

In general, this work is an ambitious attempt to solve a difficult definition problem and the results are, for the most part, convincing. Although marginal when compared to normal verb forms, the periphrastic usage does indeed seem to form a part of the Latin morphosyntactical apparatus. This applies particularly to the PPP-type. The PPA-type, on the other hand, continues to raise more problems. Hoffmann claims that the relative infrequency of the construction does not prevent considering it a grammaticalized pattern because other established verb forms, like future imperative and future perfect are, likewise, relatively infrequent. Still, further arguments would be needed to make this conclusion plausible.

The bibliography is comprehensive as is the detailed general index. More discussion about the function and motivation of periphrasing in Latin would, of course, have been interesting but that, understandably, does not belong to the scope of this work.

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*XI Congresso Internazionale di Epigrafia Greca e Latina, Roma, 18-24 settembre 1997. Atti I-II.* Edizioni Quasar, Roma 1999. ISBN 88-7140-152-2. 889, 797 pp. ITL 390.000.

The *Atti* of the Epigraphic Congress held in Rome in September 1997 have been published with remarkable speed, as the two volumes came out exactly two years after the congress. No editor is mentioned on the front page, but from the Prefazione in vol. I, p. 11, one learns that the editorial work was done by Dr. S. Evangelisti and Dr. L. Galli with the help of Dr. M. G. Macciocca, Dr. D. Nonnis and Dr. E. Zappata, "sotto la guida di scrive" (it seems a 'chi' must be added); there is no signature under the Prefazione but I think that one cannot be too wrong if one suspects that this means Professor Silvio Panciera. In any case, clearly we have here an instance of team work at its best.

Vol. I starts with a section containing, besides other introductory items, the programme of the congress, a list of papers presented at the congress but not published in the *Atti* (in some cases some other publication is mentioned), a list of the participants with their addresses (which have for no obvious reason been modified; certainly my professional address is not given in the form it was communicated to the editors). This is followed by speeches held at the opening and closure of the congress, including M. Mayer's invitation to the participants to the next congress in Barcelona in 2002.

The papers themselves are presented in eight sections ("parti") beginning with section II, the last three of them in vol. II. The arrangement of papers into sections follows pretty much the lines of previous congresses. Sections II and III deal with Greek epigraphy (II with inscriptions down to the end of the 5th century, III with Hellenistic epigraphy); sections IV and V are consecrated to Latin epigraphy, IV to the more conventional texts, V to those "in scrittura usuale", this referring to inscriptions using "normal" writing as contrasted with "lapidary" writing (here we find papers on the Vindolanda Tablets, etc.). Section VI is on "Varia", a fairly varied collection indeed. Sections VII, VIII and IX all deal with both Greek and Latin inscriptions; section VII is on the period between Augustus and the Antonines, VIII on the period between the Severans and Constantine, and IX on Late Antiquity after Constantine. Perhaps the

organization into sections covering certain periods is not an ideal one; this organization into sections seems to exclude papers dealing with topics demanding a broader vision; for instance, it would be hard to incorporate into this scheme papers on (say) the development of the epigraphy of a certain area or that of certain linguistic features. Of course there is the section "Varia", but this seems to be devoted to observations on details rather than to papers of a more ambitious scope.

Normally, when congresses are arranged, some speakers, usually persons of some scholarly reputation, are invited to present papers on topics suggested by the organizers; on the other hand, other speakers who feel they have something to say, or must say something in order to have their travel costs covered by their universities, step forward themselves. As a result, it is a normal feature of congresses that there are, in addition to important papers by well-known scholars of interest to all or most of the participants, papers which seem to be dealing with questions of a more limited scope and interest. Of course I have nothing against this but must at the same time point out that since all speakers have the right to have their papers published in the *Acta*, this produces massive and expensive volumes which to some may seem monuments celebrating congresses rather than books serving definite purposes such as normal monographs or even *Acta* of colloquia with specific themes. There are 1686 pages in these volumes and to tell the truth, I do not feel I have the strength – and the need – to read them all. Moreover, I am not sure having a copy at home would be worth the money I would have to spend on this. On the other hand, epigraphical congresses should be attended by as many scholars as possible, and of course it is good to have all, or at least most of, the papers which were delivered actually published in the *Acti*.

But in any case there are certainly some marvellous things to be found here. The papers on more general subjects by the (assumed) invited speakers, apparently distinguishable from the others by the fact that at least in vol. I there is an empty space between these and the rest in the 'Contents' section, all seem to me to be of very great interest (although I would like to single out A. Mastino's and his collaborators' paper on 'I Severi nel Nord-Africa' in vol. II, p. 359-417 as a particularly well-researched and useful piece). But there is also much of interest in those papers which deal with more specific subjects; for instance, a new inscription from Hierapolis in honour of the later emperor Pius as proconsul of Asia is presented by T. Ritti in vol. II p. 291ff. I also read with much profit, e.g., the paper by F. Nasti on *CIL X 3732* (vol. II p. 533ff.).

At the end of vol. II, there is an index of contributors and a detailed 46-page index of "luoghi e cose notevoli". This index, the genesis of which is explained in the Prefazione, p. 11, will be of great service to scholars. The editorial work also seems impeccable. (But in vol. I, p. 452, line 3, a Spanish 'y' seems to have been converted into an Italian 'e'; *ibid.* 553, line 3, someone must have changed the author's expression 'extinction' into 'distinction', meaningless in the context; and was there really no one who would have had the courage to rise against *Chersonesus* being used as a masculine, vol. II p. 213ff., this use already appearing in the *Preatti*?). So as a result we have two magnificent and useful volumes dealing with a wonderful variety of epigraphical topics. This variety may perhaps not be to the taste of all, but certainly it reflects the fact that the term "epigraphy" covers a vast field indeed.

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