

*Jenseits des Euphrat. Griechische Inschriften. Ein epigraphisches Lesebuch.* Zusammenge- stellt, übersetzt und erklärt von REINHOLD MERKELBACH – JOSEF STAUBER. K. G. Saur Verlag, München – Leipzig 2005. ISBN 3-598-73025-X. XI, 228 pp. EUR 124.95.

Si tratta di un'utile raccolta di testi epigrafici greci provenienti dall'Oriente oltre l'Eufrate, scelti per contenuto e importanza e commentati in maniera piuttosto concisa (sono incluse parecchie epigrafi di grande rilievo, quali per es. gli editti di Ashoka [201], i documenti relativi al culto dei re seleucidi [301–3] e agli agoni di Magnesia al Meandro [304–6], l'inno di Erodotto ad Apollo [402], la lettera di Artabanos alla città di Susa [407], la lettera, rispettivamente a Anasarco e agli abitanti di Ikaros [Failaka, 604], gli stupendi monumenti iscritti del re sassanide Shapur [802–3] con più appendici documentarie relative alle sue vittorie, soprattutto sull'imperatore Valeriano). Il progetto fu iniziato da Merkelbach insieme con Filippo Canali De Rossi, tuttavia dopo varie vicende i compiti furono divisi così: Merkelbach stesso con Josef Stauber avrebbe curato un volume commentato dei testi più interessanti, mentre Canali De Rossi si sarebbe assunto il dovere di produrre un repertorio completo di tutto il materiale. Quest'ultimo lavoro è uscito nel 2004 con il titolo *Iscrizioni dello Estremo Oriente Greco* (Inschriften gr. Städte aus Kleinasien 65, Bonn 2004). Siccome i due libri vanno ovviamente consultati insieme, in fin dei conti, nonostante la suddetta riorganizzazione degli impegni, non sarebbe stato più ragionevole far confluire i materiali in un unico volume?

Mika Kajava

ÉLODIE CAIRON: *Les épitaphes métriques hellénistiques du Péloponnèse à la Thessalie.* Hungarian Polis Studies 18. University of Debrecen, Budapest – Debrecen 2009. ISBN 978-963-473-284-6. 326 pp. EUR 29.

This corpus offers 101 Hellenistic verse epitaphs found from 12 areas of the European Greek world, Attica with 29 epigrams and Thessaly with 31 being the most prominent areas. Texts are arranged geographically following the general order of *IG*; however, the areas of *IG* X–XII are excluded. Cairon points out that another volume concentrating particularly on the islands would still be needed.

The introduction begins by relating the corpus to earlier verse inscription publications. Provenances of the stones and the time span of the texts are reviewed – the Hellenistic period is here limited between the death of Alexander the Great and the publication of the *Garland of Philip* (ca. 40–50 CE). The section on to whom the texts were written to is highly interesting, as is discussion on rites, beliefs, thoughts and sentiments in the epitaphs as well. By examining the poetics of the metric epitaphs and their standing among the funerary epigrams, these verse inscriptions are set in a larger context, and recent research of the epigram genre is taken into account. The metrics of these epigrams are examined concisely but carefully.

The editions are provided with lemmata, critical apparatuses, translations and commentaries, all given in French. Two new readings are offered: no. 12 and no. 16, the first one read from a photograph that is also printed in the book. Otherwise there are no photographs. Descriptions of stones vary from concise to longer descriptions. Lists of previous editions are usefully extensive. Texts are given according to verses, but the order of the lines in stone is im-

plied when it differs from the verse division. Supplementations are given cautiously: if grounds for previous supplementations are inadequate, they are given in the critical apparatus instead, which is a well-advised decision. The fact that translations of the epigrams are offered is commendable. However, extremely fragmentary texts are not translated here: this I find reasonable, for only conjectural suggestions can be made if the text is badly corrupted. The concordances and indices are creditable. The indices are arranged thematically: names; nations and places; divinities, heroes and authors; notable Greek words; the *incipit*. These are extensive and all very useful for fellow scholars. All in all, the corpus is meticulously compiled.

In addition to the texts themselves, the discussion Cairon offers in her introduction is of great interest. While commentaries on each epigram give the background information and analysis for individual texts, the examination of the inscription type on a more general level is important as well.

Hellenistic views on death and the afterlife are visible in verse inscriptions, as well as expressions of grief and longing of those left behind. These themes are also visible in the fictive funerary epigrams of the *Greek Anthology*; this provides material for examining the development of the genre. Cairon thus raises the question of why the Hellenistic period was so apt for this development. Was it due to professional poets writing epitaphs, and/or perhaps the influence given by anthologies and verse inscription collections? This is an important question as well: as Cairon states, the connection between the verse inscriptions and the literary epigrams is crucial, for the influence between them is reciprocal.

In the scholarship on inscribed poetry, there have been considerable insufficiencies; this study does its part towards amending the situation. Collecting the Hellenistic epitaphs in one book with updated information makes the texts easily accessible for scholars who need to consult them for further study. Commentaries and discussion on the context of these epitaphs helps us to understand them better. In addition to that, the study of verse inscription has more to offer: with the recent research on the Hellenistic epigram, interest towards the epigraphic tradition has increased. It now seems indispensable to be acquainted with the verse inscriptions in order to fully understand the so-called book epigram. Hence this book makes a valuable contribution not only to epigraphic study, but to the multifaceted discussion of the entire epigram tradition as well.

*Saara Kauppinen*

*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*. Text, Translation, and Commentary by ALISON E. COOLEY. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2009. ISBN 978-0-521-84152-8 (hb), 978-0-521-60128-3 (pb). XVII, 317 pp. GBP 45, USD 90 (hb); GBP 16.99, USD 29.99 (pb).

This volume is dedicated to one of the most remarkable documents surviving from the Ancient World. Being nothing less than the political testament (in first-person discourse) of arguably one of the most important statesmen of the entire pre-modern era, the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* (henceforth *RGDA*) not only constitutes a typological *unicum*, it is a rare example of an epigraphically transmitted text of that world which is substantial, varied and complex enough to make it comparable to any of the literary works of the period in which it was conceived. Surviving in the form of three more or less fragmentary copies of the long lost original – which