

been punctuated with violent disturbances which became more common as the social structure changed, and where the administration of city and countryside alike crumbled away.

There is an excellent and comprehensive bibliography (p. 126–157) with a full index (p. 158–163) and a bibliographical essay (p. 120–125), which has useful references to works dealing with law and order in Roman society and to other periods of history. Errors are evidently few and far between, but I noted one typographical slip at p. 28. This study will be of much use to historians who work in the Roman republic, possibly more as a reference work than for its own sake, since the author ventures his own opinions rarely, tending instead to collate the evidence without much differentiation in its worth. The intended audience is rather ambitiously denoted as “legal historians of other pre-modern societies ... anthropologists, sociologists and political scientists”, but I suspect fellow specialists will glean most from this volume. Even students of Roman republican history may find this work a trifle dry, preferring instead to use an easier route via the index to obtain the information sought, rather than browse through its thorough pages.

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CHR. BRUUN, *The Water Supply of Ancient Rome. A study of Roman imperial administration* (Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum, 93). Helsinki, Societas Scientiarum Fennica, 1991. 456 p.

‘Water in Rome’ has proven to be an inspiring theme. The evidence related to this branch of the urban infrastructure has been encouraging for a long time, since both literary and epigraphical material on the issue are available, as well as archaeological remains. The first modern study, published by Lanciani in 1880, thoroughly dealt with the topic, and appeared to be a starting-point for articles and monographs on a large number of different, mainly archaeological, aspects of the subject.

In his book, Bruun is again adopting the wider perspective, and *casu quo* a perspective that is more historical than ever before. He attempts to create a more complete picture of the water supply and its administration in Rome by confronting Sextus Iulius Frontinus’ treatise *De aquis urbis Romae* with archaeological and

epigraphical discoveries, including those made from the end of the nineteenth century up to around 1990. Throughout the book inscribed lead pipes, *fistulae*, play a major part in this critical re-examination and the other topics launched.

Frontinus dealt with a wide range of subjects (from lead pipe sizes, particular details on the aqueducts and their routes, to legislation and administration), as does Bruun, but his objectives go beyond Frontinus. Although not explicitly mentioned in the sub-title, a considerable part of this book is devoted to (the organization of) the plumbing-industry.

When in chapter 2 the sources are presented, the *fistula*-material is highlighted and at once the author begins with the interpretation of this branch of the *instrumentum domesticum*, which he continues throughout the book, unremittingly addressing the proper methodological questions. Some contradictions in the sources remain puzzling in his opinion, as for instance the occurrence of names on this particular *instrumentum domesticum* instead of the numerals Bruun believes to be prescribed by Frontinus. In the next chapter the representativity of the *fistula*-inscriptions comes up for debate, followed naturally by the methodological question of their value for historical research on the privileged position of private persons in possession of piped water to their real estates, as carried out by W. Eck¹). Rough calculations indicate that there might be evidence for between 5 and 10% of the private conduit owners. Crucial again is the interpretation of the *fistula*-inscriptions. Bruun concludes that a name in the genitive is no certain indication of ownership: in some cases the stamp is to be read as denoting a *curator* or *officinator*.

Then follows a chapter composed of a collection of items, some of them social in character: the quantity of water per person, urban water distribution, and potential health risks as a result of the use of lead pipes. Along the way some archaeological issues, e.g. the evidence for free-flow channels in the urban distribution net, are discussed.

It is only in the chapters V and VI that the matter of the sub-title is raised; the way in which the *cura aquarum* is integrated within the whole of the imperial administration of the *urbs*. Bruun discusses the *curatores aquarum* and investigates the nature of the office. Paid leave is the most plausible characteristic. The *procuratores* recorded on the *fistulae* show a confusing complexity: a great number of the imperial procurators, whether or not connected to the *cura aquarum*, were involved in the process of stamping *fistulae*.

Indeed, from this point onwards Bruun merely relies on the *fistula*-material. In Italy outside of Rome, only in Ostia and Portus have such a large number of stamps been found as to constitute a parallel to the interpretation of the urban specimens. What is striking here is the inference that, although senators' names do occur on the stamps in the genitive, these names do scarcely refer to residential senatorial families known to us. Do they, in Ostia and Portus, denote the manufacturer rather than the owner of the water-rights?

Lead pipes denoting *plumbarii*, either in combination with an emperor, a private person or just by themselves, constitute the most substantial body of evidence on the largest group known to us of artisans from the city. Bruun gives a rather extensive first step towards a full-scale treatment of this material in the field of the social status of such artisans and of their work-shop organization.

That the *fistula*-material of Rome offers plentiful potentiality, has already been demonstrated by the urban topographers, using the lead pipes to link archaeological remains to their proprietors²⁾, and by Eck, settling the social status of private persons to whom water-concessions were granted. They have all paid attention to the group of *fistulae* that were attributed to private owners. Bruun queries some cases in which the traditional interpretation does not suffice, and moreover, occupies himself with the other large group of *fistulae*, denoting the *plumbarii*. This combination, I suppose, triggered J.-J. Aubert, while studying *institores* (business-agents), to suggest that all names mentioned on lead pipes should be interpreted within the framework of lead-pipe production³⁾. A suggestion, though in my opinion untenable, that affects both topographical and social-economic studies based on *fistula*-material.

In conclusion: The unfettered attention paid to *fistula*-inscriptions are both the power and weakness of this book. The presentation and discussion leads to such a wide range of topics that unity suffers. Nevertheless, Bruun's book is most valuable for anyone in want of an overview of the *status quaestionis* in the field of the water supply of the city of Rome in general, and the methodology of the use of *fistula*-material in social and economic history in particular.

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1) W. Eck, *Die Fistulae aquariae der Stadt Rom. Zum Einfluss des sozialen Status auf administratives Handeln*, *Tituli* 4 (1982), 197-225.

2) See e.g. the lemmata *domus* in: S.B. Plattner & Th. Ashby, *A topographical dictionary of ancient Rome* (London 1929) and in their footsteps: L. Richardson jr., *A new topographical dictionary of ancient Rome* (Baltimore & London 1992); E.M. Steinby, *Lexicon topographicum urbis Romae*, II (Rome 1995).

3) J.J. Aubert, *Workshop managers*, in: W.V. Harris (ed.), *The inscribed economy. Production and distribution in the Roman empire in the light of instrumentum domesticum* (JRA suppl. 6, Ann Arbor 1993), 171-181.

(1) IAN WORTHINGTON, (ed.), *Persuasion. Greek Rhetoric in Action*. London, Routledge, 1994. XI, 277 p. Pr. £ 37,50.

(2) MAUD GLEASON, *Making Men. Sophists and Self-Presentation in Ancient Rome*. Princeton N.J., Princeton University Press, 1995. XXXII, 193 p. Pr. \$ 29,95.

(3) DOREEN INNES, et al. (eds), *Ethics and Rhetoric. Classical Essays for Donald Russell on his Seventy-Fifth Birthday*. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1995. XVI. 378 p.

(4) CHRISTOPHER LYLE JOHNSTONE (ed.), *Theory, Text, Context. Issues in Greek Rhetoric and Oratory*. Albany N.Y., State University of New York Press, 1996. VIII. 194 p. Pr. \$ 17,95.

(5) ELIZABETH ANN GONDOS, *Auf dem Weg zur rhetorischen Theorie. Rhetorische Reflexionen im ausgehenden fünften Jahrhundert v. Chr.* (Rhetorik-Forschungen 10). Tübingen, Niemeyer, 1996. 104 p. Pr. DM 68,-.

(6) HARVEY YUNIS, *Taming Democracy. Models of Political Rhetoric in Classical Athens* (Rhetoric & Society 5). Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, 1996. XV, 316 p.

(7) THOMAS HIDBER, *Das klassizistische Manifest des Dionys von Halikarnass. Die Praefatio zu De oratoribus veteribus. Einleitung, Übersetzung, Kommentar* (Beitr. z. Altertumskunde 70). Stuttgart und Leipzig, Teubner, 1996. XII, 157 p. Pr. DM 56,-.

This review article concerns seven books published in 1994-1996 and which to my mind deserve a short notice or a longer review¹). I preferred writing one long review to producing seven separate ones because of the greater advantage of making comparisons.

Many (sub-)titles in this group have the reader guessing whether theory of eloquence or its practice is the subject of the book.