

— ad laborem inscriptiones interpretandi pertinet. Praeterea etiam alia argumenta, cur nomina a cognominibus separentur, afferri possunt, cur in unum congerantur, — ut mihi quidem videtur — nulla.

*Olli Salomies*

*Robert Göbl: System und Chronologie der Münzprägung des Kušānreiches. Veröffentlichungen der Numismatischen Kommission. Sonderband. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien 1984. 94 S., 180 Tafeln, 40 Tabellen. ATS 2.100.*

Robert Göbl is a well-known authority in the field of classical and Irano-Indian numismatics. During some 30 years his learned contributions have shed much light on the history of the Kushans, the Iranian dynasty which founded one of the great empires of the early centuries A.D. and was the heir to Hellenism in northwestern India and Central Asia. Archaeology, epigraphy and numismatics have recently added much to our knowledge of this obscure period and shown how important its assimilated culture with its Iranian, Indian and Hellenistic elements has been for the art, culture and even religion of the vast area extending from Central India to Soviet Middle Asia in the northwest and to Chinese Central Asia in the northeast. Bactria has ceased to be a *terra incognita* with merely the short accounts of classical authors and some coins as the only evidence of its past. Excavations in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and China have also shown how the Hellenistic elements were little by little merged into local traditions, where they often had a lasting influence. A new epigraphy, the so-called Bactrian epigraphy, has developed. But for history and chronology, the numismatic evidence still holds the key position and its quantity has greatly increased since the classical studies of the 19th and early 20th century.

Göbl's new work is a kind of summary of his studies. He deals extensively with the imperial and late Kushan coinage, constructing its evolution and sequence. Much attention is given to typological questions and the identification of individual mints. Two excursuses deal with related Iranian coinage. Questions of history, chronology and iconography are discussed. All relevant coins are fully depicted in excellent plates and forty tables deal with typology, chronology (including the individual coinings) and legends. All numismatic material on the Bactrian language is collected and published here. Although Göbl's absolute chronology — beginning with the Kushan era in exactly 232 A.D. and introduced already in his earlier publications — has not won universal approval, his arguments are always worthy of attention. The book is an important contribution to this difficult yet increasingly important field.

*Klaus Karttunen*

*Gerhard Ries: Prolog und Epilog in Gesetzen des Altertums. Münchener Beiträge zur Papyrusforschung und antiken Rechtsgeschichte, Heft 76. Verlag C. H. Beck, München 1983. 248 S. DEM 86.*

In dieser Monographie, die sich auf dem Gebiet der antiken Rechtsvergleichung bewegt, werden der Stil und Inhalt der Prologe und Epiloge in Gesetzen des Altertums von den ältesten bekannten keilschriftlichen Inschriften (Urnammu 2212—2095 v. Chr.; an ihre Stelle werden die Texte aus Ebla von ca. 2400—2250 treten) bis Diokletian untersucht. Ries meint, daß es möglich sei, in einem Gesetztext die Einleitungs- und Schlußteile von dem Haupttext zu trennen. Die Untersuchung solcher „nichtdispositiven“ oder „nichtjuristischen“ Bestandteile von Gesetzen auf dem Gebiet der antiken Rechtsgeschichte ist auch deshalb reizvoll, weil in diesem zeitlichen und räumlichen Bereich eine große Anzahl einschlägiger Quellen zur Verfügung steht, die in ihrer historischen Abhängigkeit noch nicht eingehend dargestellt sind. Ries hat mit dieser verdienstvollen Untersuchung eine anregende und detailreiche Darstellung zur Rechtsgeschichte in der Antike vorgelegt, und auch der normale Altertumswissenschaftler, der kein Spezialist der Rechtsgeschichte ist, wird das Werk mit Interesse und Gewinn lesen. — Eine einzige Einzelheit: zu der auf S. 129 erwähnten lex „Gabinia“ vgl. jetzt das unter der Leitung von C. Nicolet herausgegebene Kollektivwerk „*Insula sacra. La loi Gabinia Calpurnia de Délos*“, Collection de l'École française de Rome 45, 1980.

*Heikki Solin*

*Sarah B. Pomeroy: Women in Hellenistic Egypt from Alexander to Cleopatra.* Shoken Books, New York 1984. XXII, 241 p. USD 16.95.

The Hellenistic period with all its radical social and economical changes is an interesting area of study concerning women's status in antiquity. Taking into account the previous works of the author, it is even more interesting that the author of this book has concentrated on Egypt where the old Egyptian culture was overruled by the Greeks after the conquest of Alexander the Great. The mutual effect of the Greek and the Egyptian cultures can easily be seen in this book.

The author has chosen to handle various aspects of royal, domestic and economic life widely using the literature of antiquity and the papyri. She has also studied other literature concerning this subject. The bibliography of this book is a great help in trying to find some information about the Hellenistic period in general, about Egypt and also in trying to find some literature with a view to the status of women, of course.

Though some parts of the book need editing like the chapter concerning women and slavery, which can be blamed from not having solid and compact arguments, this book is an introduction to a socially and economically interesting subject. A specialist on Hellenistic Egypt would probably find it frustrating when the arguments are stressed so repeatedly and sometimes not very clearly, but in general it is pleasant to have a book in which there is some of the vast amount of information gathered under one specific title. Women studies are highly fashionable nowadays so it is understandable that some scholars cannot stand the idea of studying women's status in antiquity. However, as an introductory work this book can defend its place in the literature about antiquity.

*Erja Salmenkivi*