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Gerión. Revista de Historia Antigua. ISSN 0213-0181; ISSN-e 1988-3080. Vol. 30 (2012) – 33 (2015). Ed. JOSÉ MARÍA BLÁZQUEZ MARTÍNEZ ET AL.

The four volumes of the *Gerión* published between 2012 and 2015 contain fifty-six articles and dozens of reviews. The majority of the articles and all of the reviews are in Spanish, but there are some Italian, French and English articles, too. In 2015 a special issue was also published, in memory of the late Professor Fernando López Pardo, containing his selected articles especially on Phoenician culture and trade edited by Jorge García Cardiel.

This journal – launched in 1983 – is devoted to the study of Ancient History in general with emphasized attention to various adjunct sciences, as archaeology, epigraphy, philology and so on. According to this determination, the vast majority of the articles concentrates on ‘classical’, Greek and Latin antiquity,¹ but there are refreshing exceptions in age, place and topics as well: e.g. González Salazar (2013, 15–50) analyses the way the Hittites treated their civil and warrior captives during the second half of the second millennium BC; Blázquez Martínez (2012, 293–342) examines the connection – in various aspects – between Muhammad and the Syrian monks; Velázquez Muñoz (2013, 147–178) presents an article about the route and especially the stations of the Royal Road between Persepolis and Susa; Lasala Navarro (2013, 363–383) studies the Byzantine Empress Theodora’s public and political image by the help of Procopius; Biondi (2013, 179–200) investigates the early Greek philosophy through the examination of Thales’ figure in the later literature (Herodotus etc.).

Considering that the journal is a Spanish one, the attention devoted to topics related to the wider Iberian past – i.e. not only the Romans and the Pre-Roman culture in the territory of modern Spain, but the Phoenicians, Carthage and the colonization process – is not surprising. Accordingly, a curious reader can find articles about the *Periplus* literature (Mederos Martín 2013, 239–268; 2015, 15–45); the Phoenician settlers in Cadiz from the ninth to the sixth century (Padilla Monge 2014, 15–56); the sea-routes of the Locrians with special emphasis not only on the coastal, but on the open-sea routes, too (Milán 2013, 89–115); Ionian craftsmen in Obulco in the fifth century BC (Blázquez Martínez 2014, 105–123); the

¹ E.g. the archaic Greek tyranny and the importance of the personal relations (Sierra Martín 2014, 57–77); Roman colonization and the Latin league (Martínez-Pinna 2014, 125–136); the official carrier of a certain L. Cossonius Gallus (Mastino – Zucca 2014, 199–223); Quintus Curtius Rufus’ sources (Ballesteros Pastor 2015, 91–110).

Roman conquest against and the literary tradition about the peoples of the north-western part of the Iberian peninsula (Plácido Suárez 2014, 157–179); a problem of the Celtiberian grammar and orthography (Simón Cornago, 2012, 133–147); the physical remains of the Roman culture in Spain (Roman military bricks and stamps, Morillo – Salido Domínguez 2013, 287–329; inscriptions of some teachers and their social importance, Alonso Alonso 2015, 285–310) and so on.

The common feature of the articles with religious content is the archaeological and epigraphical approach: a votive altar for the *Parcae* (Mangas Manjarrés – Martínez Caballero – Hoces de la Guardia Bernejo 2013, 331–361); Christian *graffiti* and blocks from a late Roman Asturian villa (Fernández Ochoa – Gil Sendino – Salido Domínguez 2013, 385–416); a Greek votive inscription of a sculpture of Silvanus with the Greek inscription ‘Zeus Dalbenos’ (Pera Yébenes 2015, 311–324). Of course, exceptions can be found, too: e.g. the opposition of town and countryside, orthodoxy and heterodoxy (Villegas Marín, 2012, 263–291) was studied by the help of literary and legal sources. Petraccia (2014, 181–198) emphasizes that her study about the Italian goddess *Mefitis* is based on the literary, not the archaeological sources.

Finally, the examination of traditional topics of Ancient History frequently shows new approaches. Pascual (2012, 29–49) uses not only the ‘regular’ classical sources (Plutarch, Xenophon, etc.), but also the Egyptian ones to clarify the chronology of the beginning of the fourth century BC. Pera Yébenes (2012, 169–184) writes about the role of the gladiators during the events of the Ides of March in 44 BC. Fumadó Ortega (2013, 117–146) puts the emphasis on the internal struggles, i.e. the internal politics of Carthage instead of the usually examined foreign policy. Curchin (2014, 271–287) analyses the causes of the abolishment of the local magistrates in late Roman cities highlighting the problems with controlling finances and protecting citizens more than the traditional view based on the problems of expenses.

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