The Greek poet Marcellus’ panegyric on Regilla is translated in the final chapter. Genealogical and chronological charts help the reader. There is no separate bibliography, but the substantial end-notes are especially valuable for the references to modern work on the various sites in Greece and Italy and the sculpted portraits. Some generalisations and controversial points seem, however, insufficiently documented for the disparate types of reader likely to turn to a work with such an exciting title. Anyone interested in the history of women or the culture of the second century will find this book stimulating.

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ROMAN NAMES IN MACEDONIA


This fat publication marks the climax of T.’s research on the prosopography of ancient Macedonia, begun in 1980, and a subject which she has already explored in a series of articles and three books (Ancient Beroea: Prosopography and Society [1988]; Macedonian Edessa: Prosopography and Onomasticon [1994]; Macedonians Abroad [1998], all published in the Meletemata series). The present work, apart from a short introduction (pp. 37–54), comprises a series of prosopographical lists. Part I lists individuals by nomina, Part II by personal names which betray Roman onomastic influence (nomina simplicia; Greek names with Latin suffixes). There are five summarising tables, including one of all the nomina found in Macedonia (Table V) and one of those only found in Macedonia, a startlingly large 64 (Table III). Much of the onomastic material appears in vol. IV of the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names, published the year before, but of course in a different and – at least from the Romanist’s point of view – less accessible format.

Unlike, say, the Roman Peloponnese project initiated by T.’s colleague at the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens, Athanassios Rizakis, of which the two volumes published so far (I [2001]; II [2004], both in the Meletemata series) are to be followed by a third offering expert discussion of the material, T.’s is essentially a reference work (p. 54). As such it is equipped with over 100 pages of indexes (pp. 543–665: nearly a sixth of the book), including a useful reverse index of Macedonian nomina (pp. 662–5), and a reasonably detailed general index (pp. 543–74). The prosopographical entries are short; for brevity’s sake, much of what comment there is refers the reader to other publications, as with the comparative information on frequency and distribution given at the start of each new nomen in the catalogue of nomina. This is a work which the serious user will need to consult in a specialist library where Schulze, Salomies and company can be laid out on the same table, not to mention the editions of inscriptions from which all this material has been culled.

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Anyone who has been involved in collecting prosopographical material will recognise the enormous achievement represented by this volume, which amasses a grand total of 4,702 persons (compared with, say, 2,886 for the two Roman Peloponnese volumes: hence the compulsion of T. to save space wherever possible). The work appears to have been done with thoroughness and care, with only the occasional minor slip (e.g. pp. 55, 348, 382–3: ‘Scipiones’ and ‘Pisones’ curiously bracketed as ‘nomina’).

Although T. modestly leaves to others to draw out the socio-historical implications of this mass of material, she herself hints at some of the questions which it raises. There is the fascinating observation (p. 39) that down to A.D. 100 or so the use of Roman names was ‘very limited’ in Macedonia. What happened then? A change in the character of the database, or a genuine onomastic shift? And if so, why? Then there is the large total of 690 nomina, as well as the uniqueness of nearly 10 per cent of them. Most of the answer to this last phenomenon must lie with Roman colonisation in Macedonia and with the settlement there of significant numbers of negotiatores (see A. Rizakis in Les Italiens dans le monde grec [BCH Suppl. 41, Athens/Paris 2002], pp. 109–32). The socio-cultural influence of such a large Italian contingent in Macedonia may help to explain the appearance locally of an unusual group of Roman-style names formed on Greek anthroponyms: ‘Cleonymianus’, ‘Olympius’, ‘Orestius’ and so on (p. 53).

T. has also supplied the raw materials for a study of the spread of ciuitas by virilane grant in Macedonia. To paraphrase Louis Robert, early citizens with the nomen ‘Iulius’ are always of interest: such as the Iulia Cleonice, daughter of a Philodemus, who made a dedication to Isis at Thessalonice in 23/2 B.C. (p. 261 no. 42). Who were these people? T. adduces (p. 37) the Roman removal of the ‘Macedonian aristocracy’ (168 B.C.) to explain the subsequent scarcity of traditional Macedonian names in the Roman province. The question is perhaps thornier than T. allows: by contrast, attention has recently been drawn to the prevalence of such names in Roman Macedonia, at least in imperial times (I. Touloumakos, ZAnt 47 (1997), 211–26). Continuity of stock or invented tradition? The political exile Polybius, it should be recalled, eventually returned to the Peloponnese, where he left apparent descendants (Rizakis, Roman Peloponnese II, 534–5 nos. 196–7). But cultural fashion must also be allowed due weight. The desire of Macedonians in the age of the Second Sophistic to connect with their martial and imperial forebears is not in doubt. One of the most interesting items is the claim to descent from Alexander advertised by an Athenian family which had intermarried with Beroean notables around A.D. 200 (T. on pp. 80–1, nos. 160, 173). R.B.E. Smith (Historia 56 [2007], 357–80) must now be consulted for the persuasive argument that Praxagoras of Athens, the fourth-century Alexander-historian, was a descendant of this marriage.

In sum, T.’s book should be warmly welcomed as a very significant addition to the growing body of specialist work on Roman names in the Greek east. Macedonia can now be added to those parts of the Greek world where the study of personal names is slowly transforming historical understanding of what it may have meant to ‘become Roman’ in the eastern provinces.

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