'Lyciarch' could be used as a lifelong honorary title. After their term of office, the high-priests may have become members of the federal council. Another leading officer was the 'archiphylax', whose title—according to K.—replaced the Hellenistic title of 'strategos', which could, however, sometimes still be used synonymously. His duties were now mainly fiscal (collection of taxes for Rome), and K. puts forward the original idea that the office was held for two years, first as junior, then as senior officer; therefore two office-holders with overlapping tenure were in charge at only one time. A chapter about minor offices (p. 222) is rather short; for the benefit of the reader, it could have included some explanations. The last chapter in this section examines the family of Opramoas, its accession to the Lycian élite and some formulae used in the inscription in connection with his offices and benefactions. The formula *πολιτευόμενος καὶ ἐν ταῖς κατὰ Λυκίαν πόλεσιν πάσαις* is taken to indicate citizenship (and perhaps the holding of offices) in all Lycian cities. Despite Opramoas' prominent rôle, his family seems to have become a member of the élite only a short time earlier, and he himself never received Roman citizenship.

The book concludes with a summary, a bibliography, and exhaustive indices. In sum, it is a thorough study with important results not only for the reconstruction and interpretation of this fascinating inscription, but also for our understanding of the Lycian League under Roman rule and the rôle of its élite in making it work.

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GREEK ECONOMIC LIFE

L. MIGEOTTE: *L'économie des cités grecques de l'archaïsme au Haut-Empire romain*. Pp. 160. Paris: Ellipses, 2002. Paper. ISBN: 2-7298-0849-3.

Professor Léopold Migeotte is well known for his epigraphic studies of life and institutions in the Greek cities of the ancient world, especially public finances. At the end of his career, he has now decided to bring together his research experience in a synthesis on the economy of the Greek world from archaic times to the Roman empire. The result is this short book of a 160 small pages. It is intended as a basic introduction primarily for students at beginner's level. This is a format which seems to suit the author well. One does not usually look to textbooks for daring new questions and original perspectives. Of inclination a traditionalist, M. is quick to express reservations and counsel caution about the many theoretical advances made in the study of the ancient economy in the past few decades. Instead, he favours a more empiricist approach, adopting as far as possible the perspective of the (fragmented) ancient sources (pp. 8–9). The structure of the book reflects this more traditional, empiricist orientation: first, a short introduction, then a broad chapter outlining some fundamental principles of the economy of the ancient Greek world, followed by three chapters dealing in succession with agriculture, manufacturing, and trade, and finally a brief conclusion. The intention has clearly been to provide an undramatic, sound version of ancient Greek economic life.

Such an approach is not without merits. Throughout the book M. offers interesting observations on particular points of the ancient reality, for example, on taxation (pp. 41–6) and on the economic aspects of the informal and formal methods the Greeks used to regulate economic relations between citizens of different city-states (pp. 125–36). Neither is he in practice impervious to the themes made prominent by

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more theoretically minded scholars; the basic framework of his interpretation does, in spite of sceptical reservations and a toned down presentation, owe a great deal to the ideas developed by Austin and Vidal-Naquet in *Économies et sociétés en Grèce ancienne* (Paris, 1973) and Finley in *The Ancient Economy* (London, 1985). In the conclusion, Braudel's three tier model of pre-industrial, predominantly agrarian economies is briefly evoked to describe the pre-capitalist blend of agricultural self-sufficiency and market exchange which characterized the Greek world. He also discusses less traditional themes, such as the economic effects of endemic violence and insecurity (pp. 21–4). One could do worse than to start with M.

On the other hand, I fear, one could also do better. The consciously source-driven approach easily falls into the trap of reproducing the blind spots of our surviving source material. Rather than an analysis, it risks becoming an inventory or descriptive survey of our very imperfect evidence. Most of our source material, in spite of archaeological efforts, relates to the urban world. It is not at all surprising that by far the longest of the three survey chapters is that dealing with trade and the degree of control exercised by city authorities over markets. However, if most production and consumption took place outside the market sphere within the same (mostly peasant) household, the family with dependants surely deserves a lot more than the scant attention it receives here as an organizer of the economy. Another example is M.'s treatment of manufacture. Private activities of all sorts are dealt with in less than five pages. The more conspicuous public activities, on the other hand, such as mining and temple construction, receive twelve pages. I suspect this choice has more to do with the surviving sources than a careful estimate of the relative importance of the two 'sectors'. The analytical or theoretical weaknesses of the book are also revealed in an occasionally unhelpful use of concepts. Why is market-oriented élite agriculture automatically perceived as speculative? Any pre-industrial élite, living in a sufficiently urbanized society, has preferred to market a substantial part of the agricultural surplus in its control. This allowed it far greater flexibility in disposing of its resources. In the absence of a market option, the élite would literally have had to eat its way through its stores of produce before they went stale.

A more fundamental objection to Migeotte's approach, however, is the relative neglect of analytical ideas. Introducing students to an ancient economy is not primarily a question of historical 'facts'. Just as important is the ability to catch their attention and awaken their enthusiasm through comparisons and the invocation of 'grand theories', models, or ideas. These improve our understanding of the relevant problems and tell us why we should bother about the ancients in the first place. In that respect, I would still recommend students to start with Austin and Vidal-Naquet or Finley.

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THIRTY YEARS AFTER FINLEY

W. SCHEIDEL, S. VON REDEN (edd.): *The Ancient Economy* (Edinburgh Readings on the Ancient World). Pp. xxi + 282, maps. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002. Paper, £16.99. ISBN: 0-7486-1321-8 (0-7486-1322-6 hbk).

The publication of *The Ancient Economy* three decades ago by Finley represented a

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