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Rafael Taubenschlag

L'originalité de l'Égypte dans le monde gréco-romain (Museum Helveticum vol. 10 fasc. 3/4, Basel 1953)

The present volume contains several papers read during the VII International Congress of Papyrology, which discussed the problem of the peculiar position of Egypt in the Greco-Roman world. In our review we will deal only with the papers which are of direct interest for the jurists. As to the other non-juristic essays contained in this volume we shall confine ourselves to indicating their titles. These are: V. Martin, *Autonomie et dépendance de la papyrologie* (131-140); J. Mallon, *Paléographie des papyrus d'Égypte et des inscriptions du monde romain* (141-160); F. M. Heichelheim, *Autonomous Price Trends in Egypt from Alexander the Great to Heraclius I* (summary) (192); Cl. Préaux, *Les raisons de l'originalité de l'Égypte* (203-221); H. I. Bell, *Greco-Egyptian Religion* (222-237); S. G. Kopsomenos, *Das Griechische in Ägypten* (248-263).

H. Bengtson, *Die ptolomäische Staatsverwaltung im Rahmen der hellenistischen Administration* (161-191).

It is the author's thesis that whatever is said about the influence of hellenistic culture, literature and arts, similar views should be held about hellenistic administration as it had infiltrated into the countries conquered by Alexander the Great.

In his analysis of the institutions as well as of the principles of this administration, the author notes its very heavy bearing on the legal heritage of the Orient. Of this oriental origin are among

others the office of scribe, — quite unknown in Greek or Macedonian legislation; the division into districts of the territory administered by the governor, heir presumptive of the Persian satrap; that of several simultaneously enthroned rulers, modelled after the office of vice-royship of Persian heirs to the throne in Baktria, and the institution of strategies which meant a total change in the administration of the Persian satrapy. A characteristic tendency of the hellenistic administration was that of uniting a number of strategies into larger areas which again were administered after the Persian pattern. Similarly were also classed the subjects of a kingdom in Asia as the dynasts, πόλεις and τόποι. How deep and large-scale were the oriental influences upon various spheres of hellenistic administration, evidence the *hypomnematismoi* for clerks, of the same nature as the Persian *ephemerides*; also postal services organization which again were taken over from the Persians.

Considering to what extent the Greeks and Macedonians helped organize the hellenistic administration one may say that they had taken the letter of the Persian law while its spirit was hellenistic, i.e. they had considerably and in many ways changed it. In addition they initiated the worship of monarchs, introduced the Greek language as used in offices and public services, and finally the Greek law.

When discussing the reasons which accounted for the specific features of the Ptolemaic administration and which distinguished it from other hellenistic states, the author considers three factors as being most fundamental; namely the geographic position of Egypt, the natives whose manpower was the sole capital of the country, and finally its historic past.

B. A. van Groningen, *Population et administration* (178-191).

In this article the author discusses the distinctive traits of the specific relation of the administration to the population in Greco-Roman Egypt. In his conclusions he holds that the government's relationship to the population during the Ptolemaic period cannot be considered as novel or original except certain specific cases. No originality or new tendencies of the administration are noted, less so in various essential administrative functions. Certain new forms can be observed to develop only of some lowest functionaries of administrative hierarchy, and even then that "novelty" is de-