

M. AVENARIUS, R. MEYER-PRITZL and C. MÖLLER (EDS), *ARS IURIS. FESTSCHRIFT FÜR OKKO BEHREND'S ZUM 70. GEBURTSTAG*. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2009. Pp. 681, illus. ISBN 9783835304208. €89.00.

This Festschrift reflects the wide interests in legal history and influential teaching of its honorand. Topics such as legal developments in modern China for economic reasons (Dai) and the creation of the French civil code (Wolodkiewicz) may be read by classicists for entertainment more than instruction, but many of the thirty-five contributions are about Roman law, and will also interest Roman economic historians. Most of these deal with mainstream issues such as the correct phrasing of Roman wills (Avenarius), the attitude of Roman courts to foreign private law (Cascione), and the development of *stipulatio* (Knütel). Some follow more untrodden paths such as the commented list of legal references to paper transfers of money (Mayer-Maly) and the discussion of the different legal approach to damage occasioned along public as compared to private roads, including damage by tree-felling and animal-traps (Möller). There is also a broad historiographical assessment of the unique Roman development of a unitary system of political power articulated through local communities, Cicero's *duae patriae* (Capogrossi Colognesi), and, oddly, a collection of the archaeological and textual evidence for the Via Domitia in the area of Béziers (Clavel-Lévêque and Peyras).

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doi:10.1017/S0075435812000512

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F. DE ANGELIS (ED.), *SPACES OF JUSTICE IN THE ROMAN WORLD* (Columbia studies in the classical tradition 35). Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010. Pp. xii+434, illus. ISBN 9789004189256. €140.00/US\$199.00.

Spaces of Justice in the Roman World collects twelve papers first given at a conference at Columbia's Center for the Ancient Mediterranean in 2007. The contributors, mostly *not* the usual suspects in Roman law, bring expertise from various areas of Classical Studies (archaeology, art history, literature, history) — and their perspectives enhance our understanding of the Roman legal system, how trials were conducted and what they meant to litigants, observers, and the authorities.

The papers in *Spaces* consider Roman law in its physical environments, taking a cue from spatial studies, which interrogate power relationships inherent and expressed in landscape, often applying new technological tools to old problems, for example, using GPS to reconstruct historical landscapes. Though these papers deploy familiar technologies (e.g. archaeological excavation, literary analysis), they open new perspectives on Roman law by 'examining how authority and power relationships manifest themselves in space, both shaping it — ideally and concretely — and being shaped by it' (4–5), as Francesco de Angelis writes in the introduction.

Each paper in *Spaces* stands alone but, read together, they expand our view of the Roman legal system, from prisons to palaces, from the hurly-burly of trials in the republican forum to hearings held in imperial offices and gardens. Key themes include permeability and flexibility, practicalities and logistics, the impact of imperial administration on the legal system, and the interface between entertainment and authority. The papers are arranged spatially progressing from face-to-face interaction between litigants, to action in the courtroom, to public spaces in Rome, to cities across the Roman Empire. My remarks do not follow this order but draw attention to interesting intersections that are not, unfortunately, addressed in the papers but should have stimulated lively discussion at the conference.

Three papers focus on the stages of the legal process. Kaius Tuori identifies the places where the jurists worked in their different rôles, e.g. as advisor to litigants or as a member of the emperor's *consilium*. Ernest Metzger analyses the Herculaneum tablets to revise the first or *in iure* stage of civil procedure. Traditionally *in iure* was interpreted as a hearing before the praetor, but Metzger argues for a metaphorical meaning that included pre-trial negotiation between the litigants. Richard Neudecker also mines Herculaneum tablets to reanimate legal procedures, mapping the places in the Forum of Augustus where litigants met after a promise of bond (*vadimonium*). His discussion reveals the volume of legal business and the logistical problems that beset litigants as they tried to make the system work.

The crowded public spaces where legal hearings were held in Rome are the focus of two papers. Leanne Bablitz reconstructs the centumviral court, its four panels of forty-five jurors seated on tiered

seats, all inside the Basilica Julia, and observed by spectators in second floor galleries and on the ground floor who moved from one trial to another or were drawn from the forum by lively oratorical performance. Eric Kondratieff establishes that the praetor's tribunal was a simple, portable structure that made access to law public and flexible. The praetor's authority was empowered by the symbolic topography surrounding his tribunal, much as the legal proceedings, analysed by Neudecker, were legitimized by association with the statuary programme of the Forum of Augustus. In the imperial period trials were moved indoors, and this change of venue affected the quality of justice. Bruce Frier considers the impact on the legal system itself, arguing from a close reading of Tacitus, *Dialogus* 39.1–4, that the authority of law increased as it was physically removed and thus recognized as separate from other aspects of public life. Marco Maiuro assesses how public spaces were adapted to accommodate administrative, judicial, and economic functions of the imperial administration. Also with attention to topography, Livia Capponi explains the development of specialized buildings for legal hearings and archives in Roman Egypt, with a focus on Hadrian's construction of *praetoria* (fortified buildings that reminded this reviewer of court houses equipped with metal detectors in the United States). Despite changes in the setting of trials, no simple contrast between republican and imperial, public and private accounts for the ideological value of the venue, as de Angelis argues. Even in the emperor's garden a defendant might get a fair hearing, while the spectacle of a trial in the theatre, though public, could yield something other than justice.

The permutations of place are also a theme in the three papers on fictional trials that round out the volume. John Bodel finds that the trial scenes in Petronius and Apuleius are characterized by dislocation and confusion as inept litigants flounder, both literally and figuratively, on their misguided voyages to justice. Sandra Schwartz, using Bakhtin's notion of the chronotope, shows how trial scenes in Greek novels represent allegorically the differential power relations between Roman rulers and provincial élites. In the acts of the Christian martyrs, discussed by Jean-Jacques Aubert, legal proceedings are set in a range of places throughout the Roman Empire. Like the novels, these Christian accounts mix parody and realism, manipulating our perceptions of law so as to undermine the ideology of imperial justice and at the same time redefine its authority.

Spaces is, appropriately, an attractive volume, with generous layout of text on the page. A set of common plans for the key places in Rome, collected in an appendix, would have been useful. The back matter — thirty-four pages of comprehensive bibliography and four indices (sources, names, places, subjects) — is especially welcome in a collected volume that anticipates as wide an audience as *Spaces* no doubt will draw.

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A. M. LIBERATI and E. SILVERIO, *SERVIZI SEGRETI IN ROMA ANTICA: INFORMAZIONI E SICUREZZA DAGLI INITIA URBS ALL'IMPERO UNIVERSALE*. Rome: "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, 2010. Pp. 203, illus. ISBN 9788882655259. €140.00.

One might ask why another book is needed on Roman spies. With Austin and Rankov's *Exploratio* (1995) and Sheldon's *Intelligence Activities in Ancient Rome* (2005) one would think the field had been thoroughly mined. To the contrary, any book trying to survey all of Rome's intelligence activities can only skim the surface. It is not difficult for another specialist to expand one author's chapter into a new book, to view the topic from a different perspective, or to go boldly where no writer has previously gone. This latest contribution by Anna Maria Liberati and Enrico Silverio of the Museums of Roman Civilization is published as part of Bretschneider's series, *Studia Archaeologica*. The authors bring to the project a wide-ranging knowledge of Roman archaeology, epigraphy and Roman law.

The first two chapters cover the most original ground. They trace the relationship between the public and private in Republican Rome, scrutinizing especially its religious and judicial structures. It is in this milieu that local magistrates had to develop some sort of mechanism for keeping the city safe, policing the population, and detecting subversion. One fact on which all authors agree is that there was no formal information service in the modern sense of the word in the Republic. The Romans developed self-control mechanisms that made a centralized internal security service unnecessary while keeping the state safe from those who would try and restore the monarchy or commit treason.