texts may be used as documents in writing a history of society. That the emphasis lies more on historical than purely juridical aspects is seen also by the fact that all the contributors are ancient historians, mostly British scholars of the younger or middle generation. This has given an underlying unity to the book, which sets out to explore the relationship between law on the one hand and society and politics on the other, which historians of ancient Greece have in the past tended to treat as separate subjects. This is a salutary approach, making this a book of central importance. Its contents are as follows: Law, society and Athens; The purpose of evidence in Athenian courts; Fowl play: a curious law-suit in classical Athens; Plato and the Athenian law of theft; Vexatious litigation in classical Athens: sykophancy and the sykophant; The sykophant and sykophancy: vexatious redefinition?; The law of *hubris* in Athens; The Solonian law of *hubris*; The social context of adultery at Athens; Sale, credit and exchange in Athenian law and society.

Greek law has recently been described as "notoriously a step-child in modern study" (Finley), and according to the authors of the first chapter of this book, Athenian law could even be called "a step-child overawed by several overbearing sisters". So modern approaches in the field are most welcome, and this collection in particular contains good contributions with interesting points of view and fruitful discussions. If some of the contents seem somewhat superfluous, and we see well-known facts repeated, that lies more in the tradition of English scholarship. All in all, this is a well-balanced contribution to an important but often underestimated subject.

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VALENTINA MANZELLI: *La policromia nella statuaria greca arcaica*. Studia archaeologica 69. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1994. 342 p., 20 ill. b/n, 21 tav. a col. f.t. ISBN 88-7062-854-X. ITL 350.000.

È uscito un importante libro di Valentina Manzelli sulla policromia nella statuaria greca arcaica. L'autrice ha preso come soggetto dello studio un aspetto della statuaria antica riconosciuto già da secoli ma spesso dimenticato e trascurato. Il Palladio e specialmente il Winckelmann sono colpevoli del concetto della pura colorazione bianca della statuaria greca. La scultura e l'architettura greca non si differenziano, però, dalla policromia delle altre civiltà del bacino mediterraneo, e per questo l'autrice vuole esaminare la filosofia, il valore simbolico e l'aspetto estetico della policromia in un contesto vasto.