

triumphs and imperial *cognomina* thrown in. Coinage under Augustus is covered, but later coinage largely ignored, possibly on the grounds that, according to C., ‘coin issues... have nothing to say about individual legions or the personal relationship between emperor and army’ (127), though there are plenty of late second- and third-century coin issues that do refer to particular legions, their loyalty, and that of the army more generally. The chapter mentions a few provincial monuments but is rather too Rome-centric, and could at least have included the Trajanic monuments at Adamklissi.

In his epilogue, C. rightly warns against trying to understand the Roman army through understanding other professional (i.e. modern) armies. As the whole work stresses throughout, one can only properly understand (or at least, try to understand) the Roman army by studying it in its contemporary political, social, and cultural context. C. has provided an excellent introduction to this institution and the right way to go about studying it. The book is truly accessible to its intended audience, and that audience receives warm encouragement and assistance in furthering their knowledge through a wide bibliography and those excellent footnotes.

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J. J. WILKES (ED.), *DOCUMENTING THE ROMAN ARMY: ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF MARGARET ROXAN* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 81). London: Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2003. Pp. xvii + 204, illus. ISBN 0-9005-8792-x. £45.00.

M. ROXAN and P. HOLDER (EDS), *ROMAN MILITARY DIPLOMAS IV* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 82). London: Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2003. Pp. xix + 313, illus. ISBN 0-9005-8793-8. £75.00.

With the death of Dr Margaret Roxan in 2003, the community of ancient historians has lost its leading expert on Roman military diplomas and a dear colleague of rare generosity. In particular, Margaret Roxan is sorely missed by all students of the Roman army. Two publications bearing her name appeared in 2003: a collection of essays in her honour edited by J. J. Wilkes and volume IV of her *Roman Military Diplomas*.

The first publication puts on record the proceedings of a colloquium held in honour of Margaret Roxan on 17–18 May 2002 at the Institute of Classical Studies in London. This volume combines a foreword by J. J. Wilkes, a bibliography of Dr Roxan’s writings, ten essays by leading scholars, and an index. The excellent contributions, in different ways, all owe much to Dr Roxan’s work (though not all are primarily concerned with military diplomas) and thereby are proof of the outstanding importance of Margaret Roxan’s work.

Anthony R. Birley, in his paper ‘The commissioning of equestrian officers’ explores the questions: how did equestrian officers secure their commissions? How did army commanders — or the emperor — select officers? And: What qualities were expected? Birley masterly combines Roman literature (such as Pliny’s and Fronto’s letters) and documentary evidence (mainly the Vindolanda tablets) with the prosopography of equestrian officers to throw new light on the functioning of the office *ab epistulis*. Denis Saddington (‘An Augustan officer on the Roman army: militia in Velleius Paterculus and some inscriptions’) rightfully highlights the (occasionally underestimated) historical value of Velleius’ work, in particular for the Roman army and the background of equestrian officers. Veterans, too, were always a subject of great interest to Margaret Roxan. Lawrence Keppie (‘Having been a soldier’) in his richly illustrated contribution thus raises the interesting question whether, in the early Empire, the low numbers of soldiers on record who returned to Italy after military service is perhaps the result of such veterans having merged back into civilian life without leaving a trace of their former life as soldiers in their funerary monuments. In his fundamental contribution, ‘Der Kaiser als Herr des Heeres. Militärdiplome und die kaiserliche Reichsregierung’, Werner Eck combines his rare knowledge of statistical, prosopographical, and historical information relevant to *diplomata militaria* in a rich and profound overview of a wide variety of issues relating to the imperial government and the production of military diplomas. Slobodan Dusanić (‘The imperial propaganda of significant day-dates: two notes in military history’) attempts to unveil seemingly overlooked imperial propaganda by pointing to the symbolic religious or military significance of the (in his view)

deliberately chosen day-dates on which the *constitutiones* were published. Paul Holder's contribution 'Auxiliary deployment in the reign of Hadrian' discusses the information available through military diplomas on the deployment of auxiliary units throughout the provinces during Hadrian's reign. He provides a useful and detailed list of units (including the relevant sources) for most provinces as well as calculations of the theoretical overall size of the *auxilia* towards the end of Hadrian's reign. Documenting the Roman army cannot, of course, be done without taking inscriptions and archaeology into account. Thus, David Breeze in his article 'Auxiliaries, legionaries, and the operation of Hadrian's Wall' offers a summary of the epigraphical evidence revealing the types of units responsible for manning the milecastles and turrets on Hadrian's Wall. Valerie Maxfield's paper 'Ostraca and the Roman army in the Eastern Desert' turns the reader's attention to the invaluable contribution of ostraca to the history of the Roman army in Egypt's Eastern Desert. Roger Tomlin's contribution 'Documenting the Roman army at Carlisle' focuses on similar types of Roman army documents, though this time on amphora sherds and wooden tablets from Carlisle. Though these remains hardly ever offer more than tiny scraps of text, they still provide new and sometimes unique insight into how the Roman army at Carlisle (and elsewhere) lived and worked. Finally, Peter Weiss, ('The future of Roman military diplomata — Fortschritte, Probleme und künftige Aufgaben') illustrates the enormous 'flood' of new diplomas which have been found over the last fifteen or so years. In his stimulating paper he points to the increase in historical information this has brought, as well as to the problems and difficulties that have been caused both by the 'flood' itself (in particular, the widely scattered publications and the large amount of unpublished material) and by the circumstances under which so many of the new pieces have come to light (primarily clandestine 'excavations' with metal detectors and the first 'appearance' of new pieces on the art market without any indication of origin). All the more, the loss of Dr Margaret Roxan, and of her dedicated and thorough work on the Roman military diplomas, is painfully felt.

Hence, the fourth volume of her *Roman Military Diplomas* (RMD IV) which was prepared for publication by Paul Holder will be warmly welcomed. This volume, like its predecessors, aims to bring together published and unpublished military diplomas or fragments, some of which appeared in disparate journals whereas others surfaced in the arts trade. It contains diplomas which have come to light since 1994 and counts 121 new military diplomas, including 69 previously unpublished pieces. Still, the volume is far from complete. Paul Holder concedes in his introduction that a number of fragments could not be included, as the desire had been to publish Margaret Roxan's preliminary files as quickly as possible. The gaps will be filled with yet another volume in preparation by Paul Holder with all diplomas published up until the end of 2002 and with more material from Margaret Roxan's files. Even so, this carefully crafted volume once more is a significant and fundamental contribution to the study of military diplomas and the Roman imperial government and army.

The volume provides a revised chronology of the hitherto known diplomas including a detailed commentary. Like the previous volumes, this publication also includes indices on Witnesses, Names, Governors, Prefects, Recipients, their Units and their Families, Commanders of Auxiliary Units, Units, as well as People and Places. Five appendices follow. The first provides the texts of Discharge Certificates; Appendix II is a revision of the diploma CIL XVI.8, and Appendix III gives a list of the sites on the Capitol in Rome where the *constitutiones* were published before A.D. 90. Appendix IV lists the 'delayed' diplomas during the reign of Trajan and includes a discussion of these and of Trajan's title *optimus*. Finally, Appendix V compiles the lists of witnesses for the periods A.D. 138–192 and 192–237. The main body of this volume consists of the presentation of 121 military diplomas ranging from 2 July A.D. 61 to 7 January A.D. 245. The lay-out and style is the same as developed by Margaret Roxan for RMD I–III. The value of any such publication lies in the reliable presentation of the documents and their inscriptions. Just as in Dr Roxan's previous volumes this has been fully achieved and the texts are followed by illuminating scholarly comments. In addition, many excellent photographs have been included. The wealth of new historical information (and the numerous new questions) provided by these documents will nourish research and widen our knowledge in many aspects of Roman imperial history for years to come.