

BOOK REVIEW

Rome, Polybius, and the East. By PETER DEROW. Edited by ANDREW ERSKINE and JOSEPHINE CRAWLEY QUINN. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. Pp. xvi + 311. Hardcover, \$125.00. ISBN 978-0-19-964090-4.

In 2006, the academic community lost Peter Derow, one of the greatest Hellenistic and Roman Republican historians and epigraphers and a cosmopolitan, at the young age of 62. This most welcome volume carefully and lovingly edited by Andrew Erskine and Josephine Crawley Quinn, includes fourteen of Derow's essays on the Roman conquest of the Mediterranean and on the historian Polybius. Eleven of these are single-authored republications, two were co-written by Derow and his tutor William G. Forrest and by Derow and his students John T. Ma and Andrew R. Meadows respectively, while the last one is a previously unpublished talk Derow delivered in Munich ("Polybius III, Rome, and Carthage"). Details on the previous publication of all essays are available on pages ix-x, before the list of abbreviations. Derow's bibliography can be found in pages 293–296.

The introduction was authored by the two editors with contributions by Erich Gruen, Timothy D. Barnes, Graham Shipley, and by Derow himself. A short biography of the honoree is followed by a summary of the papers republished, Gruen's assessment of Derow's importance as a teacher-scholar ("The Derow Doctrine"), Barnes and Shipley's discussion of milestones in Derow's career at Toronto and Oxford, and Derow's reflections on the importance of studying ancient history and Polybius in particular ("Why Ancient History?").

The essays are divided into four parts: "Narratives", "Polybius and Roman Power", "The Roman Calendar", and "Epigraphy". The first section comprises two excellent essays that define Derow's period of interest, i.e. Rome and the Greek world, closely following Polybius's chronology of Roman involvement in the East. The narrative begins with the Illyrian War (229–228 BC) and the events that led to the fall of Macedon and continues with the aftermath of the collapse of the Macedonian kingdom to the sack of Corinth.

The second section of the book comprises seven essays and is devoted to Polybius as a historian and principal of his contemporary dramatic events. Of

particular value is Derow's contribution entitled "Historical Explanation. Polybius and His Predecessors," which places the Megalopolitan historian in his literary context, comparing his methodology to Herodotus and Thucydides's in their treatment of the Persian and Peloponnesian wars respectively. The result is a careful and nuanced reading of Polybius's methodology and approach to historical interpretation, especially with regard to the causes of the Second Punic War or his analysis of the Roman Constitution and of the picture of Greece under Rome's dominion. Highlights of the remaining essays include discussions of Polybius's interpretation of Roman eastward expansion ("Polybius, Rome, and the East"), the First Illyrian War and making sense of contradictions in the accounts of Appian and Polybius ("Klemporos"), the fateful embassy of Kallikrates of Leontion, ambassador of the Achaean League, the origins of the Second Punic War (Derow's previously unpublished "Polybius III, Rome, and Carthage"), and of the Roman conception of *imperium* in the 190s, juxtaposing Rome to the contemporary Greek leadership.

Two important essays on the Roman calendar in 190–168 and 218–91 respectively make up the third section of the volume and offer a much-needed discussion of the complexities of chronology in reconstructing events, especially when taking into account multiple primary sources like Livy. The second article in particular seeks to establish the chronology of the 190s, especially as it regards the African campaign of the Second Punic War.

The final section of the book comprises three essays on epigraphy. It begins with Derow and Forrest's 1982 republication of a third century BC inscription from Chios.¹ It includes photographs, corrections, and extensive commentary. The text sheds light on the Aegean politics of the time, including the connection between Chios and Delphi, the former city's establishment of a festival in honor of Roma, and the history of Rome's involvement with the Greek East, perhaps at an earlier time than was previously believed. While Derow makes a case for a greater relationship between Rome and the Greeks than previously thought, this is an area that must be further studied.

In "Pharos and Rome," Derow republishes an inscription from modern-day Hvar (Croatia), the ancient Pharos, which sheds light on the relationship between Rome and that Greek city in the third century. It explores the type of alli-

¹ Chios Museum Inventory 1000; now published in Donald F. McCabe, *Chios Inscriptions. Texts and List. The Princeton Project on the Inscriptions of Anatolia*, IAS, Princeton 1986, no. 14; retrieved from the Packard Humanities Institute online project.

ance (*symmachia*) that existed between the two, as well as between Rome and other Greek localities, including Apollonia, Corcyra, Epidamnos, and Issa, some of which were valuable supporters of Rome in the wars against Philip V, Antiochus III, and Perseus.

Finally, “RC 38 (Amyzon) Reconsidered,” a collaborative contribution of Derow, Ma, and Meadows, proposes a reinterpretation of a late third century royal letter, presumably authored by Antiochus III, but now convincingly attributed to Zeuxis, a Seleucid official and vice-roy of trans-Tauric Asia Minor. The text postdates Antiochus III’s subjection of Amyzon and provides information about the struggle for Seleucid domination of Caria at the expense of Ptolemy V of Egypt.

The editors of this gem of a volume should be congratulated for putting together an anthology that reflects Derow’s diverse scholarship. It does not only commemorate the work of one of the greats of our field, but also serves as an accessible, nuanced overview of the relationship of Rome and the Greek East during a crucial time of transition in the Mediterranean.

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