

by historiographers or the individuals behind the powers of Thebes, Athens and Sparta, the monograph is doubtless a valuable read – although chances are they will already have read the essays in article form.

*Elina M. Salminen*

JERZY LINDERSKI: *Roman Questions II. Selected Papers*. Heidelberger Althistorische Beiträge und Epigraphische Studien, Band 44. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2007. XI, 726 pp. ISBN 978-3-515-08134-4. EUR 100.

As a young student, I had the habit of now and then spending a few hours at the section of the Helsinki University library with the newly arrived classical journals, browsing through all of them. Fairly soon I observed that there seemed to be a number of scholars whose work was always interesting and instructive irrespective of the subject, and I picked up the habit of making a copy of whatever these scholars published. One of them was Professor Linderski, whose papers were – and of course still are – characterized not only by an erudition hardly attainable by normal mortals but also by an irresistible style of English. It would thus be a truism to say that the publication of vol. II of Linderski's *Roman Questions* is an event of great significance.

Vol. I, covering the years 1958–1993, was published in 1995. This volume covers the following years up till 2006, but there are also some contributions from before 1995, most of them, as far as I can see, reviews. The numbering of the contributions stops at 50, but some of them have subsections (in these cases, too, we seem to be dealing mainly with reviews). In vol. I, there was much on *comitia*, divination and augural law, but in this volume it is harder to discern a clear focus; and there is perhaps a little less on Varro. Of course there is still much on Roman Republican history and on the interpretation of our sources for it, but I seem to be able to discern a certain shift towards things imperial and epigraphy. In fact, inscriptions play quite a considerable role in this volume (note the index of inscriptions p. 685ff.); one can only admire the way Professor Linderski deals with, e.g., the inscription from Urbino, *CIL* XI 6063 (p. 242ff.), once again showing that philology has the right to, and in fact must claim a significant role also in the interpretation of inscriptions of historical interest, a field dominated by historians (cf., by the way, p. 175 on the 'modern divorce of history from philology').

In my review of vol. I in *Arctos* 30 (1996) 264ff., I tried to describe the Linderskian style of writing a scholarly paper, observing especially that many papers seem to be characterized by a "ring composition", by which I meant that a problem is introduced in the beginning and furnished with a solution in the end (this normally meaning that further discussion of that particular problem is not needed), but that, in between, the discussion seems to lapse to other subjects. I explained this by observing that in investigating a problem Professor Linderski often encounters further problems (often unnoticed by previous scholars), e.g., in the text of authors adduced to elucidate the initial problem, and that he prefers to deal with these new problems before coming back to the question asked initially. Unless I am completely mistaken, there is perhaps a bit less of this here (but note, e.g., some of the papers in Section I, 'Historia et Ius'); but the style is in any case still the same. Note, e.g., p. 255, 'Herodian was writing a romance – but on the canvas of history'; or p. 515, 'The opening chapter ... combines the shallowness of American politology with the ponderous weight of German idiom' (followed by an

absolutely delicious quotation of sociological nonsense from the book under review); or p. 522, 'Frequently the book draws its information from the tepid tap of recent distillations, and not from the spring of the original masters' (note also, e.g., the observation on *corruptelae*, p. 307).

All papers reproduced here have been furnished with addenda inserted in the text within brackets; in the end (p. 609ff.), there are about 30 pages of *addenda et corrigenda* to papers in vol. I. The volume is rounded off by very detailed indexes. This is a great book which should be found in every respectable library.

*Olli Salomies*

*A Companion to the Roman Republic*. Edited by NATHAN ROSENSTEIN – ROBERT MORSTEIN-MARX. Blackwell Publishing, Carlton 2008. ISBN 978-4051-0217-9. XXX, 737 pp. GBP 100.

A few years ago, I noted that the Republic is noticeably less covered than the Empire when it comes to scholarly works offering broad and comprehensive presentations of individual periods in Roman history (*Arctos* 38 [2004] 260). The relative dearth of such publications is no longer obvious. After the book edited by Harriet Flower (*The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic*, Cambridge 2004) this is the second multi-authored volume on the Roman Republic, of the now current companion format, to have been released in the world's most accessible language within a time-span of just a few years.

Like its predecessor, this is an anthology by an international team of experts, drawn mostly but not exclusively from the Anglosphere. The book is aimed primarily at a readership consisting of undergraduate and graduate students (p. xxviii), but in providing authoritative and up-to-date overviews of many central themes it constitutes essential reading for anyone professionally associated with its subject. There is a strong emphasis on methodology, more specifically, on how Roman republican history is currently being studied. Recent developments which are highlighted both explicitly and through frequent references include both the ongoing archaeological study of the Apennine peninsula and the increasingly sophisticated approaches to textual sources. Another ubiquitous objective is, evidently, that of introducing students to the many debates currently going on.

The volume is made up of twenty-nine numbered chapters distributed across eight sections. Part I, *Introductory*, offers five chapters on the evidentiary basis for republican studies, a material which is constituted of written texts as well as of physical remains. In the first chapter, "Methods, Models, and Historiography" (pp. 3–28), Martin Jehne deals with the fundamental conceptual frameworks and the many big issues in a highly readable discussion, which effectively provides an overview of all of the research history from Mommsen to the present day. This discussion is followed by two very good presentations of central source categories: "Literary Sources" by Edward Bispham (pp. 29–50) and "Epigraphy and Numismatics" by Mark Pobjoy (pp. 51–80). In the fourth chapter the focus is shifted to the mute sources. "The Topography and Archaeology of Republican Rome", a magisterial account by Mario Torelli (pp. 81–101), is followed by another very valuable overview by Simon Stoddart, "The Physical Geography and Environment of Republican Italy" (pp. 102–21).

In the second part, appropriately entitled *Narrative*, four chapters together provide a contiguous narrative of the political and military history of Rome from the founding of the