Review notes


This is a second edition of the academic coursebook that was published for the first time in 1992. However, the book is not a simply reprint of the previous edition, because it has undergone many far-reaching changes. First of all, the content has been enriched by the addition of a new chapter on Alexander the Great, which – for many different reasons – was omitted in the second volume of the series. Moreover, the remaining parts of the book have gone through some important amendments dictated by the current state of knowledge about the Hellenistic period. The nearly twenty years separating us from the first edition have brought a lot of significant archeological finds that have raised many new questions and changed our understanding of those that seemed to be well-established truth. The authors have made every effort to make their book current in that respect and adjusted its content in such a way as to avoid any charges of being anachronistic. They have also corrected some minor errors and inaccuracies that had crept into the former version. [M. Dassuta]


This book is the first comprehensive monograph about a prominent Mesopotamian female deity – Nanâja. It explores the position of the goddess in
the pantheon and the perception of her character in the society. The author examines the available cuneiform material, without chronological and geographical division, grouping texts either of the same genre or thematically similar. Drewnowska takes into account a variety of cuneiform sources to describe the role of the goddess and the way she was perceived by worshipers. The first chapter refers to her position within the pantheon, according to the god lists and other documents, such as votive inscriptions or *kudurrus*. The second, most-elaborate part deals with the organization of the cult, well attested from the late 3rd millennium BC down to the Seleucid period. The author describes offerings, places of worship, rituals, priesthood organization, names with the theophoric element referring to the goddess. The five chapters that follow examine references to the goddess in particular types of cuneiform sources, including magic and divination texts, hymns and prayers, love lyrics, laments, *kudurrus* and letters. Finally, in the appendix, one can find a short description of the cult of Nanâja outside of the mainstream, as attested in these texts: first, treating cult centres outside Mesopotamia proper, and second, the position of the goddess in Mesopotamia after Persian and Greek conquest. [M. Wójtowicz]


This volume presents one of the least popular episodes of the First Roman Civil War in current historiography, namely, the so-called Sertorian War. Due to the condition of the preserved sources, the main work Ładoń based his book on was *The life of Sertorius* by Plutarch of Chaeronea, which the author confronted with information available in all other sources.

The first chapter describes the beginnings of the political and military career of Sertorius and his participation in the war in Italy. Ładoń analyses the political connections of Sertorius with optimates and populares, with particular consideration of his relations with Cinna. The author also tries to clarify the controversial attack on Suessa in 82 B.C., which caused the breakdown of negotiations between populares and Sulla.

The second part of the book is devoted to the events of the war in Spain. The author presents them in connection with the political actions of Sertorius, which, according to him, were not aimed at the overthrow of the Sullan legal order. One of the most important topics discussed in this book is the treaty concluded by Sertorius with Mithridates VI Eupator during the Third Mithridatic War. The author also tries to present the circumstances of the early military career of Pompey the Great, by means of a polemic containing the legend of the undefeated leader created in later times. [M. Faszcza]

Ławecka examines the history and culture of northern Babylonia in the 3rd millennium BC, before the Old Akkadian period. The question under investigation was inspired to some extent by the classical theory of the ‘Kish civilization’ – the distinctive cultural formation in the northern part of Babylonia (and farther north, reaching Syria) postulated by I. Gelb. The main part deals with archaeological material, but the book seeks to combine archaeological and textual sources, not only from southern Mesopotamia but also from Mari, Ebla and the Khabour basin. The initial chapters contain an overview of northern Mesopotamian and northern Babylonian history in the 3rd millennium BC. The chapter *Sumerowie i Semici w okresie wczesnodynastycznym* [Sumerians and Semites in the Early Dynastic Period] examines linguistic and ethnic processes in Early Dynastic Mesopotamia. The following one, *Kiengi Kiuri*, concentrates on political and economic differences between the northern and southern parts of Babylonia as reflected in textual records. Special attention is paid to the history of the city of Kish, the alleged center of northern Babylonian political and cultural formations. The second part of the book confronts statements based on textual records with some detailed archaeological analysis. Ławecka explores three particular aspects of northern Babylonian material culture: secular public buildings (palaces), characteristics of temple architecture, and, eventually, dominant motifs in the iconography of cylinder seals and their geographical distribution. The author concludes that in all three cases one can find significant differences, supporting the thesis about separate cultural units in Early Dynastic Babylonia. [M. Wójtowicz]


Having great administrative and military experience, Emperor Zeno has survived in the historical record mostly thanks to the proclamation of *Henotikon* in A.D. 482, which constituted a form of mediation between Chalcedonian and Miaphysite opposing views about the nature of Christ. The author tries to present Zeno not as the supporter of Miaphysites, but as a statesman aiming at political stability of the Eastern Empire. He also proves that the Emperor was not interested in theological issues and was not a promoter of a policy considering Jews and pagans.

Zeno’s position was dependent on the support of the army. It was confirmed in A.D. 474 when, due to his Isaurian origins, he was not accepted by a majority of the representatives of the higher classes, which resulted in the so-called Basilicus revolt. According to Kosiński, these circumstances were directly
connected with the religious stability of the state, because gaining power was possible thanks to the military and remaining in power, to a considerable degree, depended on the support of *honestiores*. In the next chapters the author analyses Zeno’s relations with the representatives of believers of various religions, with particular consideration of Acacius – the Bishop of Constantinople. The last chapter directly concerns *Henotikon* and its influence on the political and religious situation in the Eastern Empire. [M. Faszcza]


This work is the seventh volume of the *Akme Studia Historica* series published by the Institute of History, University of Warsaw. It contains a new analysis of the consolidation of the Roman Empire by the Flavian dynasty after A.D. 69, called the Year of the Four Emperors. The author attributes the attempt at reparation of public finances and territorial integration of the state to the process of the creation of new elites as well as to changes in Roman foreign policy. Mrozewicz also tries to assess the internal reforms carried out by the Flavians in confrontation with the tradition of their rule. He especially deals with the ‘black legend’ of Domitian. The author uses thematic as well as chronological frames and divides the book into paragraphs concerning attitudes towards *ordo senatorius* as well as other social classes, actions of fiscal and administrative nature and the foreign policy initiated by Vespasian. Mrozewicz also emphasizes changes instituted by Domitian. Separate considerations are also given to the issue of succession within a new dynasty. [M. Faszcza]


The study by Münnich presents the first overview of the god Reshef and his cult in the ancient Near East. The author adopts both diachronic and geographical perspective, on the one hand tracing regional differences, on the other looking for temporal patterns in its character and cult. In principle, every piece of evidence related to Reshef is taken into consideration and examined to create a comprehensive picture. It also includes situations where the presence of the god has been suggested but is eventually refuted by the author. The sources for the study comprise textual evidence of varied character, onomastic and toponomastic data and archaeological material.
The book consists of three main parts, on 3rd, 2nd and 1st millennium BC, which are then divided into chapters on cities and regions. 3rd millennium material comes mostly from the archives of Ebla, with only one mention from Elam. In the second part, the much richer evidence from Mari, Babylon, Egypt, Byblos, Alalah, Ugarit, Anatolia and Canaan is examined. 1st millennium sources come from Tell Sifr, Cilicia, Israel, Ammon, Fenicia, Cyprus, Carthagina and Palmyra. In each chapter, to the extent permitted by the sources, the author describes characteristics of the deity, attributes, local Reshef’s hypostases, cult practices and the position of the god in each context. The precision of this description depends obviously on the quality and character of data. Therefore, some chapters provide a rich and detailed picture, with a nuanced account of its changes with time, while in others only basic information or even rejection of any alleged cult can be found. In conclusion, Münnich draws a picture of Reshef’s position and cult in the ancient Near East. It appears that in the 3rd millennium the god was already a prominent member of the West Semitic pantheon. In the next centuries the cult expansion can be traced in Syria and beyond, however, the Middle Euphrates appears to be the border of its popularity even then. Finally, the 1st millennium witnesses the gradual decline of Reshef’s influence in the ancient Near East. [M. Wójciesz]


Marcin Pawlak believes that the very foundation of Roman imperial rule was an agreement and alliance with the local elites. He decided to examine the case of the most important region of the province Achaia – Peloponnese – in that respect, because, as he claims, the presence of the Romans on the peninsula seems to be particularly strong. The frameworks of his study start with 27 BC – when the province was probably created – and end in the second part of 3rd century – when the inscriptions, being the main source of information on the subject, became definitely more sparse than previously. The book consists of eight chapters. The first is devoted to the province Achaia in general and to the Peloponnesian cities. Author discusses the economic situation of the region, the emperor’s attitude towards it and the question of Roman administrative officials functioning in that area. The next chapter concerns the Cives Romani living in the cities of the Peloponnese. The author also analyses the available information about imperial Gentilicia in that district of the former Greek world. In another part of his study Pawlak describes the political institutions of the Greek cities under Roman rule. He devotes particular attention to the city of Sparta and the family of the
Euryclids. Chapter IV contains an elaboration of the issue of the imperial cult, its priests in cities and Roman colonies. The following section concerns the games held in honor of the emperors and, directly connected with them, the problem of the rivalry between the *agonothetai* – the persons who sponsored and organized these contests. Then, using concrete examples, Pawlak moves on to the definition and characterization of local elites. Chapter VII is devoted to the Greek Koina in the Peloponnese, their officials and dignitaries. That examination includes the Koinon of Achaeans and Free Laconians. Pawlak also discusses the attitude of the Greek cities towards Hadrian’s idea of *Panhellenion*. The final section of the book is dedicated to the presence of Greek representatives among the imperial elite. The author gathers every instance of Greek aristocrats from the Peloponnese granted equestrian and senatorial status. He is also interested in the ways by which Greek cities honored such people. [M. Daszuta]


This is the second edition in Polish of the book first published in 1999 and based on author’s lectures given at the University of Warsaw. In 2008 an improved edition in German was also released. As with the previous versions, the present book is an overview of the ethnic and linguistic landscape of ancient Anatolia in the 2nd and 1st millennium BC. First intended for the use of students, it was well received within academic circles due to its broad scope of interest and unique synthetic character. Recent developments in Anatolian studies led the author to prepare an improved edition, better to meet the expectations of both professionals and the general public.

The structure of the book has scarcely changed from the 1999 version. It starts with the most ancient Cappadocian and proto-Hittite material, then examines the Indo-European groups of Anatolia in the second (Hittites, Luwians, Palaians) and first millennia BC (Luwians, Pamphylians, Pisidians, Lycians, Carians, Lydians). In the third chapter some non-Anatolian Indo-Europeans were also considered (Greeks, Phrygians, Cimmerians, Scythians, Medes, Persians, Armenians). Finally, some Non-Indo-European groups as Hurrians, Urartians and Kaskians are treated. As the author himself declares, some chapters had to be to a large extent rewritten in the present book, and there were also some minor additions of the questions omitted previously. Some questions have also been elaborated significantly, for example, chapters on the Luwian presence in 2nd and 1st millennium Anatolia. Modifications concern particularly the dynamic field of the Anatolian languages, such as Luwian, Carian and Lydian. Popko takes into account some new
publications of original texts, articles that propose new understandings of the language structures, as well as some reviews to the previous versions of the book.

[M. Wójtowicz]


This publication is the result of the author’s participation in the archaeological research at Tell Brak, one of the most important ancient settlements in northern Mesopotamia. As an anthropologist, he was put in charge of studying human remains from several mass graves at the adjacent mound – Tell Majnuna, dated to the Late Chalcolitic 3 period (mid-to later 4th millennium BC). The publication was prepared shortly after the end of excavations at Tell Majnuna and contains unique material from these investigations. The book is divided into two parts. The first presents in five chapters a detailed report on bioarchaeological data from the most important graves, respectively: description of excavations, factors present between deposition of bodies and excavation, deposition and biostratigraphy, probable events leading to the death of the buried individuals and the living conditions of the population. The second, probably even more important part, provides a synthesis and possible interpretations of this material, including social circumstances, that may have produced these graves. Basing his results on collected anthropological data and using the archaeological material, the author presents an original hypothesis on a confluence of factors leading to a rise in mortality in the Tell Brak region. In his opinion they were closely connected to consecutive stages of the urbanization process in the region, reflecting some elements of the population growth pattern in ancient Near Eastern societies.

[M. Wójtowicz]


The main goal that the author of this book set for himself is to elaborate thoroughly the origins of the cultural phenomenon of the Greek symposion. Węcowski claims that the term ‘symposion’ itself is still very ambiguous and because of that, every discussion about it should begin with an attempt to gather distinctive features of the symposion in order to frame a precise definition.
Therefore his book is divided into two distinct parts. In the first (chapters I and II) the author tries to fulfil that prerequisite, while the second (chapters III, IV and V) is devoted to the consideration of the phenomenon in historical context. The entirety is preceded with an extensive introduction in which Węcowski describes earlier historical enquiries and discussions on the topic, presents literary sources and discusses applied method. Chapter I contains an attempt to reconstruct an archaic and classical sympotic ceremonial with every accompanying element of it. The author also elaborates on its potential social importance. Considerable attention is given to a general characterization of the group involved in sympotic practice i.e. the Greek aristocracy. In chapter II Węcowski polemicizes with generally accepted views concerning the distinctive features of the symposion. According to him, we should regard the rule of epidexia – the way a cup is circulated during the banquet ‘to the right’ – as the single most important feature of symposion. Chapter III, which begins the second part of the book, contains an interpretation of the poetic inscription decorating the so-called the Cup of Nestor. The author believes, that that object convincingly proves the existence of the Greek symposion in its mature form as early as 8th century BC, which, consequently, makes some popular theories of the Eastern roots of that cultural phenomenon doubtful. Węcowski also puts forward other arguments. In chapter IV, the question of Homer’s heroic banquets is raised. The author discusses the possibilities of using it as a historical source to his main topic. Chapter V is taken up with a detailed analysis of archeological material concerning the beginnings of symposion. Węcowski is especially interested in funerary finds. He traces change in quantity and quality of such finds and their connection with sympotic usage, drawing some conclusions concerning the evolution of the perception and popularization of that type of banquet among the Greek elites. The book ends with a résumé in which Węcowski not only summarises his main theses but also points out their implications for our general notion of the formative process of the Greek elites and the beginnings of the world of the polis. [M. Daszuta]


The book by Winiarczyk is the crowning achievement of his twenty-five years of research on the Hellenistic utopia. The author made it his goal to present to a contemporary reader the lesser-known ancient utopias by Greek authors, which often remain in the shadow of Plato’s works. Winiarczyk believes that the term ‘utopia’ itself is very ambiguous and thus constitutes a source of misunderstanding and dispute between scholars. On that account Winiarczyk starts with
a chapter concerning terminology, trying to prove that in speaking about utopia, we should distinguish two meanings. The following chapters are devoted to lives and oeuvres of Hellenistic authors. But, above all, Winiarczyk analyzes their utopian concepts thoroughly. They are Theopompus of Chios with his description of the land Meropia; Hecataeus of Abdera and his work about Hyperboreans; Onesikritos of Astypalaia author of ‘The upbringing of Alexander’; Euhemeros of Messene author of ‘The Sacred History’; Iambulos who described Island of the Sun; and, finally, Alexarchos, the founder of Uranopolis. Winiarczyk did not restrict himself only to literary analysis but also paid considerable attention to issues of philosophy, religion, ethnography and geography. Apart from the literary sources, the author makes great use of epigraphic, numismatic and archeological as well as papyrological evidence. Moreover, he points out and quotes some similia in Egyptian and Indian literature. Integral to the work are three appendices. The first contains a Polish translation of five Hellenistic utopias; in the second, the author discusses many utopian motifs present in Hellenistic literature, distinguishing three main types: nature, characteristics of people and human behavior; the third includes a list of the utopian islands mentioned in ancient Greek literature from Homer to Suda.

[M. Daszuta]

Conference Volumes, Reports, Miscellanea


This book presents twenty-six of the papers given at the Seventh Symposium at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University of Lublin, May 2010. The Symposium was organized by the Chair of Roman Law and the Institute of History of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the Chair of Roman Law of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The general theme of the Symposium was ‘Security and public order in Roman law’.

Contents include: K. Ameliańczyk, ‘Sicarii – zjawisko rzymskiego bandytyzmu w okresie późnej republiki rzymskiej’ ['Sicarii – The forms of banditry in the Late Roman Republic']; H. Appel, ‘Ustawy Gajusza Grakcha o charakterze prewencyjnym: Lex ne de capite civium oraz Lex ne quis iudicio circumventatur’ ['Caius Gracchus’ preventive legislation: Lex ne de capite civium and Lex ne quis iudicio circumventatur']; T.A.J. Banyś, ‘Wybrane problem operacji policyjnych armii rzymskiej’ ['Some aspects of the police operations of the Roman army']; A. Bartnik, ‘Senatus consultum de Bacchanalibus ze 186 r. p.n.e. jako próba przywrócenia


This volume came as a result of the 11th International Conference on Nubian Studies that took place in 2006 at the University of Warsaw. Content includes:


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Ancient Studies in Poland

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This book treats the Roman World in the 5th Century A.D. It was written by seven Polish scholars from the Jagielloński University in Cracow, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the University of Warsaw. Most of the chapters are devoted to social and political issues but readers could also find the sections about economy, culture, education and relations with Barbaricum.


Books received


Edited by: Piotr Berdowski, Maciej Daszuta, Michał Faszcza, Marta Wójtowicz