

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 statutory 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 URBIS 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.

As the Romans left the security of the Italian peninsula during the Punic Wars, so the authors leave the land of *communis opinio* on the subject on intelligence activities. They follow the interpretation of the Italian scholar, Giovanni Brizzi, who argued that Roman leaders were loyal to the idea of *fides* and averse to any use of underhanded methods in warfare. This supposed attitude remained an obstacle to victory against Hannibal until consciously discarded by Scipio. The authors seem blithely unaware of how often this interpretation has been dismantled (for example, J. Briscoe, *JRS* 73 (1983), A. Lintott, *Gnomon* 56, 6 (1984), Sheldon, *Guerra Segreta nell'antica Roma* (2008), and several works by E. L. Wheeler). They are on firmer ground in ch. 4 when they turn back to internal Roman affairs. They give a detailed discussion of the power struggle between Marius and Sulla, the proscriptions, the Catilinarian conspiracy and the rise in the use of informers and political assassination.

Chs 5 through 7 discuss the legal definitions, structure and function of the diverse groups which made up Rome's intelligence gathering capacity in the Empire: the *speculatores*, the *exploratores*, the *frumentarii*, and the *agentes in rebus*. Once again, they follow an Italian scholar, this time Purpura, while ignoring the English and German scholarship on the subject. They are certainly entitled to disagree with what has come before, but in a work of this size it is inexplicable that the authors should choose to completely ignore a body of scholarship on the very subject of their book. Totally absent is the work of Wilhelm Blum on the *curiosi* and *regendarii*, of Manfred Clauss on the *frumentarii*, *speculatores* and *magister officiorum*, of Davies on policing, Kneppel on internal security, Pekary on sedition, etc. The list is a long one and since all of these works were gathered in *Espionage in the Ancient World: An Annotated Bibliography* (2003), even identifying them does not take much work. At least a mention in the footnotes and the authors' basis for disagreement would have been helpful.

The disagreements between scholars exist, not because previous authors have failed to look at the same evidence (of which there is precious little anyway), but because there is a philosophical difference between those who see the work of Rome's security services as sinister and their collective activities as oppressive and corrupt (e.g. Sinnigen, Frank, Sheldon, Blum) and those who see these men as simply Roman bureaucrats upon whom a modern interpretation has been intruded (e.g. A. H. M. Jones, Liebschutz *JRS* 60 (1970) reviewing Blum). The latter group believes the former has been led astray by making analogy to modern secret police organizations, and there is no doubt that a scholar's view can be coloured by their own personal or national experience with the subject of secret police. There will always, however, be a divide between those who believe spying has always been the world's 'second oldest profession', with far fewer morals than the first, and those who do not want to acknowledge such behaviour in their beloved Romans.

Despite its flaws, this is a beautifully produced book, lavishly illustrated and filled with thoughtful discussions on Roman legal and epigraphical sources. The authors make many useful insights and discuss topics in greater detail than previous works. The 140 Euro price tag, however, will limit its distribution to libraries with a large budget willing to stock Italian titles. This will deprive it of the wider readership it deserves.

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M.-W. SCHULZ, *CAESAR ZU PFERDE. ROSS UND REITER IN CAESARS KOMMENTARIEN UND IN DER GERMANIA DES TACITUS* (Spudasmata 123). Hildesheim: Georg Olms Verlag, 2009. Pp. x + 322, illus. ISBN 9783437139296. €49.80.

As the title suggests, the focus of this book is on the works of Caesar, though some thirty pages are devoted to Tacitus' *Germania*. According to Schulz, Caesar in Gaul initially tried to reform his four thousand-strong Gallic cavalry by integrating Roman officers down to quite a junior level (this rests largely on the *decurio*, L. Aemilius, mentioned at *B Gall* 1.23). Nonetheless, they remained unreliable, and after the disasters and vexations of his fifth and sixth years in command Caesar realized — rather late in the day for a 'great' general — that the war was not winnable without cavalry superiority. Hence he started to use German cavalry, or rather *Doppelkämpfer*, since a foot warrior ran and fought alongside each horseman. S. successfully shows that from the seventh campaign onwards they were present as a decisive shock force on numerous occasions. One of the book's most interesting ideas is that Caesar, who claimed for years to be defending Gaul (and