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"A Bronze Statuette of a Comic Actor", Margarete Bieber, "Record of the Art Museum Princeton University", vol. IX, 1950, no 2 : [recenzja]

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PRIVATE LAW

SLAVERY

Margarete Bieber, *A Bronze Statuette of a Comic Actor* (*Record of the Art Museum Princeton University* vol. IX (1950) N° 2 pp. 5—12).

The author describes a bronze statuette of a comic actor. The most unusual feature of this actor of the New Comedy is the thick ring which he is wearing over both shoulders, upper breast and nape of neck. The bust of a Negro from Egypt in the Fouquet collection, one found during the Sieglin expedition in Alexandria and one from Cairo, all three terracotta bottles, show a similar ring. Perdrizet rightly recognized in this collar the bronze or iron ring put on slaves who were suspected of wanting run away. Several examples of such rings are in Rome. About thirty round or rectangular disks to be suspended from these rings are preserved with inscriptions such as „*tene me quia fugi et revoca me ad domum Theodotenis*”.

The statuette is however not Roman but Hellenistic about the 2-nd century B. C. That such a neck ring was put on slaves, suspected of being inclined to run away, during the second century is proved by a papyrus from Alexandria dated 156 or 145 B. C. = UPZ N° 121 p. 567 ff. He wore an iron ring on which was a lekythos and a strigil. Wilcken believes that the bottle and strigil were illustrated on the ring. Ms. Bieber would think that they were suspended from it as were the identification tags for the Roman slaves. Such tags besides branding were indeed used for slaves in the Near East. When the slaves were freed the mark was broken.

W. L. Westermann, *Extinction of Claims in Slave Sales at Delphi* (*Journ. of Jur. Pap.* IV pp. 48—61).

Iza Biezunska, *Etudes sur la condition juridique et sociale de la femme grecque en Égypte gréco-romaine* („*Hermaion*”, fasc. 4, Leopoli 1939 pp. 76).

The author asserts — on the basis of the papyri, inscriptions and literary sources — that women in the Ptolemaic and the Roman periods were acting without the assistance of a κύριος in the field of private law and the law of legal proceedings and sometimes in administrative proceedings; they managed also their children's property. (cf. *my art. Archives d'hist. du Droit orient.* II 293).