

sented with all the conventional bracketing. At any rate, the whole section is laudably clear and well-organized. The text is laid out in such a fashion that the Latin original is always found on the left page of every pair of facing pages, and the Greek version on the opposite side. Each textual unit (the heading, a numbered chapter [nos. 1–35] or the appendix) is accompanied by the English translation, positioned immediately beneath it.

The longest main section of the book, *Commentary* (pp. 102–278), is a treasure trove of facts and intriguing observations – ranging from details concerning lettering size to all kinds of comments clarifying specific historical contexts and evoking the bigger pictures. The subject matters discussed are identified and brought forth by means of bold *lemmata*, drawn both from the Latin text and the English translation. The commentary section is also rather lavishly illustrated, with clear black and white pictures; in particular, coins and art work associated with Augustus' reign are featured.

The commentary is followed by an *Appendix* (pp. 279–81), in which the author tabulates differences in the readings between her own text and the one found in Scheid's edition. The book concludes with a *Bibliography* (pp. 282–301), an *Index locorum* (pp. 302–4) and a very helpful *General index* (pp. 305–17).

*Kaj Sandberg*

JOHANNES KRAMER: *Vulgärlateinische Alltagsdokumente auf Papyri, Ostraka, Täfelchen und Inschriften*. Archiv für Papyrusforschung und verwandte Gebiete, Beiheft 23. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin 2007. ISBN 978-3-11-020224-3. 182 S. EUR 68.

This book contains Latin texts arranged in twelve chapters, each with an introduction, translation and commentary. The documents are chosen to illustrate the use of Vulgar Latin in different contexts. Apart from the last chapter, all contain original ancient documents – a wise decision motivated by the specific problems connected with the linguistic form of manuscript texts. Chapters one to four consist of letters (of unknown provenance, from Vindolanda, from Egypt and from North Africa, respectively). Item five is a list of soldiers' names on papyrus, number six presents graffiti from Pompeii, and seven and eight are funerary inscriptions. The following three chapters contain texts that illustrate the contact of Latin with Greek. Of these, number nine is a papyrus document about the sale of a slave girl (written partly in Greek characters), number ten is a Latin translation of a fable by Babrios, and number 11 a Latin-Greek vocabulary. Finally, number 12 is an excerpt from the *Appendix Probi*. Chronologically, the texts span from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to c. AD 600 (and beyond, if we consider the 7<sup>th</sup> century manuscript that contains the *Appendix Probi*). The volume begins with an introduction to the research on Vulgar Latin and its typical characteristics. In the beginning, there is also a list of proposed new readings. Each text has a thorough introduction (with references to essential literature), the text together with a very useful reproduction of the document, as well as a lengthy commentary that concentrates on linguistic matters. Kramer's aim has been to publish a selection of well-preserved Vulgar Latin texts with ample documentation concerning the nature and context of each text.

The commentary mostly draws on previous scholarship, predominantly produced by J. N. Adams, but often also by Kramer himself, most notably in the case of No. 7 (= *CIL* XIII

7645), No. 10 (= *P. Amh.* II 26), and No. 11 (= *P. Louvre Eg. inv.* 2329). Kramer sometimes proposes new readings and interpretations and often these are good. For example, Kramer offers the best solution so far given for the mysterious last sentence of *P. Mich.* 471 (p. 74). I think he is likely to be right if we take the text as it stands. The other option is to think that there is simply a mistake here, probably produced by the scribe. One place where Kramer offers a new reading is in No. 2 (*tab. Vindol.* II 310). On line eight (p. 55), he reads *Quotum*, and supports this with a Gallic name attested in La Graufesenque (Qutos). Furthermore, his interpretation of the problematic lines 11–14 of this tablet (p. 57) is better than the one in the original edition where the problem posed by the syntax is not addressed. In his commentary on No. 4 (*O. Bu Njem* 73, 77 and 79) Kramer offers detailed information on the foreign (Punic and Libyan) elements in the Bu Njem ostraca. Regarding No. 5 (*SB XXII* 15638, a list of soldiers' names), he suggests Egyptian influence in the devoicing of voiced stops, e.g., in the name *Petuceus* (= *Peducaeus*), with a reference to the fact that Coptic has no /b/, /d/ or /g/.

Curiously, the texts grouped in number six, the graffiti from Pompeii, seem to offer the least "Vulgar" linguistic material. Apart from a couple of ubiquitous misspellings (e.g., *Aephebus* for *Ephebus*, and *coponam* for *cauponam*) the language is mostly standard. What is vulgar is the topic rather than the language (e.g., a prostitute's advertisement).

Chapter 12, on the *Appendix Probi* (included as the only manuscript witness because of its importance) contains a good introduction to the manuscript where this intriguing document has been preserved. Probably because of special signs, the font has been changed in a considerable part of the Latin text resulting in an awkward appearance (the same thing happens sporadically elsewhere in the book, too).

As with most treatments on similar matters, the linguistic commentary presupposes the existence of "Vulgar Latin". This somewhat old-fashioned approach can, arguably, be justified by the long tradition of Vulgar Latin studies. For a scholar working on linguistic variation and change in Latin this volume does not offer much new information but, on the other hand, new information is not expected in a volume such as this. The aim has been to make this area of Latin studies more widely known and to offer a collection where those interested in the development of the Latin language can easily find important original documents accompanied by full linguistic commentaries and guidance to further literature. The volume undoubtedly serves this purpose very well.

*Hilla Halla-aho*

*Uchi Maius 2. Collana diretta da Mustapha Khanoussi e Attilio Mastino. Le iscrizioni.* A cura di ANTONIO IBBA. Con la collaborazione di MOHAMED ABID – ZEÏNEB BENZINA BEN ABDALLAH – CECILIA CAZZONA – PAOLA RUGGERI – DANIELA SANNA – RITA SANNA – ESMERALDA UGHI. Disegni di SALVATORE GANGA. Pubblicazioni del Centro di studi interdisciplinari sulle province romane dell'Università degli Studi di Sassari. Editrice Democratica Sarda, Sassari 2006. ISBN 88-6025-024-2. 754 pp. EUR 95.

*Semper aliquid novi Africa affert.* This well-known maxim came to my mind when I opened this truly colossal collection of Uchitan inscriptions the crop of which has greatly increased due to the archaeological excavations that have been carried out in Uchi Maius by the Tunisian