

K. STAUNER, *DAS OFFIZIELLE SCHRIFTWESEN DES RÖMISCHEN HEERES VON AUGUSTUS BIS GALLIENUS (27 v. CHR.–268 n. CHR.): EINE UNTERSUCHUNG ZU STRUKTUR, FUNKTION UND BEDEUTUNG DER OFFIZIELLEN MILITÄRISCHEN VERWALTUNGSDOKUMENTATION UND ZU DEREN SCHREIBERN*. Bonn: Habelt, 2004. Pp. 500. ISBN 3-7749-3270-0. €79.00.

In the first part (18–112), a survey of Roman military documentation, Stauner makes a strong case for its coherence and systematization, arguing for common typologies across the Empire (from Vindolanda to Gholaia to Roman Egypt and Syria) and across time (from the first to the mid-third century A.D.). He structures his analysis across two axes, from individuals to units, and from daily documentation (such as morning reports and duty rosters) to periodic documentation (*pridiana*, 95–117). Besides documentary evidence for enlistment, supply, and furlough, S. reviews the limited literary evidence for military documentation (18–19) and recruitment (37–9). Low-level documents had an in-house quality, the Dura rosters featuring obscure annotations (debated 21–5), whereas the *pridiana* were intended to be highly legible (108–9). S. argues that the Roman military bureaucracy, despite lack of standardization in detail, showed a general uniformity, an ‘administrativen Habitus’ (208), and that the clerks, whose similar hands suggest professional training, display a ‘literalen Habitus’ (208).

The second part (112–485) reconstructs the typology of clerks and their organization, with a catalogue of their inscriptions. S.’s cut-off date leads him to exclude R. MacMullen’s *Soldier and Civilian in the Later Roman Empire* (1963), which includes the third century A.D. Contrary to MacMullen’s satirical picture of military clerks as armchair warriors, S. argues that the clerical grades were ‘in erster Linie Soldaten’ (117), called *Schreibsoldaten* in his text; *immunes* were not excepted from combat (80–1). Desirable here would be M. A. Speidel’s ‘Specialisation and promotion in the Roman imperial army’, in L. de Blois (ed.), *Administration, Prosopography, and Appointment Policies in the Roman Empire* (2001), 50–61 and the collection *La hiérarchie (Rangordnung) de l’armée romaine sous le haut empire* (1995) edited by Y. Le Bohec. R. Cribiore’s *Gymnastics of the Mind: Greek Education in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt* (2001) suggests the social stratum in which youths acquired basic literacy and numeracy; literate young men who became legionary clerks and paid a high fee to belong to the *collegium* of the *tabularium* at Lambaesis (ILS 9100 = Stauner no. 499) were members of the sub-élite, or, in anachronistic terms, ‘middle class’.

S.’s decision to include the appendix collection of *CIL* inscriptions (231–485, with index, 486–500) was clearly a labour of love, but the absence of a catalogue of documents means that S. should be regarded as supplementing rather than replacing R. Fink’s *Roman Military Records on Papyrus* (1971), A. Bowman’s ongoing publication of the Vindolanda tablets, and various other corpora such as R. Marichal’s *Les ostraca de Bu Njem* (1992) or *Chartae Latinae Antiquiores*.

S.’s bibliography (220–30) is extensive, but some relevant works have not been cited: R. Davies, ‘Joining the Roman imperial army’, which is reprinted in the cited V. Maxfield and D. Breeze (eds), *Service in the Roman Army* (1989), and A. Bowman, ‘The Roman imperial army: letters and literacy on the northern frontier’ and C. Kelly, ‘Later Roman bureaucracy: going through the files’, both published in the cited A. Bowman and J. Thomas (eds), *Literacy and Power in the Ancient World* (1994). R. Bagnall’s *Reading Papyri, Writing Ancient History* (1995) would have been important for general discussion. Small errors appear in the bibliography; the initials of J. N. Adams are reversed, R. Alston’s *Soldier and Society in Roman Egypt* should be (1995), and G. Watson’s *The Roman Soldier* should be (1969).

Kensington, MD

S. E. PHANG

G. FORSYTHE, *A CRITICAL HISTORY OF EARLY ROME FROM PREHISTORY TO THE FIRST PUNIC WAR*. Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005. Pp. xvi + 400, illus. ISBN 0-520-22651-8. £29.95.

After his important edition of L. Calpurnius Piso Frugi, an account of Livian method, and a handful of articles, Gary Forsythe has co-ordinated his views of early Rome into a substantial volume of narrative history. He engages from the outset with the difficulty that his work was commissioned shortly before the appearance of T. J. Cornell, *The Beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars (c. 1000 to 264 BC)*, a work which covers precisely the same period. F. respectfully suggests that Cornell was ‘too trusting and overly optimistic’ in his