

new research. The overview facilitated by assembling texts in a corpus makes it clearer than ever that Samos was an assertive and self-conscious community. Particularly in the later Hellenistic and Roman periods, for which epigraphic data are increasingly plentiful, its history is overdue for reassessment.

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## THE INSCRIPTIONS OF PATRAS

A. D. RIZAKIS: *Achaïe, ii. La cité de Patras: épigraphie et histoire.* (Meletemata 25.) Pp. vii + 483, ill., pls, maps. Athens: Research Centre for Greek and Roman Antiquity, National Hellenic Research Foundation/Paris: Diffusion de Bocard, 1998. Cased. ISBN: 960-7905-02-4.

This substantial volume from the National Research Foundation in Athens represents a major step towards making good the lack of *IG vi Elis–Achaëa*. The texts from ancient Patrai comprise decrees (1), dedications (2–48), benefactions (49–53), funerary inscriptions (54–266, half of them new but many fragmentary), and miscellaneous (267–332). Appendices cover metal, glass, and terracotta (333–62), documents of Patrai found elsewhere (363–9), and those wrongly attributed to the city (370–6). Each text, apart from small fragments, is translated into French.

The volume gains considerably in utility from having indexes in similar format to *IG*, and particularly from extensive tables. These include a concordance of previous publications and list the physical materials of documents, their provenances, whether they were excavated or found in reuse, special characters, languages, and dates. All these data will facilitate statistical analysis. One can immediately discover, for example, that there are only three classical texts, thirty-six Hellenistic (274 is misdated on p. 392), and almost none from late antiquity. Nearly every text is illustrated by a photograph, and many by reproduced drawings from earlier publications.

Readers will welcome the three introductory chapters (pp. 3–77). Chapter 1 reviews earlier exploration and sets out the working methods of the volume, including dating criteria. Chapter 2 assembles evidence for the city's topography, its history before and after the foundation of the Augustan colony, and its institutions, territory, urban plan, and population. Chapter 3 reviews the whole corpus. The preponderance of gravestones reflects the limits of archaeological investigation to date. About 40 per cent of texts were found *in situ*. Latin predominates in the first century of the colony, but gives way to Greek later. Detailed discussions of particular classes of document follow, of which the longest, on gravestones, includes a useful composite drawing of different forms of *stelai* (p. 67 fig. 7).

Among 155 new texts (listed on p. 359), 1, the only decree, is a second- or third-century A.D. grant of membership of the *ordo*. Other highlights include 20, a statue-base of Agrippa Postumus as patron of the city. 27 is a Trajanic milestone reused under Arcadius and Honorius. 128 is the gravestone of a *vilicus* of the *vicesima hereditatum* (second century A.D.). 177, a sailor's gravestone, threatens a fine for anyone disturbing his tomb. 268 is in Latin but lists Greek victors. Freedmen and freedwomen feature among Latin gravestones.

Republished texts include 37 (third or fourth century A.D.), a twenty-line hexameter poem praising the civic benefactions of a rich landowner, Basilios, and 162, an epigram

on a gladiator. Bilinguals are **134** (third-century family gravestone), **270** (a column identifying an estate's owner), and **292** (A.D. 1426), on the restoration of a church by the Latin archbishop. The latest text, **293**, in Greek, appears to commemorate an eighteenth-century Jewish synagogue.

This is an exemplary presentation of an epigraphic corpus.

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## DOCUMENTS OF HERAKLEOPOLIS

E. SALMENKIVI: *Cartonnage Papyri in Context. New Ptolemaic Documents from Abū Šīr al-Malaq*. (Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum 119.) Pp. 182, pls. Helsinki: Societas Scientiarum Fennica, 2002. Paper. ISBN: 951-653-319-1.

The title says it all. This edition of papyrus texts from the Berlin collection does not just present the edition of twenty fragmentary and sometimes illegible late Ptolemaic texts found during the excavations by Rubensohn of the cemetery of Abusir al-Malaq in the early twentieth century. It is also the study of how such texts survive from their original drafting to their current condition, rescued out of the mummy casing ('cartonnage') for which they were used in antiquity. There is an important lesson here for the historian; the names by which papyrus collections are known can be misleading. Texts said to come from a particular collection (Berlin, in this case) or cemetery, here termed 'provenance', only came there late in their lives; their 'origin' was elsewhere. In the current volume the 'origin' of these texts, where they were actually written, was probably the nome capital of Herakleopolis, where some of them were pasted together for reference in long rolls, known as *tomoi synkollésimoi*, in the royal scribe's office. The texts in this volume all derive from one piece of cartonnage, which is here interestingly interpreted as a form of archaeological context. Similarly, Tebtunis is the 'provenance' of the Tebtunis papyri whose 'origins' were different and varied. And, as is the case with the Tebtunis crocodiles, knowledge of which particular cartonnage a text is from can often help the papyrologist to understand a text more fully.

The twenty texts of this volume, studied within the wider context of other Berlin texts from the same cemetery including many originally from Alexandria (see the helpful Appendix), once belonged to the papers of two royal scribes from the Herakleopolite nome: texts **1–16** from the 'archive' of Peteimouthes and **17–20** from that of Harchebis, officials who were separated in office by some ten years in the first quarter of the first century B.C. They have links with other texts already published in *BGU* VIII, XIV, and particularly XVIII; they provide new information on geography (both physical and administrative), land tenure, agriculture, grain prices, and the workings of the granaries and royal bank.

The first two texts treat the payment of soldiers' wages in cash (**2**) and in kind (**1**). **3** and **4** concern the delivery of seed, showing the bureaucracy at work. Seed loans had to be paid for, and seed from the nearby Arsinoite nome was used for loans in the Herakleopolite (**4.17**). **3.13** would benefit from a note; 'standing surety for one another for the payment in full' suggests an interesting degree of corporate responsibility among the crown farmers. In **3.4–5** 'crown farmers', 'farmers of the queen's land' and those 'of all other revenues' seem separate rather than overlapping categories