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From the editors

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

FROM THE EDITORS

WHILE THE *PROCEEDINGS* of the 27th Congress are being edited, *The Journal* editorial team has been working on new Supplements. We have been able to add three books to the collection, varied in their content and approach to Antiquity.

Maria Nowak's *Wills in the Roman Empire: A Documentary Approach* (Supplement 23) deals with the testamentary practice as seen through papyri, tablets, doctrinal and literary sources, and manuscript tradition. The author aims at reconstructing how people applied law and how testamentary practice looked like in everyday life, contributing to the studies of legal consciousness, particularly after the *Constitutio Antoniniana*. She has been able to contrast the dogmatic legal text with their practical application, tracing mutual influences.

With *The Alexandrian Church. People and Institutions* (Supplement 25), Ewa Wipszycka completes the diptych devoted to the Church history in Egypt. Her earlier depiction of monasticism, *Moines et communautés monastiques en Égypte, IV^e–VIII^e siècles* (Supplement 11), of which a new English version is currently being prepared, is now supplemented with an extensive picture of the institutional church. The book offers a historical introduction to the development of the Egyptian ecclesiastical organization, focusing at the beginning on the Great Persecutions and Constantine's policy towards the Church; it also provides the reader with an in-depth analysis of the Church structure, depicting the figure of the bishop, his relations with the clergy as well as the Church's economic activities. The volume is thus an indispensable compendium for every student of later ancient history. We can expect another take on the ecclesiastical history of Antiquity in a few years, as Ewa Wipszycka has obtained a prestigious

Maestro grant from the Polish National Science Centre. In the project financed thanks to the grant, a team of younger scholars under Wipszycka's supervision prepares a much more complex study of monasticism in the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

With the last work published this year we continue the line of *Supplements* dealing with non-Egyptian Antiquity. Krystyna Stebnicka in *Identity of the Diaspora. Jews in Asia Minor in the Imperial Period (Supplement 26)* focuses on the very core of Jewish identity till this day: living in the diaspora. Dispersion of their own people and desire to return to the land of the ancestors formed the identity of both those Jews who lived away from Palestine as well as those who dwelled in Palestine and later in Israel. The author describes how the Jews must have dealt with a predominantly negative image of the diaspora, *shelilat ha-galut*, from the earliest of times, and how it eventually happened to be an important formative factor of their nationality.

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The present tome of the *Journal* brings again a well-varied material ranging from numerous publications of new important texts to the outcomes of research on papyrological data. This time the majority of the articles focuses on earlier times – the Ptolemaic and the early Roman period and deals with various legal matters, comprising private and public law. In line with the parametrical requirements there are abstracts and key-words, which, for editorial facility, we have kept as a separate section. Henceforth we kindly ask all the submitting authors to incorporate in their proposals a brief summary, no longer than 250 words, and up to 10 key-words, preferably in English.

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