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"The demography of Roman Egypt",
Roger S. Bagnall, Bruce W. Frier,
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Rechtssystems. Ausführlicher wird auch die Verwaltungsstruktur und Aufteilung des Landes behandelt, weil diese für das Verständnis der urkundlichen Texte von entscheidender Bedeutung sind. Die meisten Fragenkomplexe werden in drei Teilen dargestellt, die ptolemäische, römische und byzantische Zeit, gemäss der ganz unterschiedlichen Problematik der einzelnen Epochen.

Das Buch ist durchaus übersichtlich angelegt und herausgegeben. Es wird sicherlich nicht nur von den Studierenden wohlwollend aufgenommen werden.

[J.K. Winnicki]

Roger S. BAGNALL, Bruce W. FRIER, *The demography of Roman Egypt* (Cambridge Studies in Population, Economy and Society in Past Time 23), Cambridge University Press 1994, ISBN 0 521 46123 5, pp. xix + 354

The traditional demographic regime of ancient Greece and Rome is almost entirely unknown. Egypt is the only province of the Roman Empire for which a demographical study can be conducted. The sources are three hundred census returns filled by ordinary Egyptian declarants for the provincial government.

The Bagnall and Frier's book will be in common use as a papyrological tool. It has a complete and accurate catalogue of all demographically relevant information contained in the returns (pp. 179-312). Each item of the catalogue consists of: description of the source, its provenance and date, stemma of the family, name and age of the declarant, names and age of family members and free non-kin persons enlisted in the return, names of slaves and some technical information about the papyrus (where to find the photograph, emendations and discussion on the particular document). I am convinced that this catalogue will be consulted not only by non-papyrologists interested in demographical studies, but also by specialists in our discipline attracted by its accuracy and up-to-date information about the documents it contains. Although the catalogue is a papyrological work *par excellence*, it contains very few Greek characters which makes it easy to read for a wide public, not necessarily restricted to the historians of antiquity. (Roger S. Bagnall used the same way in writing his book on *Egypt in Late Antiquity*) The catalogue is organized according to very clear pattern: year of census followed by the name of the nome the document came from, and the consecutive number. There is, of course, a necessary in such a case concordance of publications and household numbers (*Appendix 2*, pp. 320-329). The catalogue is supplemented by the list of minor corrections to census texts (*Appendix 1*, pp. 313-319) made by the authors mainly on the basis of comparative studies. *Chapter 1* of the book (pp. 1-30) should be perceived as an introduction to the catalogue; the authors describe the documentary sources of their work and gave in brief a history of the census.

The first part of the book is, however, mainly devoted to the most important aspects of Egyptian demography: household structure in *Chapter 3*, pp. 53-74; female and

male life expectancy and the sex ratio in *Chapters 4 and 5*, pp. 75-110, marriage, its patterns and age of woman and man at first marriage in *Chapter 6*, pp. 111-134, fertility in *Chapter 7*, pp. 135-159; *Chapter 8*, pp. 160-169, concerns the third major demographic function (along with mortality and fertility), i.e. migration. After very accurate studies according to the rules of demography and statistics (as far as it may be appreciated by a non-specialist; for a reader whose command of statistical methods is very basic the authors present *Appendix 3*, pp. 330-333), illustrated by a number of figures generated by computer tools (described in detail on pp. 38-40), the authors arrived at the conclusion that "there is very little about Egyptian demography that would not have been anticipated, very little that lies outside the boundaries of the normal for pre-modern Mediterranean populations" (p. 170). This conclusion should be considered optimistic; it is probable that our hypotheses in respect to other parts of the ancient world could also be also reasonable, as they were in respect to Egypt before Bagnall and Frier's studies.

There is another question the authors put forward — how stable was the Egyptian population over the long period covered by the census returns? Because of the lack of a remotely adequate statistical basis, the answer is rather hypothetical but very interesting: according to the authors fertility was more fundamental than mortality in constituting the Egyptian demographic regime and high mortality rates were not, as ancient historians have usually understood them to be, exogenous given, but instead the direct consequence of overpopulation. Frier and Bagnall suggest to compare the Egyptian situation with the well-known in demography 'Chinese' model.

The Frier and Bagnall's book is a very important piece of papyrological work combined with a broader study. It shows once more that our possibilities of studying Egypt as a province of the Roman Empire are much deeper than other provinces. As in other cases, also for demographical studies we are to answer a general question: to what extent was a (un)typical province of the Roman Empire?

[T. Derda]

A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint, *Part I (A-I)*. Compiled by J. LUST, E. EYNIKEL, K. HAUSPIE with the collaboration of G. CHAMBERLAIN, *Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, Stuttgart 1992. ISBN 3 438 05125 7*

Although there are a few good Greek dictionaries, the LXX scholars have not got till now a lexicon adequate for their needs. Schleusner's *Novus thesaurus philologico criticus ...* was edited in XIXth century and is rather not up-to-date. Since its edition many new papyri and inscriptions have been found, which shed a new light on our knowledge of LXX vocabulary. In our century many attempts have been made to work out a new lexicon of LXX Greek. A result of those attempts was the CATSS (*Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint Studies*) enterprise, created by R. Kraft and E.