
Review

Reviewed Work(s): *Corpus des Ordonnances des Ptoleemes (C. Ord. Ptol.)* by Marie-Therese Lenger

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Mr. Hooker has certainly produced an excellent handbook that will, one hopes, introduce a new generation of graduate students—and others—to Linear B and Mycenaean Greek. Dare we hope that it will help stimulate Mycenaean studies on this side of the Atlantic, where until now they have been neglected?

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MARIE-THÉRÈSE LENGER. *Corpus des Ordonnances des Ptolémées* (C. Ord. Ptol.). Réimpression de l'édition princeps (1964) corrigée et mise à jour. Brussels, Académie Royale de Belgique, 1980. Pp. xxiv + 418. BF 700 (*Mémoires de la Classe des Lettres, Collection in-8°*, 2^e série, t. 64, fasc. 2)

Lenger's book became a standard work upon its appearance in 1964; it has been out-of-print for some years and its reprinting is most welcome. That the Belgian Academy has produced it at an exceptionally reasonable price is also gratifying.

The Corpus is one of the few typological collections of papyri produced so far. The constant stream of newly-published papyrus documents tends to make most such volumes obsolete quickly, and most papyrologists have preferred editing new texts to re-editing known ones. In the case of papyri containing Ptolemaic royal legislation, however, the coherence of the material, its interest to jurists and historians, and the relatively small flow of new Greek papyri from the Ptolemaic period justified the enterprise. The gains of the volume were (1) the up-to-date texts of some much-corrected papyri, (2) the extensive bibliography (although there have been justified complaints about the lack of internal organization in the lemmas to texts), (3) the improvement of our understanding of Ptolemaic legislation from the confrontation of these papyri with one another, and (4) the full indices. Although the commentaries are brief, the translations were welcome, rendering many previously untranslated items accessible to the Greekless.

The Supplement to the reprint edition has very modest goals: to correct actual errors and supplement the bibliography. Most of the material for the latter appeared in the *Festschriften* for Georges Daux and Claire Préaux, but its collection here is useful. There are, however, no new texts and not much comment. Still, under the limitations imposed upon Lenger by the nature of this reprint, the new material is convenient to have in this form.

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