2014

Il Dossier Della “Domus Divina” in Egitto

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system. Even if some constituencies did not have recourse to petitions (e.g., rape victims), it is not because of their status. At the bottom of p. 91, "accusare" should be "claim," and the phrase in which it occurs should be translated "so that I retain my claim." On p. 102, "prosecution" should be "attack." On p. 121, xarti[v]ey (literally "they killed me") is not translated. On p. 124, "interrogate" should be "expose" (note the gloss in English). Chapter 5 argues that the Roman Empire was distant and characterized by weak legal pluralism. I rather think that the levels of government reached all the way to the bottom, and that they were not as confusing to people there and then as we often tend to think. The weak legal pluralism also seems irrelevant, because any legal system is weak on violence (as an open concept). On p. 138, "If that man starts a quarrel, I will refrain from violence" should be "if I suffer violence and that man started it first" and connected with what follows. On p. 160, voctu should have been translated as possessio, not "right of pasturage."

The confusing title of Chapter 6, "Fusion and Fission" appears as "Fusion and Fusion" in the table of contents. In this, the best, Chapter B discusses two dossiers in more depth. He places a couple of petitions in PCairiad. in the context of the archive, and this allows him to provide more convincing interpretations than elsewhere in the book. Instead of translating all relevant documents, B. helpfully summarizes them. Significantly, the dossier includes a reference to mediators, and the violence mentioned usually at the end of the first petition is not mentioned in the second. This exercise in contextual reading shows that the petitions that come without a context are much less meaningful (So un) than they were in the past. The other dossier discussed in Chapter 1 is the well-known petition of Dionysia, which quotes precedent and earlier decisions. Again, most other petitions are not as helpful, and Dionysia is also not really about violence but property, a much more complicated case that required multiple hearings. On p. 180, the supraininge insert should come two words earlier (correct in B's translation). On p. 194, xarv[ey] is a lieu, not a mortgage (that would have been krypta). B. writes well but drops the names of just too many critical theorists (I count over forty from Adorno to Žižek in the index). Some of his points were anticipated by Kelly (e.g., petitions are not a last resort but often hot off the press — not surprising in cases of violence), but others correct Kelly (e.g., petitions were intended to get the legal system going or to get the government to respond, not to force an informal resolution of a dispute). Kelly's more exhaustive presentation and focus on more complex issues will attract more papyrological readers.

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(pp. 32-39). It would be a challenge to organize them according to type in such a way as to assess the degree to which the means of exploiting imperial properties mirrored those for private properties. At the very least the listing gives an impression of the variety of requisitae human capital for the successful operation of estates of either kind.

The dossier provides some precise evidence for the localities in which domus divina land was to be found and a certain amount of information on the post-mortem transfer of properties from one imperial family member to another, e.g., from Arcadia to Eudokia, from Theodora to Justinian. Most intriguing is the movement of former domus divina land into the control of the Apions of Oxyrhynchus, whether into their ownership or if one prefers the thesis of J. Gasco (now reprinted in *Fiscalité et société en Égypte byzantine* [2008] 125-213), into their tax-collecting "share." Unfortunately, the papyri give no direct figures on the extent of imperial landed interests in Egypt even for the two main regions for which they provide evidence. Jairus Banaji nonetheless notes (*Agrarian Change in Late Antiquity* [2001] 149-150) that in P.Oxy. 16.2020 (= 50. AD 567-588), an account of "fiscal charges owed to the praetorian prefecture" (Hickey, *Wine, Wealth, and the State*, 110, n. 89), paid in kind by various Oxyrhynchite oikoi, the domus divina at 22.2% of the whole was "the single biggest payer." This at least suggests the magnitude of imperial landed interests in one particular nome.

No single type of document prevails in the author's dossier. Instead the documents are various in genre: letters, lists, petitions, epistolary instructions, receipts, contracts (sale, loan, lease), oaths, receipts for irrigation machinery parts, work contracts. Some famous pieces are treated at length. The longest discussion (pp. 82-88) is justifiably reserved for 36 (SFI 6.9102), a letter written in Constantinople to the duke of the Thebaid concerning the villagers of Aphrodisia. Some discussions (e.g., for 1, 3, 42, 66) are single paragraphs. The mean may be represented by 49 (= P.Carr.2320, 1.67002), the famous petition of the villagers of Aphrodisia to the duke of the Thebaid (pp. 101-103).

As mentioned, Part B5 catalogue, which presents extracts, not full texts, that refer or allude to the domus divina or its personnel, adopts a chronological order. This effectively, and perhaps unfortunately, separates papyri of the same provenance. The Greek is printed continuously, not line-by-line. There is careful introductory discussion of each extract's personae, its clear or possible link to the domus divina. Full context is given in these introductions, but there are no translations, though I think these should have been presented for some of the thornier passages, hard to construe without their surrounding texts. The discussion for each testimonium is composed in such a way that each can stand on its own. This does result in much formalic repetition and hundreds of in-

terial cross-references. The system for the latter is not especially user-friendly since it is not based on pages but on references to parts and sub-parts, for instance on p. 53: "cf. sopra, al punto A, 3, a con n. 38 e 4 con n. 118." It is after all, since the footnotes are numbered consecutively throughout the volume, easier to track the cross-references by their corollary footnote numbers (here 58 and 116) than by their principal indicators (A, 3, a and 4). But trying to provide paginated cross-references would have been a nightmarish endeavor and possibly, in the end, would have been a less helpful tool.

Finally, the author is meticulous in verifying readings of the extracts she presents, if not against the originals then by frequent consultation of online images. She has produced a valuable and reliable compendium of evidence, a timely reminder of a topic that because of the diffuse nature of relevant references can easily escape notice. It is good to see them brought together here for the first time.

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