prägten Begriff der ‘Erbauung’ fassen, tritt aber nicht über, sondern neben die Wirkungsabsichten, die G. nennt, wenn er die Bibelepik am Ende seiner Studie folgendermaßen beschreibt (384): «Christian Latin epic is [...] an attempt by many writers over many years to seize the opportunity to instruct, delight, and move a highly educated audience in a bold programme of discriminating appropriation and sensitive adaptation.»

Insgesamt betrachtet zeigt G. überzeugend verschiedene Formen der Aneignung der epischen Tradition in den Bibelepen zum Neuen Testament auf. Seine Studie wird das Bewusstsein für die epische Komponente dieser Dichtung schärfen und die künftige Diskussion zweifellos entscheidend beeinflussen. Da G. die bisherigen Forschungsergebnisse überprüft und durch seine Arbeit am konkreten Textbeispiel gleichsam eine Anleitung zur kompetenten Interpretation der Bibel-epik gibt, bietet die Studie für jeden, der sich mit Juvencus, Sedulius oder Arator beschäftigt, eine neue Grundlage.

Basel

Petra Schierl


Argyro B. Tataki’s ‘The Roman Presence in Macedonia. Evidence from Personal Names’ is a complete collection of Roman names of persons attested either in Provincia Macedonia or in other places of the Roman world, where they are identified as being of Macedonian origin. The onomastic material collected dates from the 2nd century BC to the 6th century AD. It includes, therefore, attestations dating from late Antiquity and early Byzantine times. It should be added at this point, following Tataki’s advice (p. 41), that for many of the attestations not dated in her work, one should consult the latest volume (IV) of the ‘Lexicon of Greek Personal Names’, containing the onomastic material of ancient Macedonia and Thrace.

As with T.’s major collection ‘Macedonians Abroad: A Contribution to the Prosopography of Ancient Macedonia’ (Μελετήματα 26; Athens 1998), and with those on ‘Ancient Beroea: Prosopography and Society’ (Μελετήματα 8; Athens 1988), and on ‘Macedonian Edessa: Prosopography and Onomasticon’ (Μελετήματα 18; Athens 1994), the present collection is part of the project ‘Prosopography of Ancient Macedonia’ carried out by the Research Institute for Greek and Roman Antiquity (National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens). Consequently, it is the fruit of T.’s activity of recording, classification and systematic presentation of the onomastic material related to Roman Macedonia.

By the present collection, T. wishes to facilitate future research dealing with social changes suffered by Macedonian society following the arrival of Romans in 168 BC and the subsequent deportation of Macedonian aristocrats. As the author summarizes (p. 37–45 with references to Prof. A. D. Rizakis’ recent historical and social studies on Roman Macedonia), even before the creation of Provincia Macedonia (148 BC) and immediately after, during the end of the Republic, it is possible to assess Roman presence in the communities of businessmen.
and bankers (negotiatores) formed in several Macedonian cities, such as Beroea, Thessalonike, Edessa, Styberra and Akanthos. In addition, the professional activities of Romans in economy and commerce – mostly in land and mine operations – become more intelligible from the second half of the 1st century BC onwards, when Romans, often veterans of the army, settled in colonies founded throughout Macedonia, in Pella, Dion, Cassandreia, Philippi, Stobi and probably Apollonia (in Mygdonia). Besides, Roman control in Macedonian cities and countryside was imposed by the emperors who granted Roman citizenship to local aristocrats. Thus, imperial nomina are the majority in Macedonia, as is also the case in other provinces of the eastern Empire (p. 52). Soon, adopting Roman onomastic practices became an increasingly generalized phenomenon among members of the ruling class, given the fact that proconsuls and provincial officers, as representatives of the emperor, made also use of their right to grant Roman citizenship. This practice was of particular political significance, since it aimed at winning over the native well-to-do and officeholders, who, thereafter, got into partnership with the emperor and the members of his circle. Relationships were forged through filiations based on marriage or common interests.

T.’s work, dedicated to the memory of three eminent specialists in Greek epigraphy, Nikola Vulić, Demetrios Kanatsoulis and Georgi Mihailov, begins with a short ‘Preface’ (p. 9–10), the ‘Contents’ (p. 11) and a ‘Select Bibliography’ (p. 13–35). Then follows an ‘Introduction’ (p. 37–59), where the author presents the features of the book, i.e. the organization of its material and its aims (p. 37–39; for discussion on the difficulties encountered, see p. 42–43) and also the nature and the chronologival framework of the source material included in it (p. 42–44). Similarly, T. analyzes the method used in the entries of names (p. 42–43), in the citations of the place-names where the inscriptions come from (p. 45–47) and in the citations of public offices held by persons (cursus honorum) and of other information related to them (p. 47). Furthermore, T. offers a comprehensive review of the main earlier collections of Macedonian onomastics, which her work has been based on, emphasizing particularly the importance of Prof. O. Salomies’ contributions (p. 47–51). At the end of the Introduction, on the basis of four Tables (p. 55–59), four categories of nomina are formed by the author according to several criteria (p. 52–54): (i) nomina appearing as a second or multiple nomen (Table I, p. 55); (ii) cognomina ending in -ianus used as nomina (Table II, p. 56); (iii) nomina attested only in Macedonia (Table III, p. 57); and (iv) rare or relatively rare nomina (Table IV, p. 58–59).


The main collection consists of two Parts:

Part I (p. 63–474) includes persons bearing Roman nomina gentilia.

A total of 690 nomina gentilia are registered belonging to several thousands of Roman citizens (for numbers, cf. p. 51) and their freedmen (liberti). As thoroughly noted by the author (p. 39, 42 f.), this material comes from different sources, i.e. not only from the literary ones, but also from coins and inscriptions written either in Greek or in Latin (or in both Greek and Latin), which have been found in Macedonia and elsewhere in the Roman world, and refer to persons originating from or related to Macedonia. This catalogue is completed by a second list of persons (in total 107), whose nomina are partly preserved on inscriptions (p. 454–460). Therefore, Part I is a complete up-to-date prosopographical catalogue of Roman citizens in Macedonia. It includes material found in publications appeared until 2005. Yet, one should note that T.’s collection incorporates references to even more recent material, such as the one to be included in the forthcoming Proceedings of the Congresses of Epigraphy held in Thessaloniki as well as some of the forthcoming Corpus of the inscriptions of the Roman colony of Philippi. A few more attestations of nomina, recently presented in I. Spiliopoulou-Donderer’s study, have been listed in the Addenda (p. 666). Accordingly, T.’s catalogue will certainly retain its usefulness for a long time to come, although inevitably new personal names have already been published and will continue to emerge through new discoveries.

In technical terms, the nomina, arranged alphabetically (p. 63–453), are cited in their Latin form, as the author explains (p. 42), in order to facilitate research in standard works. For each nomen gentile, the persons attested in Greek, being the majority, have been listed first, arranged in alphabetical order of their cognomina; then follow the persons attested in Latin: this arrangement aims at facilitating studies focusing on frequency of language use. As a result, in conclusion, Part I integrates a concise list of nomina (Table V, p. 461–474), indicating their frequency, the site where the inscription was found and the language of the attestations (Greek, Latin, bilingual). Consequently, one can easily observe the geographical distribution of a name and, moreover, estimate the frequency of attestations in Greek as compared to Latin.

The collection of Part II includes three catalogues:

(a) the first catalogue (p. 477–122) contains the persons bearing a cognomen used as single name (e.g. Τρισσανούτος) or as supernomen (e.g. Αμάντιος Αμάντινος ὁ καὶ Κρήτες) or used with names of either Greek or Latin origin, formed in the Greek onomastic formula (i.e. name and patronymic, e.g. Πύρσος Καπιτάνος, Κέλος Τίτος). As the author points out (Introduction, p. 43), although the majority of the attestations are in Greek, persons are listed under their cognomina in their Latin form in order to facilitate research in standard works;


2 I. Spiliopoulou-Donderer, Kaiserzeitliche Grabaltäre Niedermakedoniens (Peleus 15; Mannheim 2002). See the recent book (also published in 2006) by P. M. Ngidelis, Επιγραφικά Θεσσαλονίκης. Συμβολή στην πολιτική και κοινωνική ιστορία της αρχαίας Θεσσαλονίκης (Thessaloniki 2006).


(b) the second catalogue (p. 523–534) consists of persons bearing a Latin praenomen used as single name (e.g. Γιάνος, Λουκάς, Μάνος etc.) or in names of either Greek or Latin origin, formed according to the Greek onomastic formula (name and patronymic, e.g. Μητρόδορος Ποσίλιος, Τίτος Συκινάδος) or as supernomen (e.g. Νικοπολίτης Δημήτριος ο και Γνώσιος);

(c) the third catalogue (p. 535–541) is a list of names of Greek origin formed with Latin suffixes, mostly -ianus (e.g. Δημήτριους, Ευσταυρίους). A total of 31 such names form a list, in which figure also persons already included in Part I (where they are registered under their nomen gentile).

T.’s book finally integrates ten indexes: (I) General Index (p. 543–574); (II) Index of words and phrases in Greek (p. 574–578); (III) Index of words and phrases in Latin (p. 578–588); (IV) Index of ethnic and toponyms in Greek and Latin (p. 589–592); (V) List of persons registered under their praenomina (p. 592–612); (VI) Index of cognomina, of second or multiple nomina and of supernomina in Greek (p. 612–644); (VII) Index of cognomina, of second or multiple nomina and of supernomina in Latin (p. 644–654); (VIII) Index of supernomina in Greek and Latin (p. 654–657); (IX) Index of names in Greek and Latin occurring in the Greek onomastic formula as patronyms or metronymics (nomina and praenomina are excepted) (p. 657–661); and (X) Reverse index of nomina in Latin (p. 662–665).

Moreover, T.’s book provides a map (p. 667), which is the most up-to-date piece of work on Macedonian geography. One can find here cities of Macedonia located with a greater or lesser degree of certainty, including those of the Strymon river, e.g. Berge and Herakleia Sintike, the sites of which have been very recently established beyond any doubt.1

All in all, T. offers another extremely valuable book not only to specialists in onomastics but also to historians who wish to focus on studies concerning the political and social history of ancient Macedonia and of the Greek-speaking eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. It also casts important light on the composition of the Roman and local populations in Macedonia from late Hellenistic till late Roman times.

Thessaloniki

Angelos G. Zannis

