

sortent de presse chaque année sur cette loi (cf. en particulier dans *ZPE*, *JRS*, *Historia*). On p. 217 (where the father of Livia is called "M. Livius Drusus Andronicus"), n. 27, Aufidius Lurco, a difficult person, is furnished with the following annotation: "Il existe une imposante bibliographie et des discussions à propos de l'origine et du nom très controversés du grand-père de Livie", with references to Suetonius (sic!) but none to the famous article of 1974 by J. Linderski who settled all the problems. And there are many more signs of sloppiness; on p. 50 n. 20, "Solon" is credited with having written something which I am almost certain I wrote, and many Latin quotations are given in a curiously abbreviated form; e.g., p. 31 n. 75 "in oppido Padula agri", where *agri* is meaningless without a definition; p. 93 "senatus filio stipendia mereta", where the addition of *esse iousit* (following on *mereta* in the inscription) would have clarified the scenario.

The question is, of course, whether one should let these little unpleasantnesses obscure the fact that the book is after all a reasonably competent and comprehensive discussion of an important subject. Personally I am inclined to think that what matters here is above all the fact that we now have this book at our disposal, and so I think I must conclude by thanking the author for having decided to have her *thèse* published. It is true that, at the same time I cannot help wondering why the author did not allow herself some more time to give finishing touches to the book.

Olli Salomies

Childhood, Class and Kin in the Roman World. Edited by SUZANNE DIXON. Routledge, London – New York 2001. ISBN 0-415-23578-2. xvi, 282 pp. GBP 50.

This volume was put together to honour Professor Beryl Rawson's celebrated work on the Roman family. It includes the following chapters: The 'other' Romans and their family values (Suzanne Dixon); Children as cultural symbols: imperial ideology in the second century (Beryl Rawson); Children and dreams (Keith Bradley); Child exposure and abandonment (Mireille Corbier); Children among the dead: the influence of urban life on the commemoration of children on tombstone inscriptions (Janette McWilliam); Reconstructing lower-class Roman families (Paul Weaver); *Familia Veturia*: towards a lower-class economic prosopography (Suzanne Dixon); Emperors and houses in Rome (Andrew Wallace-Hadrill); Women, burial data and issues of inclusion: the problems and potential of Romano-British cemeteries (Fiona Crowe); The value of epithets in pagan and Christian epitaphs from Rome (Hanne Sigismund Nielsen); A Roman funerary monument with a mother and daughter (Michele George); Adoption and its function in cross-cultural contexts (Hugh Lindsay); Nearest and dearest: liability to inheritance tax in Roman families (Jane Gardner); On becoming a parent in later life: from Augustus to Antonio Agustín via St Augustine (Tim Parkin).

It would be impossible to discuss or even to summarize the contents of individual contributions in a short review. Most of the authors are already distinguished experts in their own field. Although one might disagree with some individual interpretations or conclusions, there is generally little to complain of in the manner the writers handle their material. I might just record a couple of more than trivial printing errors: the figures in

Table 10.1 do not seem to tally with the text on p. 168-9, probably due to some confusion of the lines; on p. 231 bottom *Codex Theodosianus* 6.58.12 should be *Codex Iustinianus*.

In comparison with most other *Festschriften*, this volume is thematically homogeneous. It aims to have a readership among specialized scholars, among undergraduates and among "intelligent lay readers" who are interested in the past and future of the family. The authors have set out to accomplish this difficult task in different ways. Some contributions present new evidence or new analyses, some illuminate their theme with a few case studies, some argue a new theory, some again offer cross-cultural comparisons. In my view, all the writers have successfully addressed at least one section of the intended large audience but, inevitably, it is hard to simultaneously present novelties for informed colleagues and reveal even part of the "big picture" for the general public. For this reason, and because they are not meant to cover the field in any comprehensive way, either individually or together, I suppose that the articles will, in practice, be used separately rather than as a whole. All are highly readable.

Antti Arjava

ANNE KOLB: *Transport und Nachrichtentransfer im Römischen Reich*. Klio Beihefte N. F. 2. Akademie Verlag, Berlin 2000. ISBN 3-05-003584-6. 380 S. EUR 64,80.

Welche Machtmittel in einem politischen System essentiellen Charakter haben, variiert in vielen Fällen systemabhängig in beträchtlichem Maße. Stets gehört jedoch die Kontrolle über die Kommunikationswege und -prozesse zu diesen besonders wichtigen Ressourcen. Dieser wichtigen Thematik sowie dem zivilen Transportsystem hat für das Imperium Romanum nun A. Kolb eine systematische Studie gewidmet. Eine institutionelle Verbindung dieser beiden Themen wurde in der Kaiserzeit dabei partiell durch den *cursus publicus* (im weiteren = CP; der Terminus ist allerdings erst spät belegt) hergestellt, dessen Erforschung auch im Zentrum von K.s Arbeit steht. K.s Studie geht aber über den CP hinaus und untersucht auch andere Formen und Methoden der Informationsübermittlung und der Personen- und Güterbeförderung; der Transport von Gütern im Zuge der Heeresversorgung bleibt aber ausgespart.¹ Zeitlich deckt ihre Studie alle drei Großepochen römischer Geschichte ab, wenn auch die Kaiserzeit (inklusive der späten) im Mittelpunkt steht.

In einem ersten Kapitel (pp. 15-48) geht K. auf vorrömische Ausprägungen von Nachrichten- und Transportsystemen ein. Im Anschluß referiert sie den Forschungsstand bezüglich der Informationsübermittlung und der Personen- und Güterbeförderung in der römischen Republik. Das längste Kapitel, II (pp. 49-226), ist dem CP gewidmet. Die Untersuchungen der Autorin bestätigen auf diesem Gebiet bereits zuvor gemachte Beobachtungen, etwa daß der Begriff "Post", da er Kommensurabilität mit der modernen Institution evoziert, als Charakterisierung des CP abzulehnen ist oder daß der prinzipats-

¹ Siehe zuletzt P. P. M. Erdkamp, *Hunger and the Sword. Warfare and Food Supply in Roman Republican Wars (264 – 30 B.C.)*, Amsterdam 1998; J. P. Roth, *The Logistics of the Roman Army at War (264 B.C. – 235 A.D.)*, Leiden et al. 1999; F. Mitthof, *Annona militaris. Die Heeresversorgung im spätantiken Ägypten* (Pap. Flor. 32), Florenz 2001.