

Forni himself had already planned to publish a collection of his papers on the tribes, but did not have time to finish it. As G. M. Forni intended to realise her father's plans and to publish the book under review quickly, the articles dealing with the tribes were left out of the collection of Forni's papers *Scritti vari di storia, epigrafia e antichità romane* collected and edited in 1994 by Maria Gabriella Angeli Bertinelli. However, more than ten years passed before this collection on the tribes appeared by which time also Prof. Hubert Devijver, who had pointed out the importance of such a collection, had died, a fact apparently not noticed by G. M. Forni, who apologises to Devijver for the delay in the foreword of the collection.

But this collection of articles is, in any case, highly valuable for all those interested in the tribes of ancient Rome: it makes easily accessible the articles dealing with tribes written by the most eminent *tribus* researcher of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The articles arranged in chronological order cover the years from 1956 to 1990, thus omitting the first paper Forni ever wrote on this subject ("Il tramonto di un'istituzione. Pseudo-tribù romane derivate da soprannomi imperiali", in *Studi giuridici in memoria di Alfredo Passerini* [Studia Ghisleriana], Pavia 1954, 89–124) – omitted probably because the theme was later elaborated on by Forni in the volume on the *pseudo-tribù*, where he also explains that his views had changed over the years.

In the 40 articles of this collection, Forni approaches the tribes from a wide variety of angles: he considers the tribe as a part of the name formula and in poetical contexts, he writes about the morphology of the tribe names and about the double tribes and changing of the tribe, and he also discusses the research history of the tribes from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to name but a few of the themes present. His detailed accounts – in the style of Kubitschek – of the tribes in different regions (Pannonia, Dacia, Sicilia, Achaia, Umbria) and in some colonies (Augusta Emerita, Aquileia) are important predecessors for the expected final volume II. The importance of epigraphy for scholarship on the tribes is evident throughout the book but especially in the shorter articles, which re-examine individual inscriptions mentioning the tribe.

Several of the most recent articles in the collection lay emphasis on the fact that the tribe was always bound to a citizen, never to a city. That Forni's ideas in this respect were clarified only in his later years can be seen by comparing the titles of the articles: in 1976 "La tribù Papiria di Augusta Emerita", but in 1989 "La tribù Velina degli Aquileiesi".

This collection is well-edited; I noticed only a few misprints. All the articles are newly typeset, but the original page numbers are presented in the page margins. The text is mostly unaltered, although some corrections and additions have been made according to the notes left by the author himself. A hundred pages of indices contain ancient sources, inscriptions, personal names, tribes, and geographical names, and make the use of this collection easy. This is an extremely useful book not only for anyone working on tribes, but also for epigraphers in general.

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FRANCISCO PINA POLO: *The Consul at Rome: the civil functions of the consuls in the Roman Republic*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2011. ISBN 978-0-521-19083-1. X, 379 pp. GBP 65, USD 110.

A few years ago, in a study of consular legislation in the pre-Sullan republic, I noted that the consulship of republican Rome would merit "a thorough treatment comparable to that which Corey Brennan has recently bestowed to the praetorship" (*Arctos* 38 [2004], 133). The book

under review here is nothing less than the much-needed study that I called for. Although the occupancy of the consulship provided the very basis for the civic dating system of the Romans and, indeed, the institution itself has always been perceived as the focal point of and the key to the politics of the republican period, the magistracy has long received very little systematic attention *per se* (cf. Hans Beck et al. [eds.], *Consuls and Res Publica. Holding High Office in the Roman Republic*, Cambridge 2011, 1: "the consulship of the Roman republic is notoriously under-researched"). Since its treatment in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by Ettore De Ruggiero (*Dizionario epigrafico di antichità romane* II, Roma 1892, 679–862) the consulship has been considered only in works dealing with the republican system as a whole, whereas many other political institutions of the Republic – such as the Senate, the popular assemblies, the tribunate of the plebs, the censorship, the aedileship and the praetorship – have been examined in full-length monographic studies.

Pina Polo's excellent book, filling a major void in the scholarly literature on Roman political institutions, is the first major tangible result of two recent research projects led by the author in conjunction with Hans Beck, Antonio Duplá and Martin Jehne: *Cónsules, consulares y el gobierno de la República romana* (2005–2007) and *Cónsules, consulares y el gobierno de la República romana entre Sila y Augusto* (2008–2010), both funded by the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia del Gobierno de España. Moreover, Pina Polo's monograph was almost immediately followed by the publication of another tome on the consulate, H. Beck et al. (eds), *Consuls and Res Publica* (see above), which is a proceedings-volume from an international conference organized by Pina Polo and his collaborators at the Universidad de Zaragoza in September of 2007. Although both are dedicated to the consulship of the Roman Republic, the two volumes differ markedly in their aims and approaches. Whereas the contributions to the conference publication primarily focus on problems pertaining to political culture and sociology, Pina Polo's book is a systematic survey of the civil functions of the consuls. However, the two books share a fundamental methodological feature. Both are concerned not so much with what the holders of the office were allowed to do according to constitutional theory, in the manner of the classical *Staatsrecht* tradition, but with what they actually did in practice. In collecting a wealth of empirical data on consular activities, Pina Polo has laid a new foundation for the study of the consulship of the Republic.

After the usual preliminaries, including an introduction providing a very good general contextualization along with an overview of previous research (pp. 1–9), follows the main body of the book, which is constituted by fifteen numbered chapters organized in two parts.

The first part, entitled *The Consular Functions in the Pre-Sullan Age (367–81)*, consists of eleven chapters. In the first chapter, "The consuls taking office" (pp. 13–20), the author is concerned with the formalities pertaining to the inception of the consuls' term, and also discusses the date on which this took place (which differed over time). The following discussion, "Consuls and civic religion" (pp. 21–57), is dedicated to the religious functions of the consuls, which included the duty to preside over the *feriae Latinae* and, above all, the responsibility to preserve and, whenever required, re-establish the *pax deorum*; this was something they did in conjunction with the Senate in accordance with strict rules. In the third chapter, "Consuls, the agents of diplomacy in the Roman state" (pp. 58–82), the role of the consuls in the diplomatic process is dealt with, a field of action rigorously supervised by the Senate. In the fourth chapter, "Communication between the consuls and the people: edicts and *contiones*" (pp. 83–98), the author documents the various subject matters on which consuls issued edicts, and the manners

in which they sought to influence the political process by formally addressing the people. He observes that the consuls of the pre-Sullan Republic spent most of their year in office away from Rome, a state of affairs which greatly reduced the political importance of the consulate. The following discussion, "Consuls as legislators" (pp. 99–121), is to a great extent a dialogue with my book *Magistrates and Assemblies. A Study of Legislative Practice in Republican Rome* (ActaIRF 24, Rome 2001). Though Pina Polo offers alternative interpretations at several points (I do not find it appropriate to enter into a discussion of them here), he does agree with me not only that consular legislation on civil matters was very rare in the pre-Sullan Republic (p. 101), but also that many of the consular laws that have been circulating in the scholarly literature since the 19<sup>th</sup> century are actually hypothetical creations of modern research (p. 110): "... their [*scil.* the consuls'] intervention in civil legislation during the pre-Sullan period is more questionable. In fact, as Sandberg rightly states, there is no certainty of their participation in many laws that Rotondi attributed to consuls. On the contrary, in many cases consular participation is only a hypothesis, if not mere speculation, formulated by modern scholarship. The use of Rotondi's compilation and the lack of alternative general studies have for decades resulted in the mechanical repetition of these hypotheses without consideration of the need for further verification." (cf. p. 101).

In the sixth chapter, "The jurisdiction of the consuls" (pp. 122–34), Pina Polo deals with consular jurisdiction which did not involve routine matters but rather special inquiries such as the famous one pertaining to the *Bacchanalia* in 186 BCE. In the following discussion, "Consuls as promoters of public works" (pp. 135–68), the author deals with the consuls' involvement in public building; including road-building, from the letting of the contract (*locatio*) to the formal approval of the finished work (*probatio*). This chapter is also concerned with their erection of temples, which – because of the fact that the vast majority of the temples of the republican period were vowed by commanding magistrates in the field and thus were victory monuments – constituted a particularly important category of consular building. The author collects and discusses all the evidence for consuls performing the *votum* (vow), the *locatio* and the *dedicatio* (the consecration or dedication) of a sanctuary.

In chapter eight, "Colonization and distribution of land" (pp. 169–87), Pina Polo discusses the control of public land and its use for colonization; the consuls played a crucial role supervising the distribution of *ager publicus* amongst colonists, either *viritim* or for the foundation of Roman or Latin *coloniae*. In the following chapter, "Appointment of a dictator" (pp. 188–91), the author is concerned with the technicalities pertaining to the naming of a dictator, an extraordinary measure in cases of emergency, which was always decided by the Senate but actually performed by a consul at the request of this body. The tenth chapter, "Consuls presiding over elections" (pp. 192–207), is concerned with the consuls' role in presiding over consular elections. The discussion focuses on a question first discussed by Lily Ross Taylor and Robert Broughton (*Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome* 19 [1949], 1–13), namely whether there were rules as to which one of the consuls should conduct the elections. Pina Polo's conclusion is that it was not the seniority of the consul, but rather the military situation in Italy and in the consular provinces that decided the matter each year. The last chapter of the first part of the book, "The consular year in the pre-Sullan age" (pp. 208–22), nicely sums up the typical activities of the consuls of the pre-Sullan period during their year in office.

The second part, entitled *The Consular Functions in the Post-Sullan Age (80–50)*, is constituted by four chapters, one of which is the formal ending of the whole volume. The

twelfth chapter, "The supposed *lex Cornelia de provinciis ordinandis* and the presence of consuls in Rome in the post-Sullan period" (pp. 225–48), is dedicated to a detailed study of an alleged reform of the consulship by Sulla. According to Mommsen, the dictator passed a law which put the administration of the provinces in the hands of promagistrates, obliging the consuls, along with the whole collegium of the praetors, to remain in Rome during their year in office. Pina Polo gives his full support to Adalberto Giovannini (*Consulare imperium*, Basel 1983), who in his view "finally dismantled Mommsen's thesis" (p. 227). He does recognize that the evidence suggests that the consuls of the post-Sullan period spent their year in office at Rome rather than setting out for their provinces in the beginning of the year, but he explains this new situation by reference to the recurring outbreaks of political unrest which is arguably a defining feature of the decades between the Gracchan period and the ascendancy of Sulla. According to Pina Polo the Senate increasingly preferred the consuls to remain in Rome "as an instrument of control against possibly seditious tribunes" (p. 247). Pina Polo is absolutely right in stressing that there is no evidence for a formal statute reforming the governance of Rome and the Roman realm overseas, but – whatever the cause (the possibility of a senatorial decree is mentioned (p. 247) – it is clear that Sulla's supremacy heralded a new era in the administration of the Roman state.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters, "Consular functions from the year 80 to 50" (pp. 249–315) and "The consular year in the post-Sullan period" (pp. 316–28), Pina Polo collects and discusses the evidence for the activities of the consuls after Sulla. The most important observation he makes here is that the main outcome of the consuls' presence in Rome during the entire year was that they engaged in day-to-day politics: "Without a doubt, one of the most significant changes from the pre-Sullan period was the greater importance that the consuls began to have in the legislative field" (p. 249).

At the end of the book, after the conclusion (pp. 329–34), there is an extensive and very good bibliography (pp. 335–57). Three indices – of subjects (pp. 358 f.), of ancient sources (pp. 360–74) as well as of ancient personal names (pp. 375–9) – add to the usefulness of the book as a research tool.

*Kaj Sandberg*

DAVID J. MATTINGLY: *Imperialism, Power, and Identity: Experiencing the Roman Empire*. Princeton University Press, Princeton – Oxford 2011. ISBN 978-0-691-14605-8. XXIV, 342 pp., 38 halftones, 14 line illustrations, 15 tables, 17 maps. GBP 27.95, USD 39.95.

*Experiencing the Roman Empire* is not a monograph in its strictest sense; instead, it is a collection of studies all shedding light on the same theme, the impact of Rome's imperialism on its subject people. This aptly-named book is based on a series of invited lectures given at Tufts University in 2006. It is David Mattingly's personal drawing-together of three decades of research, reissued, updated and distilled in order to discuss the implications of the expansion of the Roman Empire and the new theory-influenced paradigms related to this. This is a modern take on the issue of utilising post-colonial studies and their explanatory power as a framework, executed by focusing on a series of case studies across the empire, specifically in the provinces. The underlying but not hidden agenda is Mattingly's self-expressed scepticism