

ANCIENT STUDIES IN POLAND

RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST

B. Bravo, M. Węcowski, E. Wipszycka, A. Wolicki, *Historia starożytnych Greków*, tom. II. *Okres klasyczny* [*History of Ancient Greeks*, vol. 2: *Classical Period*], Warszawa: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego 2009; 768 pp.; pb; maps and plates; ISBN: 978-83-235-0412-2. In Polish.

This academic course book encompasses the history of Classical Greece (starting from the 60s of the 5th century B.C. until the death of Philip II of Macedonia) and it is a continuation of the first volume of *Historia starożytnych Greków* [*History of Ancient Greeks*], written by Benedetto Bravo and Ewa Wipszycka-Bravo, published twenty years ago. That book questioned the convention of an impersonal lecture packed with well-established truths and offered a presentation of different directions of academic discourse, as well as the authors' own judgments on the discussed events instead. As the number of authors involved in the work on the second volume is greater, the reader is offered a wider choice of different approaches to historical processes and is therefore invited to start a dialogue with the authors. The book is organized chronologically, as well as according to specific topics touching upon Greek history that take into consideration the most recent research results. The authors put special emphasis on the evaluation of usefulness of different categories of historic sources for the reconstruction of ancient events in order to prepare the reader for further individual research.

D. Brodka, *Ammianus Marcellinus. Studien zum Geschichtsdenken im vierten Jahrhundert n. Chr.* (Electrum 17), Kraków: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego 2010; 166 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-233-2845-2. In German.

The book is devoted to the historical writings of Ammianus Marcellinus. Brodka perceives the historical technique of Ammianus Marcellinus through the

prism of the previous literary assumptions on which both Greek and Roman writings were based, and also draws our attention to the vision of the future created by Marcellinus in his *Res gestae*. In addition, the author attempts to explain some specific matters of metaphysical and religious character in Marcellinus's text. Brodka implies that the ancient historian presents all historical events as resulting from divine interference and the activity of an unpersonified superior force (*fatum*). Hence, in Ammianus Marcellinus's work one can spot characteristic elements that correspond to the concepts of writing created and used by classical historiographers.

E. Dąbrowa, *The Hasmoneans and their State. A Study in History, Ideology, and Institutions* (Electrum 16), Kraków: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego 2009; 269 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-233-2837-7. In English.

The book is aimed at presenting a broad spectrum of political and social issues in Judea under Hasmonean rule. The author starts with the reconstruction of the events of 167–63 B.C., and then discusses different institutions responsible for the functioning of the state. He pays special attention to the propaganda, which is understood as glorifying the ruler himself and the whole dynasty: the most significant element of this propaganda was symbolic representations on coins. Separate chapters are devoted by the author to the state and society. Within these he discusses local administration, the finances, the army and the social issues.

E. Dąbrowa (ed.), *Orbis Parthicus. Studies in Memory of Professor Józef Wolski* (Electrum 15), Kraków: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego 2009; 268 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-233-2826-1. In English, German and Italian.

Contents include: J. Wiesehöfer, 'Nouruz in Persepolis? Eine Residenz, das Neujahrsfest und eine Theorie'; J. Gaslain, 'A propos d'Arsace I^{er}'; E. Dąbrowa, 'Mithradates I and the Beginning of the Ruler-Cult in Parthia'; C. Lippolis, 'Notes on the Iranian Traditions in the Architecture of Parthian Nisa'; R. Menegazzi, 'La figura del cavaliere nella coroplastica di Seleucia al Tigri'; F. Muccioli, 'Il problema del culto del sovrano nella regalità arsacide: appunti per una discussione'; G.F. Assar, 'Some Important Seleucid and Parthian Dates in the Babylonian Goal-Year Texts'; G.F. Assar, 'Artabanus of Trogus Pompeius' 41st Prologue'; A.M. Simonetta, 'The Coinage of the So-Called Parthian "Dark Age" Revisited'; G.F. Assar, 'Some Remarks on the Chronology and Coinage of the Parthian "Dark Age"'; G. Traina, 'Note in margine alla battaglia di Carre'; U. Hartmann, 'Ein Arsakide im Heer des Septimius Severus. Überlegungen zu den Hintergründen des zweiten Partherkrieges'.

E. Dąbrowa, M. Dzielska, M. Salamon, S. Sprawski (eds), *Hortus Historiae. Księga Pamiątkowa ku czci Profesora Józefa Wolskiego w setną rocznicę urodzin* [*Hortus Historiae. Studies in Honour of Professor Józef Wolski on the 100th Anniversary of His Birthdate*], Kraków: Historia Jagiellonica 2010; 879 pp.; hb; ISBN 978-83-62261-01-7. In Polish, English, French and German.

Contents include: E. Dąbrowa, M. Salamon, 'Bibliografia publikacji profesora Józefa Wolskiego (1937–2008)' ['Bibliography of Professor Józef Wolski's Publications']; M. Stępień, 'Działalność wywiadowcza i szpiegowska w czasach Hammurabiego' ['Intelligence and Spying Service in the Time of Hammu-rabi']; S. Zawadzki, 'Przyczynek do okoliczności upadku państwa nowobabilońskiego w świetle nowych danych o realizacji dekretu Nabonida (*Kronika Nabonida-Cyrusa* col. III 8–12)' ['Contribution to the Circumstances of the Fall of the Neo-Babylonian Empire in Light of New Data concerning the Realization of the Nabonidus Edict (*The Nabonidus-Cyrus Chronicle* col. III 8–12)']; S. Sprawski, 'Medismos Aleksandra I Filhellena' ['*Medismos* of Alexander I Filhellenos']; E. Papuci-Władyka, 'Krater Malarza Dinosu w zbiorze Instytutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego' ['The Red-Figure Calyx Crater of the Dinos Painter in the Collection of the Institute of Archaeology of Jagiellonian University']; J. Bodzek, 'Kilka uwag na temat monety Tissafernesza z kolekcji Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie' ['Several Remarks on the Tissaphernes' Coin from the Collection of the National Museum in Cracow']; R.S. Wójcikowski, 'Konnica irańska w okresie późnoachemidzkim' ['The Iranian Cavalry in the Late Achaemenid Period']; E. Lipiński, 'A Fire-Temple in Idumaea'; K. Nawotka, 'Miletus and Alexander the Great'; M. Winiarczyk, 'Kraj Musikanosa w Indiach' ['The State of Musikanos in India']; M. Wolny, 'Controversies Surrounding Pyrrhus's birthdate'; T. Grabowski, 'Związek Etolski w polityce greckiej pierwszych Ptolemeuszów' ['The Aetolian League in the Politics of the First Ptolemies']; N. Sekunda, 'The Aribazoi: A Family in Seleucid Service'; M.J. Olbrycht, 'Mithradates I of Parthia and His Conquests up to 141 B.C.'; E. Dąbrowa, 'Hellenistyczne elementy partyjskiej monarchii' ['Hellenistic Elements of the Parthian Statehood']; M. Piegdoń, 'Legal and Administrative Situation of Northern Italy and Its Citizens under the Rule of the Roman Republic from the 3rd to the 1st Century B.C. (until the *Bellum Sociale*)'; J. Korpanty, 'Polityk rzymski w dialogu Cyserona *De re publica*, [A Roman Politician in Cicero's Dialogue *De re publica*]', N. Rogosz, 'The Secrecy Matter of M. Iunius Brutus's and C. Cassius's Conspiracy'; M. Kokoszko, 'Kilka słów o occie, który podano Chrystusowi na krzyżu' ['A Few Words on the Vinegar that Christ was Given on the Cross']; Z.J. Kapera, 'Can We Identify the *anthypathos* Sergius Paulus (Acts 13,7)'; J. Ciecieląg, 'Konwersja królewskiego domu Adiabene na judaizm' ['Conversion of the Adiabene Royal House to Judaism']; W. Boruch, 'Propaganda dynastyczna cesarza Klaudiusza (wybrane aspekty)' ['Emperor Claudius' dynastic propaganda (selected aspects)']; A. Łukaszewicz, 'The Parthian Campaign of Trajan and the "Signs" of the Beast in the Apocalypse';

I. Łuć, 'Hadrian's Military Coins. The Types COHORTES PRAETORIAE, EXERCITVS and DISCIPLINA AVGVSTI'; J. Rzepka, 'Hadrian and Pausanias's Definition of Greek *polis*'; K. Balbuza, 'AVGVSTA IN AETERNITATE. Motyw wieczności w mennictwie konsekracyjnym Antoninusa Piusa ku czci Faustyny Starszej' ['AVGVSTA IN AETERNITATE. The Motif of Eternity in the Consecration Coinage of Antoninus Pius in Honour of Faustine the Elder']; M. Pawlak, 'Z Messene do Rzymu. Ti. Claudius Saithidas i jego rodzina' ['From Messene to Rome. Ti. Claudius Saithidas and His Family']; L. Mrozewicz, 'Palaeographica Novensia: *Litterae lapidariae* aus einem römischen Legionslager'; P. Wojciechowski, '*Collegia funeraticia*: funkcje pogrzebowe rzymskich stowarzyszeń „ubogich”' ['*Collegia funeraticia*: The Funereal Functions of the Roman Associations of 'the Poor Men']; J. Prostko-Prostyński, 'Aruestan: problem lokalizacji' ['Aruestan: The Problem of Its Location']; A. Kluczek, 'Images programmées et rhétorique visuelle. Les Romains et les Perses au III^e siècle apr. J.-C.'; M. Gawlikowski, 'Odainat of Palmyra between Rome and Persia'; W. Kaczanowicz, 'Several Remarks on Ideas Expressed on the Reverse of Coins of Empress Salonina'; R. Suski, 'How Severely Did Claudius II Have to Defeat the Goths to become Gothicus Maximus? New COGNOMINA EX VIRTUTE in the 3rd and 4th Centuries'; J. Kolendo, 'O kilku cechach warsztatu historycznego Deksipposa' ['Remarks on Some Characteristics of Deksippos's History']; P. Janiszewski, 'Dobro jako „przypadłość” Boga i Szatan jako „przypadłość” materii w *Prośbie za chrześcijanami* Atenagorasa' ['Goodness as "an Attribute" of God and Satan as "an Attribute" of Matter in Athenagoras' *Supplication for the Christians*']; R. Wiśniewski, 'Lucilla i relikwie' ['Lucilla and relics']; S. Stabryła, 'Historia rzymska w poezji Prudentiusza' ['Roman History in Prudentius's Poetry']; M. Salamon, 'Arsakios, Attys i tradycja historyczna o wygnaniu Jana Chryzostoma' ['Arsakios, Atticus and the Historical Tradition Relating to the Banishment of John Chrisostom']; J. Styka, 'Późnoantyczna satyra poetycka w świetle listów Sydoniusza Apollinarisa' ['The Roman Poetic Satire in Late Antiquity in Light of the Letters of Sydonius Apollinaris']; S. Olszaniec, 'Powstanie i rozwój terytorialnych prefektur praetorio w okresie późnego Cesarstwa Rzymskiego – zarys problematyki' ['An Overview of the Emergence and Development of Territorial Praetorian Prefectures in the Late Roman Empire']; M. Stachura, 'Barbarzyńcy w ustawodawstwie późnego Cesarstwa Rzymskiego' ['Barbarians in the Legislation of the Late Roman Empire']; K. Twardowska, 'Religious Views of the Empress Athenais Eudocia'; K. Kosiński, 'The Emperor Zeno's Church Donations'; M.J. Leszka, 'Dzieje Longina, brata cesarza Zenona' ['The History of Longin, Emperor Zeno's Brother']; P. Filipczak, 'Julian, prefekt Konstantynopola (491 r.)' ['Julianus, the Prefect of Constantinople (A.D. 491)']; J. Wiewiorowski, 'Zakres terytorialny jurysdykcji *praetor Iustinianus Thraciae*' ['The Territorial Range of the Jurisdiction of *praetor Iustinianus Thraciae*']; S. Turlej, 'Bałkany w cieniu wojen Justyniana? Znaczenie relacji Prokopiusza' ['The Balkans in the Shadow of Justinian's Wars? The Importance of Procopius's Narrative']; M. Dzielska, 'Podróż filozofów późnoplatońskich do Persji.

Kilka uwag o jej motywach' [The Journey of Late Platonic Philosophers to Persia. Some Remarks on Its Motives']; T. Polański, 'The Cycles of Childhood and Miracles in Saint Sergius' Church of Gaza in the *Ecphrasis* of Choricus'; M. Wilczyński, 'Miro – król pobożny, lecz nieszczęśliwy' ['Miro – A Devout but Unhappy King']; K. Maciuszak, 'Historyczne nazwy Morza Kaspijskiego' ['Historic Names of the Caspian Sea']; A. Kompa, 'Pamięć najdawniejszej przeszłości w średniobizantyńskich źródłach konstantynopolińskich' ['Memory of the Distant Past in Constantinopolitan Sources of the Middle Byzantine Period']; J. Bonarek, '*Pers* w Konstantynopolu. Z dziejów relacji bizantyńsko-tureckich w drugiej połowie XII wieku' ['A Persian in Constantinople. On the History of Byzantine-Turkish Relations in the Second Half of the 12th Century']; M. Kłagisz, '*Kolossalne* bałwany w Bamian – szkic historyczny' ['The Monumental Bamiyan Statues – A Historical Outline']; M. Rokosz, '„Dziw najprzedniejszy w świecie, ten kamień”. O obelisku watykańskim' [“The Stone is the World's Most Magnificent Wonder”. On the Vatican Obelisk']; J. Śliwa, 'Piotr Umiński (1830–1906) i jego dar dla Gabinetu Archeologicznego Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego' ['Piotr Umiński (1830–1906) and His Donation to the Archaeological Room of the Jagiellonian University'].

T. Derda, *P. Bodmer I Recto: A Land List from the Panopolite Nome in Upper Egypt (after 213/4 AD)* (Journal of Juristic Papyrology. Supplements 14), Warszawa: Warszawskie Towarzystwo Naukowe 2010, 200 pp.; hb; ISBN: 9788392591931. In English.

Within the framework of the *Journal of Juristic Papyrology* Supplement's series a number of works concerning papyrology have been presented. In the present book Derda deals with the analysis of the document related to Panopolis in Upper Egypt. In its collection Bibliotheca Bodmeriana possesses a papyrus that contains verso the Books V and VI of Homer's *Iliad* (published by Victor Martin, *Papyrus Bodmer I. Homère, Iliade chants 5 et 6*, Cologny-Genève 1954). Derda published the same papyrus written originally *recto* (the copy of the *Iliad* was made subsequently). Due to the condition and the inner structure of the document it is difficult to establish precisely the character of the papyrus or to determine whether this character was identical in all sections. The preserved fragments of *P. Bodmer 1 recto* indicate that the papyrus was not a land register *sensu stricto*, although it contains some elements typical of documents of this kind.

P. Dyczek, (ed.), *Novensia*, vol. 20, Warszawa: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego 2010; 274 pp.; pb; ISSN: 0860-5777. In English, Italian and Polish.

Another volume published by Warsaw University Centre for Archaeological Research, devoted to the results of the archaeological excavations of the Roman

camp in Novae, in today's Bulgaria. Contents include: I. Modrzewska-Pianetti, 'Un nuovo ritrovamento di anfora nel sito lagunare Veneziano: Chiesa Bruciate'; I. Modrzewska-Pianetti, F. Pianetti, 'Note sul clima della laguna di Venezia'; G. Tomaszewska, 'Osadnictwo wiejskie w północno-wschodniej Italii od IV w. do połowy VI w. [Rural Settlement in Northeast Italia from the 4th Century to the mid 6th Century A.D.]'; P. Dyczek, 'Hypnos from Risinium (Montenegro)'; T. Herbich, 'Geofizyczne badania w Risan w czasie kampanii w 2008 roku [Geophysical Research in Risan during the 2008 Campaign]'; T. Kowal, 'Skupisko amfor odkryte w sondażu 2/2007 na odcinku IV [The Cluster of Amphoras Discovered in the Probe 2/2007 on the Stretch IV]'; M. Baranowski, M. Daszkiewicz, 'Macroscopic Description and Laboratory Analysis of Twelve Pottery Fragments from Novae'; P. Dyczek, 'Ceramika typu Lower Danube Kaolin Wares (LDKW). Dystrybucja, datowanie, funkcja, typologia, geneza, miejsca produkcji' ['Distribution, Dating, Function, Typology, Genesis, Places of Production of the Lower Danube Kaolin Wares (LDKW)']; A. Rowińska, 'Ceramika ręcznie lepiona. Tanais 1999–2005' ['Handmade Ceramics. Tanais 1999–2005']; M. Lemke, 'Stone Projectiles from Novae'; S. Modzelewski, 'The *lorica segmentata* Finds from the Headquarters Building at Novae'; E. Genčeva, 'Miasta rzymskie i późnoantyczne w Mezji i Tracji' ['Late Roman Towns in Moesia and Thrace'].

P. Filipczak, *Bunty i niepokoje w miastach wczesnego Bizancjum (IV wiek n.e.)*, [*Rebellions and Riots in Towns of Early Byzantium (4th century A.D.)*] (Byzantina Lodziensia 12), Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego 2009; 236 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-7525-339-9. In Polish.

The book is concerned with a significant period in the history of Byzantium when different kinds of political and social processes happened that are supposed to have consolidated the new political entity arising from Greek and Roman antiquity. It mainly touches upon the rebellions and riots in the towns of early Byzantium. Filipczak explains the methods and possibilities of keeping and restoring law and order by the Byzantine authorities. A great deal of attention is paid to the army, which was a useful tool to put down all the rebellions. One can find here the typology of the rebellions together with their causes. The author's research is based on a wide variety of sources, including literary texts.

A. Gillmeister, *Strażnicy ksiąg sybillińskich. Collegium viri sacris faciundis w rzymskiej religii publicznej* [*The Guardians of Sibilline Books. Collegium viri sacris faciundis in the Roman Religion*], Zielona Góra: Uniwersytet Zielonogórski 2009; 213 pp.; hb; ISBN: 978-83-7481-261-0. In Polish.

The main issue undertaken in Gillmeister's book is the activity of *collegium decemviri sacris faciundis* depicted as one of the elements of the Roman public

religion. The author highlights the problem of a lack of thorough analysis of *decemviri* activity, which implies that hitherto prevailing studies on this subject have been based on stereotypes originating from the old-fashioned concepts of G. Bloch and G. Wissowa. These scholars have introduced a distinction between *ritus patrius* (under the responsibility of *pontifices* and *augures*) and *ritus Graecus*, which was an artificially created entity embedded in the Roman religious tradition. The major question that Gillmeister tries to handle is whether the *pontifices* supervised foreign or home creeds. The author withdraws the hitherto prevailing statements that depict the collegium almost as an outpost of Hellenization of the Roman religion. He claims that associating members of the *collegium* with the supervision of foreign cults is not right. A striking exception is the case of Kybele, which, however, does not forejudge the specialization of the *collegium*.

T. Grabowski, *Ostatni triumf Ptolemeusza. Czwarta wojna syryjska (221–217 p.n.e.)* [*The Last Triumph of the Ptolemies. The Fourth Syrian War (221–217 B.C.)*], Kraków: Historia Iagiellonica 2010 (Mediterraneum 7); 327 pp.; hb; summary in English; ISBN: 978-83-62261-17-8. In Polish.

The book is an attempt to present in detail the war between Egypt and Syria conducted in the years 221–217 B.C. It is discussed in the wider context of the conflict between Ptolemies and Seleucids after the death of Alexander the Great. The book is divided into four chapters. In the first, the author opens with a discussion of the preserved evidence focusing on Polybius and his sources. The second chapter covers the parties of the conflict: Grabowski depicts the geographic range of both Syria and Egypt, their administration, social issues and military potential. The third chapter is devoted to the origin of the conflict and the events that preceded the Fourth Syrian War. The last chapter refers to the war itself. Grabowski examines the actions leading to the Battle of Raphia and reconstructs its stages and consequences. The author closes the book with his conclusions.

M. Jaczynowska, M. Pawlak, *Starożytny Rzym* [*Ancient Rome*], Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Trio 2008; 493 pp.; pb; ISBN 978-83-7436-177. In Polish.

An academic course book written by two authors representing different generations of scholars. The material covering Roman history is presented in chronological order. The book starts with a description of natural conditions of ancient Italy. Next, the authors move on to the origins of Rome, presented against the background of the Etruscan civilization. The final chapter of the book extends until the reign of the emperor Justinian so as to depict the changing cultural paradigms, leading to the birth of a new epoch. Apart from political matters, the book also emphasizes the role of religion and imperial propaganda.

D. Janiszewska, *Wojna domowa w Rzymie w latach 193-197* [*Roman Civil War of 193-197*], Poznań 2010: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie; 231 pp.; pb; summary in English; ISBN 978-83-7177-690-8. In Polish.

The book encompasses the Roman civil war (A.D. 193-197), which resulted in the elimination of the political rivals of Septimius Severus and consolidation of his power. The author has adopted a new perspective of looking at the events, which, due to the ideological engagement of the Severus dynasty, were always presented from the point of view of the winner. Although Septimius Severus's rivals – Didius Julianus, Pescenius Niger and Clodius Albinus have been unfavourably depicted in historic sources, it is worth verifying this judgment with the help of relevant iconographic and epigraphic material. Thanks to the new perspective Janiszewska is able to evaluate objectively the chances of victory of each rival. The book emphasizes that Septimius Severus created necessary conditions for the development of a new ruling dynasty because he wanted to avoid being accused of usurping power. Apparently, in his ideology and self-creation he was inspired by the propaganda of his predecessors, a method that had been known since the times of Octavian August. The author claims that the brutal deeds of Septimius were absolutely necessary as they contributed to the stabilization of the Roman Empire before the crisis it faced in the 3rd century A.D.

A. Kluczek, *UNDIQUÉ VICTORES. Wizja rzymskiego władztwa nad światem w mennictwie złotego wieku Antoninów i doby kryzysu III wieku – studium porównawcze*, [*The Image of Roman Rule over the World in the Coinage of the Golden Age of the Antonine Dynasty and the Time of the 3rd Century Crisis – a Comparative Study*], Katowice 2009: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego; 460 pp.; hb; ISBN: 978-83-226-1795-3. In Polish.

The book is a thorough study of imperial propaganda and is based on the iconography and legends that are depicted on Roman coins. It is primarily aimed at analysing the propaganda records that depict the Roman idea of rule, visible in the coinage of Roman rulers. Two representative periods of the history of the Roman Empire have been chosen for the comparative study – the Golden Age of the Antonine dynasty (A.D. 96-192) and the crisis of the 3rd century (A.D. 235-284). Kluczek not only ponders the spatial range and the structure of the Roman world, but she also analyses the structure of the barbaric world and its relations with the Roman Empire. Hence, the emperors are portrayed from the perspective of their claims, whereas Roman rule over the world becomes a symbolic or a practical category. Coins and iconography provide material for the analysis of different forms of imperial propaganda in its official interpretation. From the images and inscriptions used in imperial coinage it is clear that the Romans believed it was war that made the world go round and that victory in war made the Romans the masters of the world, allowing them to call themselves *undique victores*.

H. Kowalski, P. Madejski (eds), *Terra, mare et homines II* (Res Historica 29), Lublin: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej 2010, 234 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-227-3177-2. In English, French, German and Italian.

Contents include: H. Kowalski, 'Tadeusz Łopozzko (1929–1994)'; L. Fezzi, 'Tadeusz Łopozzko studio so di Publio Clodio Pulcro: spunti sulla carestia del 57 a.C.'; K. Balbuza, 'Aeternitas – An Element of Emperor Trajan's Self-Representation (An Outline of the Problem)'; S. Ducin, 'The Development of Typology of Warships in the Greek and Roman World throughout the 8th to 1st Centuries B.C.'; A. Gillmeister, 'The Sibilline Books and the Gauls'; J. Jundziłł, 'Lamps on Roman Ships'; M. Kuryłowicz, 'Crimen artioris annonae'; W. Lengauer, 'Eros and Politics and Athens of the Fourth Century B.C.'; I. Łuć, 'The praefecti praetorio of the Julio-Claudian Dynasty'; P. Madejski, 'Pax Deorum?'; L. Mrozewicz, 'Damnatio memoriae in the Inscriptions from Novae (Moesia Inferior)'; R. Pankiewicz, 'Einige Bemerkungen zum sog. "Rieplschen Gesetz" am Beispiel des römischen Informations – und Nachrichtenwesens'; N. Rogosz, 'The Participation and Role of the Cesarians in the Attempt on C. Julius Cesar's Life (15 march 44)'; D. Słapek, 'L'Amphitheatre dans la ville romaine: "le nombril du monde" ou la peripherie?'; B. Stawowska-Jundziłł, 'Marine Iconography of Children's Epitaphs from Roman Catacombs'; W.J. Tatum, 'The Plebiscitum Atinium Once More'; E. Woźniak, 'The Attitude of Marcus Tullius Cicero to Greek Art'.

R. Kulesza, M. Stępień (eds), *Historia starożytna w Polsce. Informator [A Guide to Ancient Studies in Poland]*, (Akme. Studia Historica 5), Warszawa 2009: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego; 668 pp.; hb; ISBN 978-83-904596-9-1. In Polish.

The book aims at providing clear information about Polish researchers of ancient history and the directions of their studies. It covers not only historians of antiquity, but also those representatives of other related fields, such as archaeology, classical philology and art history. The work contains descriptions of research profiles of a number of research centres in Poland, as well as lists of selected publications of each of the scholars.

R. Kulesza, *Aleksander Wielki [Alexander the Great]*, Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Mada 2010, 231 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-89624-58-1. In Polish.

The present book presents a popularising approach to Alexander the Great's activity. It is aimed at pointing to a number of topics related to the life and activity of Alexander the Great. Kulesza puts emphasis on the attempt to reconstruct the evolution of the image of the king. He uses a wide range of sources and tries to harmonize them to each other. The author avoids radical judgments and by

making reference to a number of contemporary works he tries to take the middle road in his assessment and hypotheses. As a result the book is a cautious study of Alexander that is intended to popularize the contemporary knowledge of the great Macedonian.

A. Łajtar, J. van der Vliet, *Qasr Ibrim: The Greek and Coptic Inscriptions Published on Behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society* (Journal of Juristic Papyrology. Supplement 13) Warszawa 2010, 330 pp., 90 nbl; hb; ISBN: 978-83-9259-192-4.

The archaeological excavations in Egypt, carried out by the Egypt Exploration Society from 1963 onwards with the assistance of Polish researchers, resulted in the discovery of valuable epigraphic materials, which had to be published. This book contains the Greek and Coptic inscriptions that were brought to light during archaeological work at the site of Qasr Ibrim (Egyptian Nubia).

I.A. Łuć, *Excubiae principis. Geneza i zadania żołnierzy kohort pretoriańskich w starożytnym Rzymie* [*The Origin and Tasks of the Praetorian Cohorts in Ancient Rome*], Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie 2010, 226 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-7177-628-1. In Polish.

The present book deals with the origin and tasks of the Praetorian cohorts, a military formation that functioned as the guard of Roman emperors. On the one hand, Łuć focuses on strictly military issues, but on the other goes far beyond them and enters the arena of political events. He ponders the place of the Praetorian guard in the process of development of the administrative order under the reign of the Julio-Claudian dynasty.

Z. Nerczuk, *Miarą jest każdy z nas. Projekt zwolenników zmienności rzeczy w platońskim "Teajtecie" na tle myśli sofistycznej* [*Each of Us is a Unit of Measure. The Project of the Followers of Changeability in the Plato's Theaitet Against the Background of Sophistic Thought*], Toruń 2009, 208 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-231-2376-7. In Polish.

The book aims at analysing the problem of ancient sophistry focussing on the example of Plato's dialogue *Theaitet*. Nerczuk emphasizes that Greek sophistry encompasses two kinds of theses. Firstly, it is understood as a trend whose followers, including Socrates, introduced a radical change in the focus of philosophical interest, in which man and his world became the centre of philosophers' attention. Secondly, it is commonly known that views of different sophists do not form a consistent system, and what sophists are interested in the most is the practical element of the art of the word – namely, rhetoric and eristic.

The author begins with the presentation of the dialogue *Theaitet*, then moves on to the problems related to the reconstruction of the views of sophistry and Protagoras himself, and then points to the controversy of the message in *Theaitet* and implies some interpretative possibilities. Next, the author shows the place of the dialogue among all of Plato's works and presents its detailed interpretation against the background of other sophistic dialogues. Nerczuk presents the standpoint of the followers of changeability in *Theaitet* and undertakes the problem of the sophistic concept of language in the dialogue, pointing to contradictions and elements of anti-logic. One of the conclusions to be drawn is that the views of the followers of changeability, which can be ascribed to Protagoras with high probability, are no longer a set of random beliefs, but they make a systematic whole with complementary elements.

R. Sajkowski (ed.), *Studia z dziejów starożytnego Rzymu* [*Studies in the History of Ancient Rome*], Olsztyn 2007, 112 pp; pb; ISBN: 978-83-89151-79-7. In Polish. Summaries in English and Italian.

Contents include: M. Wolny, 'Próba przekupienia Gajusza Fabrycjusza podczas rokowań pokojowych z Pyrrusem po bitwie pod Herakleją (280 p.n.e.). Przyczynek do rozważań o korupcji wśród wyższych urzędników rzymskich' ['An Attempt to Bribe Gaius Fabricius during Peace Negotiations with Pyrrhus after the Battle of Heraclea (280 B.C.). Preliminary Remarks on Corruption among High-Ranking Roman Statesmen']; M. Wolny, 'Poselstwo Magona do Kartaginy w sprawie wynegocjowania nowych posiłków militarnych dla Hannibala w roku 215 p.n.e.' ['Magon's Legation to Carthago in Order Negotiate New Military Reinforcements for Hannibal in 215 B.C.']; G. Kotłowski, 'Początki władzy rzymskiej w Karii' ['The Beginning of Roman Rule in Caria']; P. Sawiński, 'Kilka uwag na temat charakteru władzy prokonsulów w okresie Republiki. *Imperium consulare* czy *proconsulare*?' ['A Few Remarks on the Power of the Proconsuls at the Time of the Republic. *Imperium consulare* or *proconsulare*?']; R. Sajkowski, 'Rola hymnów w kulcie Augusta' ['The Role of Hymns in the Cult of Augustus']; B. Stawowska-Jundziłł, 'Prospołeczne i aspołeczne tendencje wychowania w rodzinach chrześcijan w globalnym społeczeństwie cesarstwa rzymskiego I–IV wieku' ['Pro-Social and Non-Social Tendencies of Upbringing in Christian Families in the Global Society of the Roman Empire (1st–4th A.D.)']; A.R. Jurewicz, '*Mulier indotata*. Zarys problemu' ['*Mulier indotata* – the presentation of the problem']; A. Świętoń, '*De his qui militare non possunt*. O zakazie pełnienia służby wojskowej w późnym cesarstwie rzymskim (IV i V w n.e.) w świetle źródeł prawnych' ['*De his qui militare non possunt*. Concerning the Ban of the Military Service in the Late Roman Empire in Light of Legal Sources'].

R. Sajkowski, M. Wolny (eds), *Grecja – Kartagina – Rzym* (Z antycznego świata I) [*Greece – Carthago – Rome* (From the Ancient World, I)], Olsztyn: Pracownia Wydawnicza Elset 2009; 198 pp.; hb; summaries in English and French; ISBN: 978-83-61602-54-5. In Polish.

Contents include: K.T. Witczak, 'Stosunki etnolingwistyczne w starożytnym Epirze' ['Ethnolinguistic relations in the ancient Epirus']; G. Kotłowski, 'Identyfikacja nazw geograficznych w periplusie Hannon'a' ['The Identification of the Geographical Names in Hanno's Periplus']; M. Wolny, 'Pojedynek Pyrrusa z wojownikiem mamertyńskim (Plut., *Pyrrh.* 24, 4–6). Przyczynek do rozważań nad wizerunkiem władcy Epiru, zapamiętanym przez Plutarcha' ['Le duel de Pyrrhos avec un guerrier Mamertin (Plut., *Pyrrh.* 24, 4–6). Contribution à l'étude de image du souverain de l'Épire dans les souvenirs de Plutarque']; M. Wolny, 'Hannibal – dotychczasowe badania i dalsze perspektywy' ['Hannibal – Present Studies and Further Perspectives']; P. Matusiak, 'Alter Hannibal. Z problematyki badań nad obrazem Hannibala w literaturze antycznej' [*Alter Hannibal. The Image of Hannibal in Ancient Literature*']; S. Sharypkin, 'W sprawie motywów geograficznych w poezji rzymskiej epoki pryncypatu' ['On Geographical Motifs in Roman Poetry in the Age of the Principate']; R. Sajkowski, 'Sprawa Klutoriusza Priskusa 21 rok n.e.' ['Clutorius Priscus's Case (21 A.D.)']; D. Jędrzejczak, 'Wygnań filozofów za czasów Domicjana' ['The Expulsions of the Philosophers during Domitian's Reign']; J. Jundziłł, 'Rodzina jako środowisko wychowawcze w świetle powieści czasów rzymskich' ['The Family as an Education Environment in Light of Novels from Roman Times']; D. Janiszewska, 'Afrykańskie zaplecze Septymiusza Sewera w walce o władzę w latach 193–197' ['African Support of Septimius Severus in War from 193 to 197 A.D.']; B. Stawowska-Jundziłł, 'Senex Christianus. Ludzie w wieku 70 lat i powyżej w świetle łacińskich inskrypcji chrześcijan z Rzymu' [*Senex Christianus. People at the Age of 70 and Above in Light of the Latin Inscriptions of Roman Christians (3rd–4th AD)*']; A. Świętoń, 'Dowódcy wojskowi jako *patroni humiliores* w późnym Cesarstwie Rzymskim (na przykładzie mowy 47 Libaniasza i listów Abineusza)' ['Military Commanders as *patroni humiliores* in the Late Roman Empire in Light of Libanios's *Oratio* 47 and Abinnaeus' *Archive*'].

D. Słapek, *Sport i widowiska w świecie antycznym. Kompendium* [*A Compendium of Sport and Games in the Ancient World*], Warszawa: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego 2010, 800 pp.; hb; ISBN: 978-83-235-0618-8. In Polish.

Against the word *compendium* mentioned in the title, Słapek's book is a monumental work that covers a wide range of problems concerning sport events in Greece and Rome. The author defines sport as an autonomous object of ancient studies. The book consists of two parts. In the first one author discusses the

history of studies of ancient sport from 15th century till modern times, the evolution of the attitude of scholars to *ludi*, *circenses* and *munera gladiatoria*. Słapek points to the link between entertaining aspects of sport events and their genuine role, for instance, to serve the purpose of political propaganda. He pays special attention to the agonistic factor dominating in the Greek world. The second part takes up 650 pages is the heart of the book. It consists of entries connected with ancient sport in alphabetical order. Each of entry has an extensive bibliography. The text is complemented by numerous plates.

M. Stachura, *Wrogowie porządku rzymskiego* [*The Enemies of Public Order in Ancient Rome*], Kraków: Historia Iagiellonica 2010, 264 pp., hb; ISBN 978-83-6226-106-2. In Polish.

The book treats the inner threats to the social and legal order in the Roman Empire. The author investigates causes of these events and analyses the language of aggression directed against enemies of the Roman order. Stachura explains that people to whom Roman emperors referred by means of aggressive rhetoric in the laws they made were considered as enemies. In fact, such aggressive rhetoric was characteristic of the language of laws made in the period of late Antiquity. Apparently, the group of such enemies included heretics, pagan religions followers, barbarians, usurpers, as well as corrupt politicians and ordinary criminals. They all were stigmatized in a variety of ways by the legislator.

M. Stępień, *From the History of the State System in Mesopotamia – The Kingdom of The Third Dynasty of Ur* (Akme. Studia Historica 3) Warszawa: 2009; 117 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-904596-9-1.

Stępień's book is devoted to the development of the Sumerian state in Mesopotamia under the rule of the Third Dynasty of Ur. The book is the first part of the series of publications concerning the main states in Mesopotamia in the 3rd and 2nd millennium B.C. The author portrays the leading characters of the Third Dynasty of Ur and reconstructs the administrative and political structures of the state, as well as the central and local sectors responsible for the economy. In its final part the book describes the role of the *bala* system in the integration of the state.

T. Zawadzki, *Na peryferiach świata rzymskiego* [*On the Periphery of the Roman World*], ed. by L. Mrozewicz, (Klasyki nauki poznańskiej 29), Poznań: Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk 2009, 216 pp.; pb; ISBN: 978-83-7654-076-4. In Polish.

The main idea of the book was the compilation of the selected papers by Tadeusz Zawadzki in order to highlight the peripheries of the Roman world, which

constitute an important part of his research activity. These are texts published originally between 1958 and 1975 (four of them were translated from French for the first time). Most of them refer to the Danube and Black Sea regions. The book opens with the introductory chapter on Zawadzki's academic career written by Leszek Mrozewicz. It includes reproductions of documents concerning Zawadzki's work during his scholarships abroad.

Contents include: 'Rzym w krajach naddunajskich' ['Rome in the States upon the River Danube']; 'Namiestnictwo Tyberiusza Plaucjusza Sylwanusa Elianusa w Mezji na tle polityki zbożowej cesarza Nerona' ['Tiberius Plautius Sylvanus Elianus the Governor in Moesia against the Background of Nero's Grain Policy']; 'Emporium Piretensium. Przyczynek do geografii historycznej Tracji i Mezji Dolnej' [Emporium Piretensium. 'A Contribution to the Geographic History of Thrace and Lower Moesia']; 'Ze studiów nad epigrafiką północnych wybrzeży Morza Czarnego, Mezji i Tracji' ['Studies on the Epigraphy of the Northern Coast of the Black Sea, Moesia and Thrace']; 'Z dziejów wędrówek celtyckich' ['From the History of the Celtic Migration']; 'Zakres i znaczenie terminu Pannonius' ['The Meaning of the Term Pannonius']; 'Ludy poza granicami Cesarstwa Rzymskiego' ['Peoples beyond the Borders of the Roman Empire']; '„Miasta” Ptolemeusza' ['Ptolemy's Towns']; 'Illyricum'; 'Mogentiana'; 'Petra'; 'Idea odzyskania Dacji' ['The Idea of Regaining Dacia']; 'Z dziejów rzymskiego szlaku handlowego do Indii' ['From the History of the Roman Trade Route to India']; 'Słowianie w świetle najdawniejszych źródeł pisanych' ['Slavs in Light of the Oldest Written Records']; 'Joachim Lelewel – historyk peryferii świata antycznego' ['Joachim Lelewel – The Historian of the Periphery of the Ancient World'].

A. Ziółkowski, *Historia Powszechna – Starożytność* [Ancient history], Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN 2009, 1100 pp.; hb; ISBN: 978-83-01-15810-1. In Polish.

The textbook is aimed at depicting the whole panorama of ancient events by means of innovative structure of the presented topics. Ziółkowski discusses historical events and processes chronologically, and next he presents certain periods of antiquity adopting a geographical approach. It is a parallel and cohesive reading in ancient history, which in a geographical sense encompasses Europe, the basin of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The author puts emphasis on inter-civilization contacts and the unity of ancient historical processes.

Miron Wolny