

reader is ready to accord to the theories of Freud and Jung. That the observation of prodigies could be used to justify the independent decisions of leaders in the face of the real authority of the senate and the imagined authority of the gods, through attribution of these choices to the will of the gods (p. 811–3), carries rather more explanatory power than E.'s attempt to explain belief in prodigies in terms of obsessive-compulsive behaviour caused by social neuroses stemming from strict patriarchy.

While this book is not without its problems, these are largely endemic to all investigations of older Roman history, and E. is conscious of this, transparent in his choices and preconceptions, and cautious in his conclusions. One final critical note concerns the omission of some items of literature mentioned in the footnotes from the bibliography. In conclusion, students of ancient religion should find the book comprehensive and impossible to bypass, and anyone interested in Republican Rome would do well to consult this on the prodigies he encounters.

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ARNOLD A. LELIS – WILLIAM A. PERCY – BEERT C. VERSTRAETE: *The Age of Marriage in Ancient Rome*. Studies in Classics, Vol. 26. The Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston – Queenston – Lampeter 2003. ISBN 0-7734-6625-8, 0-88946-684-X (series). X, 146 pp. USD 99.95.

In this book, the authors want to reconsider some aspects regarding the age at first marriage for males and females in ancient Rome. It is fluently and intelligibly written and thus accessible for a wider interested readership. It does not seem to have many new insights, but it is useful as a further addition to the discussion of this difficult subject. From the literary evidence on the families of senatorial rank, the authors have attempted to compile a systematic database of Roman age at first marriage (for which they use the abbreviation AAFM), which is a useful piece of work indeed. Their data amply confirm the postulate that Roman AAFMs were generally early. This should not be a surprise.

As for the documentation gathered from epigraphic sources, the authors seem to resort to secondary information; at least they do not quote a single inscription (add, e. g., H.S., *Ep. Unt. in Rom und Umg. 16 Lucretiae [- l. E]pigone fecit [M]estrius Euty[ch]es coniugi cum qua vixi annis XXXXV. Tulit an. LII*). – One is astonished to find that the bibliography almost exclusively consists of items written in English (and Friedländer's classic *Sittengeschichte* has also been quoted in English, despite the fact that the last English edition is older than the last German one). Of missing references to literature written in languages other than English, it is worth mentioning M. Durry, "Le mariage des filles impubères à Rome", *CRAI* 1955, 84–90. I also missed E. Eyben, *Latomus* 1972, 677–697. – A few misprints: p. 91 nt. 1 Antti Arjava; p. 129 Carletti.

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