Fikhman, Itskhok Fiselevitch

"K voprosu o trekh fazakh v razvitii egipetskikh patrotsiniev = A Contribution to the Problem of Three Phases in the Development of Egyptian Patrocinia", I. F. Fikhman, "VDI", 1966, nr 1 : [recenzja]

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prices of goods produced by them. Nevertheless, in the papyrological sources preserved to our times, indisputable evidence has not yet been found confirming the existence of the so-called "monopolistic tendencies".

I. F. Fikhman. Egipet na rubezhe dvukh epokh. Remeslenniki i remeslennyi trud v IV — seredine VII v. (Egypt on the Confines of Two Epochs. The Craftsmen and the Craftsmen's Work in the 4th to the Middle of the 7th cent.). Moscow, 1965, 308 pp.

This book contains somewhat rewritten and enlarged text of the author's dissertation entitled The Problems of Handicraft in Byzantine Egypt, Leningrad, 1962. The book consists of a foreword by the editor, the academician V.V. Struye, an introduction, three chapters (1. The handicraft and craftsmen, 2. The guilds, 3. The craftsmen's work in the large estates), conclusions, the list of abbreviations, indexes and the addenda. The author does not set himself the task of studying all the aspects of handicraft including the techniques and technology of production, but limits himself to the study of production relations in handicraft, namely: the social structure of the craftsmen, the forms of organization of handicraft, the forms of handicraft association, the social and economic situation of the craftsmen etc. The main assertions of the work are as follows. In comparison with Roman Egypt - a sharp lowering of the relative value of slave labour connected with an increase of the importance of free craftsmen's labour, the small scale of production, the great development of the guilds, the important role of large estates as producers and consumers of handicraft products testify that in Egypt of the time in question a deep disintegration of slave-ownership relations was taking place as well as the establishment of feudal relations, not accompanied, however, as in the West, by a strong relapse into a house-economy. The book is provided with many tables.

I. F. Fikhman. K voprosu o trekh fazakh v razvitii egipetskikh patrotsiniev. (A Contribution to the Problem of Three Phases in the Development of Egyptian Patrocinia). VDI, 1966, no. 1, pp. 110–112.

A critical analysis of the papyrological evidence referred to in an essay of G. Diosdi entitled Zur Frage der Entwicklung des Patriociniums im Ägypten, JJP XIV, 1962, pp. 57—72, for support of the thesis that the characteristic feature of the 6th century i.e. of the third phase of the development of *patrocinia*, according to the division applied by G. Diosdi, is the request of the persons under *patrocinium* to the emperor or the other landowners for help against their own patrons. According to the opinion of J. F. Fikhman this thesis is not confirmed by the sources. Instances of requests to other persons and among them to the emperor perhaps occurred, but they are not so numerous that it would be possible to consider them a characteristic feature of the whole phase in the development of *patrocinia*. It is also doubtful if they were characteristic only for this last phase.

I. S. Katsnelson. Antichnyye pisateli o Nubii (Ancient Writers on Nubia). Palestinskii Sbornik, 7 (70) 1962, pp. 15-34.

A detailed analysis of the ancient writers information on Nubia. Special attention is devoted to the information derived from the authors of the Hellenistic and Roman times. Although this information suffers from many deficiencies (fragmentariness, confusion of chronology, presence of entirely fabricated and fantastic reconstructions) it is an irreplaceable source for even partial reconstruction of the social and economic organization of the Nubian tribes.

M.A. Korostovtsev. Pistsy drevnego Egipta (The Scribes of Ancient Egypt). Moscow, 1962.

This book, devoted to the examination of how the individuality of the author of written monuments affected his work in the course of the history of Egyptian culture, consists of the main text as well as of an appendix (the translation of 39 Egyptian and 2 Sumerian texts), a bibliography and a list of abbreviations. The main text is divided into six chapters: 1. General information on the scribes of Egypt; 2. Education and the school; 3. The cultural activity and works of the scribes; 4. The problems of authorship in ancient Egypt; 5. Egyptian culture and the surrounding world; 6. Egypt and the Greeks. Papyrologist will be especially interested in chapter six (pp. 112-140) in which the author examines the extent of linguistic communication between Egyptians and Greeks taking into consideration the Greco-Roman period of the history of Egypt. In his researches into the domain of language, literature, religion, mathematics, medicine etc. the author makes extensive use of the papyrological sources, including the Greek sources. The main assertion of the author is that in the Greco-Egyptian cultural syncretism Egypt was mostly on the giving rather than the receiving end.

M. A. Korostovtsev. Vvedeniye v egipetskuyu filologiyu. (An Introduction to Egyptian Philology). Moscow, 1963, 279 pp.

Special chapters are devoted to the development of the hieroglyphic system in Greco-Roman times (pp. 68-74, 211-215) and to the Coptic language (pp. 216-223), a detailed bibliography being added (pp. 237-275).

M. A. Korostovtsev. Egipetskoye proiskhozhdeniye romana ob Aleksandre. (The Egyptian Origin of the Romance on Alexander). The Short

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