

# Fikhman, Itskhok Fiselevitch

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"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.", I. F. Fikhman, Moscow 1965 : [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. F i k h m a n. *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. S t r u v e, 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. F i k h m a n. *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. D i o s d i 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. D i o s d i, 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. F i k h m a n 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