
Introduction

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

INTRODUCTION

The juristic papyrology came into being at the very same time that the papyri arose on the horizon. It is considered, without exaggeration, the most important branch of the science of papyrology.

In the first phase of its development scholars on juristic papyrology published their contributions either in magazines devoted to papyrology such as "Archiv fuer Papyrus forschung" and "Aegyptus" or those devoted to ancient law like "Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung."

A new epoch in juristic papyrology started with the foundation of the "Archives du Droit Oriental" in which was established a section for Hellenistic Law. Since the knowledge of the Hellenistic Law is based principally on papyri, this meant in essence the establishment of a section for juristic papyrology. The late Prof. Collinet of Paris and I were directors of this section. The "Archives" were published yearly until 1940. Thus three volumes appeared.

Therefore, it is only a further step in the development of the science of juristic papyrology if I attempt to bring into being a special journal for it alone. The "Archives du Droit Oriental" could in no way fulfill all our requirements. The space allotted allowed only the publication of special articles. Reviews of literature and papyri editions had to be ignored and it is in this respect principally that the Journal will fill the gap.

Although this is a journal of juristic papyrology, it must not be considered as an exclusive journal for jurists. I emphasize this point because most of the papyri published so far are of a legal nature and their editors, philologues and historians, have sprinkled their editions with commentaries

which by no means are surpassed by those written by professional historians of law. I dare mention the brilliant commentaries of Westermann on the Columbia-Papyri, Bell on the London-Papyri, and Welles on the Dura-Papyri. Contributions of this kind will be highly welcomed in our journal.