

the horse – by outlining a canon of acceptable evidence for horse domestication. Martin Jones directly addresses the central idea behind Renfrew’s ‘Farming/Language Dispersal Hypothesis’ by comparing archaeobotanical evidence for the cultivation of foxtail millet, broomcorn millet and buckwheat to the distribution of modern haplotypes of these species, in an effort to illuminate the early stages of cereal domestication.

Part 4 includes two case studies in linguistics. Merritt Ruhlen focuses on a Proto-Algonquian suffix present in the numerals 6 to 8, and on its derivation from a Proto-Amerind word denoting the left hand. Finally, Matthew Spriggs delineates the westward retreat of Cornish in the middle part of the last millennium, revealing a diachronic correlation between the distributions of Cornish speakers and *plenys an gwary*, enclosures used for staging a distinctive type of Cornish theatre-in-the-round.

This wide-ranging collection of studies, illustrative of the interdisciplinary nature of archaeogenetics, will be of interest to archaeologists, geneticists and linguists alike.

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A. Jördens, *Statthalterliche Verwaltung in der römischen Kaiserzeit: Studien zum praefectus Aegypti*, *Historia Einzelschriften* 175, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2009, vi+616 pp., 4 maps. Cased. ISBN 978-3-515-09283-8

This book discusses in detail a number of very interesting questions concerning the government of Roman Egypt, with a focus on financial administration. As the author argues, the numerous Egyptian papyri offer a worm’s-eye view of Roman provincial administration (p. 11). This bottom-up perspective, however, rarely allows glimpses of the highest hierarchical levels of government, mainly because the papyri from Alexandria have been lost. As things stand, in Egypt no less than in other provinces, information on the doings of Roman provincial governors can be obtained mainly from the governors’ own official communications (p. 15), by no means a majority among the thousands of preserved papyri. It is not surprising, therefore, that the governor figures less prominently in Andrea Jördens’s thorough analysis than the title of her book suggests, and her conclusions on his role in the complex procedures she studies are conjectures more often than not. As such, however, these conclusions are cautious, well founded, and intelligent. J.’s study is essential reading for scholars of Roman history.

J. begins by making a strong case against excluding this large and important province from studies on Roman provincial administration. She deals one by one with Egypt’s often-invoked exceptional characteristics as a Roman province to prove that, even where these are real, they are no reason for discounting Egyptian evidence (pp. 26–58). No two provinces were the same anyway (p. 14). And the Egyptian prefect differed in no significant way from governors of other provinces from the point of view of the provincials (p. 11). Perhaps, however, the fact that until Hadrian’s time the Egyptian prefect’s responsibilities included the entire financial administration of the province (pp. 14, 59, 100–01) constitutes a significant difference indeed, one that could have been given more weight in the discussion. Finally, J. is convinced that Roman conquest meant a deeper break with earlier traditions than so far assumed, despite the survival or restoration of earlier practices during the early Principate.

The following represents only a personal choice out of a number of important issues discussed in the main part of the book.

Detailed investigations of provincial census procedures in Egypt, and a comparison with what we know from Arabia, suggest that there were marked differences in census procedures among provinces, or at least between Egypt and Arabia (pp. 62–94). According to J.'s conclusive discussion, the *aurum coronarium* remained at least in principle, or in any case in official rhetoric, a voluntary contribution (p. 156). Representatives of local administration, such as the ἐκλογιστής (pp. 99–102) and the στρατηγός (pp. 137–38, 161–62) enjoyed what J. calls 'astonishingly great independence' (p. 137). Their corruption was difficult to control (*passim*, and particularly pp. 169–72 on the decree of Vergilius Capito).

Requisitions of grain by the state served mainly to replace amounts of grain that had been sold, with permission by the emperor, to cities and states in need (pp. 191–209).

Tax collection by liturgists, as opposed to leaseholders, seems to have been initiated by Augustus (p. 269). Particularly duties, however, continued to be leased during the Roman empire, though little is known on the role of the governor in this process (p. 265). A lot, on the contrary, is known on the malpractice and corruption involved (especially pp. 271–79).

Abandonment of one's home to escape taxes or liturgies, known as ἀνακώρησις, appears to have been an every-day phenomenon in Roman Egypt, as opposed to an occasional occurrence in response to crisis (p. 317). It would have been interesting to have J.'s thoughts on whether, and why, this was a particularly Egyptian phenomenon, and how evidence from other provinces, for example IGR 674 from Thracian Skaptopara, may be relevant. Though the Thracian villagers do not use the same term, they are clearly speaking in ll. 65–71 of what would be called in Egypt ἀνακώρησις.

The ἀραβάρκης or ἀλαβάρκης was in charge of all tolls on goods imported or exported from the south and east borders of Egypt (p. 361). The rate of important tolls collected in the provinces was probably determined at Rome (p. 394). Though evidence is scarce, and the role of the district (νομός) strategoi in the process was apparently central, the governor must have been ultimately responsible for the leasing of duties (p. 392).

A mandatory engagement of every Egyptian for five days per year in the upkeep of the irrigation system was a Roman invention (p. 408). However, very few petitions were addressed to the governor in matters concerning the use of water and watering systems (pp. 410, 434). Despite its importance for the economy of Egypt, the watering system never became the responsibility of a separate administrative post (p. 434).

J. reinforces the view that reintegration edicts were not necessarily connected with the census (p. 71), though in some cases they were indeed (p. 73). Such edicts usually pursued more than one goal (p. 445). The governor was relatively often the recipient of petitions concerning allotment of public lands (p. 460). J. persuasively argues that tenancies of less productive state land were not always compulsory (p. 465).

J. concludes that the government of Egypt did have peculiarities, as has always been assumed, but those concerned the administrative structures, not the principles a governor was to follow in ruling the province. Even the complexities of Egyptian financial administration, farming and water management, apparently did not require, or at any rate they did not provoke, a different approach on the part of the Roman state to the task of ruling this particular province.

Two minor quibbles: in a book that is clearly, and thankfully, directed to an audience wider than the circle of papyrologists, all Greek and Latin terms should have been explained or translated. Further, on occasion, the summary after each chapter introduces new evidence.

There is a negligible number of printing errors, especially considering the size of the book and the ubiquity of Greek quotes. The index is very helpful. However, the book is better read in its entirety than consulted on individual subjects, because J.'s concluding thoughts in the nine pages of her last chapter neither constitute nor include a summary of her previous findings. Therefore reading only the conclusions is far from a substitute for reading this book, which is strongly recommended to all Roman historians.

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H.A. Kalligas, *Monemvasia. A Byzantine City State*, Routledge, London/New York 2010, xiv+210 pp., illustrations. Cased. ISBN 978-0-415-24880-8

Monemvasia is a large, almond-shaped rock attached by a long, narrow causeway to the southernmost projection of Lakonia, in the Peloponnese. The rock has two levels: a narrow border of land just above sea level lies at the base of steep cliffs, which carry a plateau. This topography dictates two main areas of settlement: the lower town, towards the east, and the upper town, occupying the eastern part of the plateau; the two are linked by a steep cobbled road which zig-zags up the cliff. Rain is the only significant fresh water supply and there is hardly enough room to grow vegetables, but its two harbours, flanking the causeway, and its formidable natural defensibility have made Monemvasia a desirable property for maritime powers since late antiquity. Substantial early development is indicated by the presence of a fairly large 6th-century basilical church in the lower town, and in later centuries the upper town had mansions and a palace, with a fortress nearby on the plateau. Over the centuries, Byzantine, Frankish, Venetian and Turkish authority came, went (and sometimes came back); there were Arab raids and Albanian settlement. In peaceful times, Monemvasia (Malvasia to Europeans) had prosperity based on agricultural exploitation of the proximate mainland, famous for its olives and vines (Malmsey wine was exported as far north as England, whether or not the Duke of Clarence was drowned in a barrel of it). In grim contrast, bad times left the besieged population to starve on their rock, but permanent decline set in only after 1821, when the War of Independence began to extricate Greece from the Ottoman empire, and the buildings of both upper and lower towns began to crumble from disuse.

Haris Kalligas, the author, is properly lauded for her lifetime commitment to the revival and restoration of Monemvasia: as an architect she has contributed to the recording and repair of its fabric, and as a scholar she has spent decades assembling and analysing the primary sources from which a complicated history may be traced. Almost two-thirds of the book addresses the latter task, working through the documentary and archaeological evidence to present the history of Monemvasia. The remaining part deals with the surviving material culture: the causeway, roads, walls and fortifications, the churches, mosque, houses, cisterns and baths of the upper and lower towns. We now have, therefore, a very welcome synthesis and expansion, in English and in a single volume, of the work K. has