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"Iz oblasti grecheskoy istoriografii IV v. do n.e. (v svyazi s opublikovaniem novykh fragmentov "Grecheskoy istorii" iz Oksirinkha) = Greek historiography in the IV century B.C. (on the occasion of the publication of some new fragments of Hellenica Oxyrhynchia", K. K. Zel'in, "VDI", 1960, nr 1 : [recenzja]

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Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.
This important monograph is devoted to an analysis of agrarian relations, in connection with the class structure and class struggle in Egypt in the II—I cent. B.C. and to the elucidating of the socio-economical structure of Egypt basing on the agrarian relations. An introduction, which states the purpose, and sources of the work, is followed by five sections: I. A review of general background and conditions bearing upon the developments in agrarian relationships; II. Agrarian relations in Fayyûm; III. Agrarian relations in Upper Egypt; IV. Forms of ownership and kinds of possessions; V. Main features and evolution of social and political life in Egypt in the II—I centuries B.C. The book closes with the author’s conclusions, a bibliography and an index. The author draws from all the extant Greek and Demotic sources while separate chapters are devoted to the analyses of some more important papyri (P. Tebt. 703; UPZ 110; P. Tebt. 5). By comparing the data from Fayyûm and from Thebaid the author is able not only to establish local peculiarities but also to set the developments in agrarian relations against a wide historical background. To achieve this aim he examines the main features of the growth of goods-production and discusses the importance, range and forms of slavery.

The author’s main conclusions are as follows: at that time slave-ownership played a less important role in the Ptolemaic Egypt than in Rome or Carthage, but the elements of lack of freedom and direct compulsion, which no doubt are connected with the influence of slavery, can be traced in every aspect of the social structure of the Ptolemaic State. Characteristically the State would reserve its supreme right of land ownership though it would simultaneously more and more warrant the private possession. This policy found its reflection in fiscal laws. The consolidating process of various forms of private possession was influenced by the growing production of goods. The State would control the lands on lease (voluntary land-leases including) thus making lease holders still more dependent from itself.

The agrarian relations and their forms were developing under the difficult conditions inside and outside the State, under the conditions of class struggle. The papyri, P. Tebt. 703, UPZ 110 and P. Tebt. 5 indicate what measures were taken, and what unsuccessful attempts were made by the government to keep popular movements under control in order to secure the regular inflow of fiscal revenues.
This is a detailed analysis of the papyrus fragments of the anonymous work, known under the name of "Hellenica Oxyrhynchia". The author of the essay compares this work with the works of other representatives of Greek historiography in the IV century B.C. (chiefly Theopompus, Ephorus, Xenophon etc.) in order to establish the specific characteristics of social terminology, social and political tendencies and literary peculiarities of the examined work. Mr Zel’in characterizes the main tendencies of Greek historiographers of the IV century B.C. and points out that they can be distinguished on the ground of how they present historical events. He states that the guiding principles of the authors and their literary interpretations do not agree with the tendencies which are derived from an examination of their social and economic views.


Upon an analysis of a complaint of the king of Nubia made to the Khalīf al-Mamun (or to his brother al-Mutasim), quoted by Masudi and Makrizi about the sale of some parcels of land by the subjects of the king of Nubia and habitants of Assuan, the autor comes to the conclusion, that the argumentation of the king of Nubia and what we may learn from an analysis of the text about the life in that country agree with the facts we already know about Egypt under the reign of Bocchoris. Therefore it is possible to suppose that in the eight and ninth centuries in Nubia there continued to exist social conditions and relations characteristic of the ancient oriental slave-holding autocracy.


Based on the studies of the Academician V. V. Struve (U istokov romana ob Aleksandre. Vostochnye zapiski, 1 = On the sources about the romance of Alexander. The Oriental Memoirs, 1. Leningrad, 1927) the author investigates in detail the legend on Nectanebo and comes to the conclusion that this legend is piece of popular literature.