

# Taubenschlag, Rafał

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"Étude sur les πρεσβύτεροι des villages de la χώρα égyptienne", A. Tomsin, "Bull. de la classe des lettres et des sciences morales et politiques", 5-e ser., T. XXXVIII, 1952 : [recenzja]

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treats about the office of strategos in the kingdom of Seleucides and later after its partition, in the ensuing states, then — in the kingdom of Antigonides. The third volume is devoted to the office of strategos in the kingdom of the Ptolemies.

The office of strategos was created by the Ptolemies after the Macedonian and Greek patterns. The author is chiefly concerned with the questions of circumstances and reasons for the appointment of the so called district-strategos, with the relation of the office of district-strategos to the office of nomarch, the pharaonic district-governor; then with the origin of the great commander-in-chief in the Ptolemaic Egypt, the office of strategos of the Thebaïs as well as with the office of epistrategos. Finally the author deals with the office of strategos in the foreign possessions of the Ptolemies. A special section is devoted to the organisation of Egypt under Alexander the Great in the year 332 B. C.

André Aymard, *Ésprit militaire et administration hellénistique* (Révue des Études anciennes, vol. LV, nr 1—2, [1953]).

This article discusses the work of Bengtson on the office of strategos, and contains numerous valuable observations, which the papyrologists will find interesting.

A. Tomsin, *Étude sur les πρεσβύτεροι des villages de la χώρα égyptienne* (Acad. royale de Belgique, Bull. de la classe des lettres et des sciences morales et politiques, 5-e série, tome XXXVIII, Extrait, 1952).

The papyri concern the persons titled πρεσβύτεροι who since the 3rd century had lived in the villages of the Egyptian χώρα. This title is often followed by further details relating to the descent or social group of the bearer. The πρεσβύτεροι appear at the beginning of the Lagide epoch as a body constituted spontaneously by the native population outside the official administration. This institution held the peasant community under management and control. In the course of the second half of the second century B. C. the institution of πρεσβύτεροι had undergone an important transformation: their attributes remained apparently the same: the administration of the peasant's interests and the cooperation with the Lagide authorities but their functions acquired an official character with the responsibilities attached to it. The performance of their

office assumed the character of liturgy. The responsibilities taken over by the *πρεσβύτεροι* caused necessarily the extension of their competence so that they became more closely concerned with the administrative life of a village. As the guarantees of the yields of the cultures they were granted the right of supervising rural activities; in this domain they became the assistants of the Lagide clerks. For that reason they occasionally performed the duties of the police. Towards the end of the second century B. C. the *πρεσβύτεροι* became the officially appointed guarantees for the levies and dues imposed on the community. Their relations with the village inhabitants became essentially modified. From that moment the *πρεσβύτεροι* ceased to be protectors of the peasant class to which they belonged. They became true agents of the fisc.

A. E. R. B o a k, *Tesserarii and quadrarii as village officials in Egypt in the fourth Century* (Studies Johnson, 322—335).

The author endeavours to prove, that the *tesserarii* and the *quadrarii* in the 4th century were village officials whose duty was to supervise the payment of public taxes.

D. C l a r k e, *Alexandria ad Aegyptum* (Bull. Fac. Arts Farouk I Univ. V, 99—102).  
not seen.

C. R o e b u c k, *The Organisation of Naucratis* (Cl. Phil., XLVI, 212—220).  
not seen.

F. W. v o n B i s s i n g, *Naukratis I-e partie* (Bulletin de la Societé royale d'Archéologie d'Alexandrie, XXXIX, 33—82, [1951]).

The author gives a detailed account of the history of the city, its origin and development and makes full use of epigraphical evidence.

J a c q u e l i n e L a l l e m a n d, *La création des provinces d'Égypte Iovia et d'Égypte Herculia* (Académie royale de Belgique, Bull. de la classe des lettres et des sciences morales et politiques, 5-e série, tome XXXVI, 1950).

Since M o m m s e n the historians of the reign of Diocletian attribute to this emperor the division of Egypt into three provin-