

history. Its contents are as follows: A. Laronde, 'Épigraphie et histoire grecque'; A. Bresson, 'PETRAE: Banque de données en épigraphie grecque et latine'; Br. Helly, 'La constitution d'un corpus épigraphique aujourd'hui: une entreprise problématique?'; P. Cabanes, 'Épigraphie et affranchis du monde grec. Acquis et problèmes'; M.-C. Hellmann, 'Épigraphie architecturale et histoire grecque: essai de bilan'; G. Rougemont, 'Apports de l'épigraphie à l'histoire grecque: l'exemple des oracles'; M. Debidour, 'Amphores, épigraphie et histoire'; J.-M. Lassère, 'Épigraphie et onomastique. Bilan des recherches récentes sur le group trianomial'; M. Corbier, 'Épigraphie et parenté'; Y. Le Bohec, 'Épigraphie latine et armée romaine dans l'histoire du Haut-Empire'; Fr. Bérard, 'Nouveautés épigraphiques lyonnaises'.

I have read all the papers with interest and profit. If I say that I learned perhaps more from those on Greek epigraphy, it may lie only on the fact that I am myself more a Latinist. In fact, the papers on Roman issues too were most interesting and rewarding, especially those by Corbier (the longest of all), Le Bohec, and Bérard. Being myself a student of ancient onomastics, I read with special attention the paper of Lassère and was impressed by many good observations, above all on name-giving in Roman Africa. On the other hand, the author has not succeeded in grasping the essential in his main subject, the evolution of the Roman name-system; his observations remain a bit superficial and are also weakened by a certain obscurity of thought. A few remarks on his paper: what L. says (at the end of the first page of his paper) on Salomies is not quite fair (in general, the expressions chosen by L. to show that the praenomen would represent *un élément faible de la séquence onomastique* are not well considered). The same is true for the gentile name (p. 95): the *déformations surprenantes des noms* of which L. speaks concern also the cognomina. On p. 96 the derivation cannot have the following sequence: Valens > Valentius > Valentinianus > Valentinianus > Valentinianus, for Valentinianus derives naturally, not from Valentius (which is a more recent coinage), but from Valens, and Valentinianus derives from Valentinus, not from Valentinus, for the same reasons. And a last remark: on praenomina and gentile names transformed to cognomina (p. 97) see *Arctos* (1982), p. 167.

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### W. CLARYSSE: *CD-LDAB 1998. Leuven Database of Ancient Books*. Leuven: Katholieke Universiteit, 1998.

The proliferation of electronic resources for the study of the ancient world has now given us this wonderful tool. Details on all the published Greek and Latin literary production preserved on 'ancient' papyrus and parchment from Egypt and elsewhere (7,096 items) make up a database stored on a CD-ROM. This sets out to update the catalogues of R. A. Pack, *The Greek and Latin Literary Texts from Greco-Roman Egypt*<sup>2</sup> (Ann Arbor, 1965), and J. van Haelst, *Catalogue des papyrus littéraires, juifs et chrétiens* (Paris, 1976); some Herculaniensia and magica have also been included. Each record provides most of the information the user of such a work of reference would wish to find: date, provenance, material, details of the first publication, select bibliography, and other interesting details. A search takes only a couple of seconds. *CD-LDAB* makes no demands of advanced computer literacy on the user. It runs on both Macintosh and PC. The operating program is Filemaker (not included in the CD-ROM).

The compiler's concern is with the ancient books and their readership: who read what, when, and where? A specially designed program called 'graph' converts the data of the database into charts and graphs which may answer questions such as: Where did Euripides enjoy the widest readership in the fifth century? When was Aristophanes mostly read? Who was more popular: Herodotus or Thucydides? Callimachus or Apollonius Rhodius? This is useful for the historian of ancient culture, but may occasionally mislead the non-specialist. Some caveats, one feels, should have been introduced. More often than not, publication reflects editorial choice rather than the material available. It is telling enough that virtually every new volume of *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri* upsets statistics and generalizations of the past. Thus the publication of vol. 60 trebled the number of Aeschines papyri at one stroke.

Any catalogue is bound to accumulate addenda and corrigenda, and the *CD-LDAB* is no exception. Shortage of space limits me to a few nitpickings only. Aelius Aristides and the Christian author Aristides appear to have been mixed. P.Oxy. 30.2522 A+B, ascribed to Rhianus, do not belong to a single manuscript, but are two different papyri which transmit overlapping parts of the same work. Rhianus' claims of authorship are even stronger in the case of P.Oxy. 39.2891, but this has not been recorded. In citing editions of Menander's plays the lines covered

by the papyri are not always given. P.Oxy. 33.2656, the codex of Menander's *Misoumenos*, has not been re-edited in P.Oxy. 64.4408: only eight lines of 2656 have been combined with a new fragment into a new text.

But in a work of this size such shortcomings are easily pardoned. In fact, with the preparation of the third edition of Pack's catalogue having entered its third decade, one can only be grateful that *CD-LDAB* is available. One hopes that there will be regular releases of updated versions of the CD-ROM; these, ideally, should allow the user to interact with the database, to intervene in the way one would do in the margins of a printed book (this is not technically possible at the moment). Meanwhile, all classics libraries should acquire this invaluable resource.

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M. CACCAMO CALTABIANO, B. CARROCCIO, E. OTERI: *Siracusa ellenistica. Le monete 'regali' di Ierone II, della sua famiglia e dei Siracusani*. Pp. 255, 53 pls. Messina: Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità dell'Università degli Studi di Messina, 1997. Paper, L. 100,000.

Syracuse was governed by two Hierons at different stages in its history. The second of the two, ruling for over fifty years in the third century B.C., consciously harked back to the family and achievements of his predecessor in the second quarter of the fifth century, and the two rulers had this in common also: they both presided over massive issues of coinage at Syracuse. The circumstances and the results were quite different, of course. In the fifth century coinage of Syracuse there is no sign at all of the personal influence of a single individual, let alone of his family. The coins bear the types that had been introduced before the tyrant family appeared on the scene, and they were always issued in the name of the Syracusans. The coinage of the second Hieron on the other hand, while it preserves some of the traditional features of Syracusan coinage, for example, the types of a quadriga or biga (and there are also some issues in the name of the Syracusans), introduces as one of its most striking features a series of portraits of the ruling family: not only of Gelon himself, but of his wife Philistis and his son Gelon. It is this coinage (or at least its silver component) that is the subject of the book reviewed here.

The collection of material has been scrupulous and it has been sorted out into groups using the usual numismatic criteria of die-linking, common control-marks (especially abundant in this series), iconography, and so on. The result is a corpus of material that contributes not only to the study of the development of coinage at Syracuse, but also to wider issues in the history of the time, such as the status of Syracuse as a 'Hellenistic' kingdom and the rôle of the city as a mediator between the worlds of the east (especially Egypt) and west Mediterranean.

The most substantial contribution is perhaps to the dating of the coins. In contrast to some earlier reconstructions, it can now be seen that the bulk of the abundant coinage associated with Hieron II was minted over quite a short period in the penultimate decade of the third century, the period of the Second Punic War. The 'hierarchical' structure of the coinage is also apparent: octodrachms were issued in the name of Hieron himself, tetradrachms (large numbers of them) in the name of his wife, and didrachms and drachms in the name of his son. In greater detail this study opens up many areas for discussion, and it is inevitable that some will be remain controversial. Problems, for example, to do with the stages in the development of Hieron's power and position or the nature of the Sicilian experience of kingship in relation to that elsewhere in the Hellenistic world—how different was Sicily? (pp. 115ff.)—or the problems posed by the survival into the the coinage of Hieron's successor Hieronymus of control-marks used on the coins of Philistis and Gelon. The most economical explanation for this phenomenon (pp. 50ff.) might be simply a continuity in the activity of those in charge of minting, but the authors argue for the contemporaneity of the relevant issues of Philistis, Gelon, and Hieronymus, and thus that those of Philistis and Gelon are posthumous.

It is a measure of the success of the book that it not only brings together a large amount of material but also addresses many of the questions raised by it.

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