

HARTWIN BRANDT – FRANK KOLB: *Lycia et Pamphylia. Eine römische Provinz im Südwesten Kleinasiens*. Orbis Provinciarum. Zaberns Bildbände zur Archäologie. Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 2005. ISBN 3-8053-3470-2. IV, 146 S. mit 155 Farb-, 16 S/w- und 16 Strichabb. EUR 41.

CHRISTIAN MAREK: *Pontus et Bithynia. Die römischen Provinzen im Norden Kleinasiens*. Orbis Provinciarum. Zaberns Bildbände zur Archäologie. Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 2003. ISBN 3-8053-2925-3. VI, 199 S. mit 235 Farb-, 73 S/w- und 1 Strichabb. EUR 41.

Philipp von Zabern's *Orbis Provinciarum* -series is undoubtedly a welcome addition to the regional studies of the Roman Empire. Each one of the volumes in the series includes extensive general information on the province in question, its history, administration, economy, and geographical and cultural peculiarities. Although the written sections of the books tend to be both informative and easily readable, at least an equal value can be found in the very exquisite colour images of the landscapes, maps and illustrations of archaeological and epigraphical remains, which cover at least half of the pages in each volume. Indeed, it is these pictures which give a very lively image of the geographical realities of the provinces and help to understand the regional peculiarities which the plain academic textual analyses often leave wanting. The two volumes of the series reviewed here describe the two twin provinces which covered the northern and southern coastal sectors of Anatolia in the Roman period.

Christian Marek is no stranger to the topic of Bithynia and Pontus. His own extensive research in the area during the past decades covers a wide field of subjects from the history of the region to topographical and epigraphical studies. In his authoritative introduction (pp. 4–29) to the topic, Marek discusses the landscape of Bithynia and Pontus, the sources related to its history and the previous research done on the region. This is followed by a description (pp. 30–43) of the pre-Roman history, with some very spectacular images of the local rock tombs, and the eventual provincialization of the region at the end of the Roman Republic. The next chapter (pp. 44–62) examines the provincial administration during the Principate, the governors of the province and the impact of the extensive road-building program conducted by the Roman army in the region. The high level of regional incorporation into the wider Roman world is vividly shown by the large scale appearance of provincials in all sectors of the Roman army. The different aspects effecting urban settlements are discussed extensively (pp. 63–103), with special emphasis on the functions of the provincial councils (*koina*), the difference in civic rights between the Greek and non-Greek populations, the duties of local officials, the restrictions and demands on the municipal building in the Roman Empire and the popular festive events. The syntheses of local and Hellenic cults are discussed in the next chapter (pp. 104–25), with fascinating reconstructions of the famous mystery cult of Alexander of Abonuteichos and the eventual Christianization of the region. The final chapter (pp. 126–78) examines the social and economic lives of the region, paying close attention to burial customs, identity of the family, local literary figures, professions and shipping. In the conclusion (pp. 179–80), the author draws attention to the difference of regional peculiarities and wider phenomena of the Greek East. The publication also provides an appendix of maps (pp. 181–6) in addition to the usual chronological tables, glossaries and indices (pp. 187–99).

The two authors of the volume covering the twin province of Lycia and Pamphylia, Hartwin Brandt and Frank Kolb, are in equal fashion long-standing authorities on the region in question. Much of the presented information is based on personal research, especially so for the region of Lycia, which was extensively examined by the University of Tübingen's Lycia project 1989–2001 under the leadership of Frank Kolb. The volume begins with an introduction to the previous research (pp. 5–11) on the area and the description of the three distinctive landscapes of Lycia, Pamphylia and Pisidia (pp. 12–9). This is followed by a description of the historical incorporation of the area into the Roman Empire (pp. 20–4) and the development of the provincial administration of the region (pp. 25–39) with special attention to the Lycian provincial council (*koinon*). The city-states of the province are dealt with at extensive length in the next chapter (pp. 40–82). The focus is on the Lycian towns where the expertise of the authors' lies and which tended to be smaller in size than the towns in the neighbouring regions due to the harsher, mountainous landscape. The remaining ruins of the Lycian and of the most important ones of the wealthy Pamphylian and Pisidian towns are presented in a very vivid collation of images with plans of many of the towns. The rural areas are handled at lesser length (pp. 83–98), but here much of the information draws on the results of the University of Tübingen's Lycia project and as such provides some interesting insights on demographic development. The issues of trade and commerce (pp. 99–104), the different career patterns of the local elite in the neighbouring districts (pp. 105–8) and the local cults and festivities (pp. 109–18) are presented in an informative, although slightly brief fashion, partly due to the scarcity of the evidence. The final chapter examines the development of the three regions – Lycia, Pamphylia and Pisidia – in late antiquity (pp. 119–32) and is followed by the standard set of chronological tables, glossaries and indices (pp. 133–46).

The series is great reading for the general public and to the scholars who need a quick introduction to regional studies. More advanced academics also profit from these volumes as they provide improved images of some of the latest epigraphical discoveries, and provide very lively images of the regions with their own peculiar landscapes and the demands and restrictions these place on to the development of the local economy, culture and infrastructure. The authors of the series have not contented themselves with the well-established evidence, but instead they have also decided to bring forth some new discoveries, especially so in the field of epigraphy. One can only conclude that the series is not just interestingly informational, but it also provides a refreshingly different approach to the understanding of the regional differentiation of the Roman Empire.

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