

critical, the placement of comparative case studies is not as effective as it could be. In addition, the readability of the book would have been much improved by the inclusion of tables and additional maps. There are only four figures, three of which are plans and one of which is a map of Roman Asia Minor. Tables highlighting key information from the Murecine Tablets and tables or an appendix of inscriptions with information such as date and findspot would have been particularly useful. Overall, however, this book contains a thought-provoking collection of material related to Roman trading communities and is a significant contribution to the study of Roman trade.

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W. BROEKAERT, *NAVICULARII ET NEGOTIANTES: A PROSOPOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF ROMAN MERCHANTS AND SHIPPERS* (Pharos: Studien zur griechisch-römischen Antike 28). Rahden/Westf.: Verlag Marie Leidorf, 2013. Pp. 564. ISBN 9783867572569. €59.80.

This study offers a prosopographical catalogue that embraces more than one thousand people who in different ways participated in commercial exchanges in the western half of the Roman Empire. All those listed in this catalogue are found both in monumental and so-called ‘minor’ epigraphy: *tituli picti* and amphora lids, stamps on anchors etc. In fact, this sort of epigraphic evidence (ironically labelled by Heinrich Dressel as ‘minuzie epigrafiche’) is gradually becoming the most important source for understanding the true magnitude of Roman trade.

According to Broekaert, the aim of this catalogue is to prepare the ground for prospective researchers who are intending to develop further studies on business and trade. For this reason, those listed in this catalogue are only those directly involved with commercial activities and explicitly mentioned in inscriptions. As a result, no analytical attempt is made either to examine the structure of trade or its institutional framework, and trade routes in the Roman Empire are also ignored.

Following this pattern, the book is divided into fourteen chapters, each including a catalogue (even though inventory numbers are consecutive): ch. 1 ‘*negotiatores* and *negociantes*’; ch. 2 ‘*mercatores*’; ch. 3 ‘*nautae*’; ch. 4 ‘*utricularii*’; ch. 5 ‘*navicularii* and *naucleri*’; ch. 6 ‘*propolae* and *poletai*’; ch. 7 ‘*emporoi* and *kapeloi*’; ch. 8 ‘*vinarii*’; ch. 9 ‘*frumentarii*’; ch. 10 ‘*olearii* and *diffusores olearii*’; ch. 11 ‘merchants mentioned in *tituli picti*’; ch. 12 ‘merchants mentioned on amphorae stoppers’; ch. 13 ‘ship-owners mentioned on anchors’; ch. 14 ‘miscellaneous merchants and shippers’. Each chapter consists of an introduction where the etymological and semantic meaning of each profession is briefly discussed. Each catalogue entry includes the following items: text with the inscription in which the person is mentioned, literature, chronology, site and commentaries. The volume also includes an extensive bibliography and one index, of merchants.

This work is systematic, innovative and meticulous, demonstrating a great mastery of the epigraphic sources and the relevant literature. However, it is precisely due to this very innovative use of a rather complicated type of evidence, that some methodological observations need to be made.

The segmentation of the catalogue into fourteen chapters makes it necessary for the author to duplicate some prosopographical entries (as, for instance, the well-known ‘Aulus Herennuleius Cestus, negotiator vinarius ... idem mercator omnis generis mercium ...’ (*CIL* IX.4680), who appears in ch. 1 (*negotiatores*), no. 83, and reappears in ch. 2 (*mercatores*), no. 292). Consequently, we cannot be certain about the number of merchants that are represented in the 1,320 entries, distributed across the fourteen chapters, since the number of repetitions cannot easily be determined. This difficulty, amongst others, might suggest that a single catalogue, accompanied by a group of indexes arranged according to different criteria, may have been a more convenient option – for example: site; chronology; positions and rôles occupied in public life and in associations; social and judicial status; profession (this is the only criterion adopted by the author); merchandise and, as a highlighted field, the terminology used to describe the economic activity carried out by the merchant (*diffusor olearius*, *mercator* etc.). The creation of a single catalogue would facilitate a more appropriate organization of the inscriptions in which the same person can be found. As for example, Decimus Caecilius Hospitalis, a member of the family of the Decimi Caecilii, from Astigis, who is listed both in the catalogue of *negotiatores* (no. 40) and that of *tituli picti* (no. 620).

In my opinion, the listing of people in this catalogue does not seem the most appropriate. B. uses the standard form for senators and equites: nomen + cognomen + praenomen. However, since this is a

catalogue of merchants, and most of them were freedmen or of freedman origin, I believe that they should have been listed more conveniently according to the names received from their former patron: nomen + praenomen + cognomen. In this way, one could easily list all those individuals who shared the same patron in familial groups: for example, the extensive ‘family’ of the Decimi Caecili from Astigis: Abascantus, Calliphitus, Chrysogonus, Dafnus, Evelpistus, Hospitalis, Maternus, Montanus, Nicephorus, Onesimus, Victor and, finally, Onesimus’ daughter, Caecilia Charitosa.

On a related note, the criteria used by B. to dismiss or include some merchants seem to me too restrictive. Only those professionals are included whose monumental inscription specified their rôle as *negotiatores/negotiantes, mercatores, nautae, utriclarii, navicularii/naucleri, propolael/poletai, emporoi/kapeloï, vinarii, frumentarii* or *olearii/diffusores olearii*. Besides these, B. also considers all the merchants whose name is reproduced in a *titulus pictus* on amphorae (as their association with the distribution of goods is quite obvious), with the exception of most of those found in Pompeii where the amphora typology is not known. This results in a catalogue of merchants who mainly specialized in oil and salted fish.

All things considered, this study by B. is highly recommended, since it offers a new research tool in order to study trade in the Roman Empire. This work also shows the benefits and potential of epigraphic and prosopographical studies in order to approach the ancient economy — especially if one draws on ‘minuzie epigrafiche’.

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M. FLOHR, *THE WORLD OF THE FULLO: WORK, ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY IN ROMAN ITALY* (Oxford Studies on the Roman Economy). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Pp. xvi + 401, illus. ISBN 9780199659357 (bound); 9780191750618 (e-book). £90.00.

Miko Flohr’s *The World of the Fullo* is the most extensive treatment of Roman-period fulling in central Italy to date. In this work, F. compiles an impressive corpus of evidence for the industry that is framed within a series of highly relevant and current discussions concerning Roman society and economy.

In the introductory chapter, F. briefly outlines the primary areas to which this work contributes, which bridge both economic and social histories. Perhaps most notable among these are the long-standing primitivist-modernist debate on the Roman economy, and an ancient image of socially and morally deprived Roman working classes. In this chapter, F. also introduces the various types of evidence for Roman fulling and their interpretive limitations, as well as the prime sites under evaluation (Pompeii, Ostia and Rome).

In ch. 2, Flohr describes the social rôle of dress in the Roman world and its impact on market demand for fulling services. Here he raises a key question regarding the composition of markets for his fulleries; tracking the presence of storefronts, scale of facilities and general location in cities and towns, he assesses the demand of private customers versus business contracts for each workshop and outlines what he sees as key differences in market supply.

Ch. 3, ‘The Rational Workshop’, investigates the organization of the fulling process within the built environment of the workshops. Provocatively setting his discussion against a maximum efficiency model derived from Industrial Revolution concepts of division of labour, technology of equipment and design of the workshop, F. considers the types and scales of investment, organization of space and managerial-level concerns regarding resource use, maintenance and workshop growth. Based on these factors, he identifies three workshop size classes exhibiting different levels of efficiency, with the largest class operating according to a ‘remarkably modern’ organizational structure (180).

Ch. 4, ‘Fulling and the Urban Environment’, considers the implications that working (and in some cases, living) in the fulleries might have had for social relations both within and beyond the workshop walls. F. classifies three organizational types (*tabernae*, atrium-styled workshops and industrial establishments), which reappear in subsequent chapters. Analysing these classes according to the environmental effects of their operations (that is, unpleasant smells, waste disposal) and the visibility of workshop activities within the public space, he interprets fulling activities in relation to