

Pierangelo Buongiorno, Giuseppe Camodeca (eds.),  
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The publication of the every volume of studies related to the PaRoS (*Palingenesie der römischen Senatsbeschlüsse (509 v. Chr.–284 n. Chr.)*) project headed by Pierangelo Buongiorno since 2015 is no doubt welcome news to many scholars following its fortunes. Most volumes published to date have been the outcome of the conferences and seminars associated with the project. The latest, the ninth in the series, contains the presentations of participants in the seminar that took place in Münster in 2016. This focused on the decrees of the Senate (*senatus consulta*) preserved in epigraphic, papyrological or numismatic documents or which we know about from such evidence. It is regrettable that the new volume only contains articles on epigraphic evidence, with just one text on a numismatic subject. Although, for various reasons, not all presentations are included in the volume, it is still the longest published to date.

The texts in this book are diverse, and can therefore be divided into three groups. The first are those whose authors present a wide range of problems associated with research on the surviving texts of the Senate decrees and the ways of publicising their contents, as well as the various references to them in epigraphic documents from Italy and the provinces, in both Latin and Greek (P. Buogiorno, G. Cammodeca, “I senatus consulta nella documentazione epigrafica dall’Italia,” pp. 9–53; W. Eck, “Senatus consulta in lateinischer Sprache auf Inschriften in den Provinzen,” pp. 55–81; K. Harter-Uibopuu, “Die Publikation von senatus consulta in griechischen Inschriften,” pp. 83–105).

Using selected documents, the authors of the first article not only try to reconstruct the process by which the Senate decrees were created and constructed, but in particular attempt to answer questions about the reasons for publication of the *senatus consulta* and the entities responsible for their publication, as well as examining the relationship between the published text and its original surviving in the *Tabularium* in Rome. Their arguments are furnished with useful lists: a directory of *SC* surviving in their entirety or in summaries in Latin inscriptions from Rome and Italy (p. 33) and a list of inscriptions in Latin from this area, featuring references to the Senate decrees made on issues concerning political, social or religious life (pp. 34–50). According to Werner Eck, a factor in the complete or partial survival of just 13 epigraphic documents in Latin containing Senate decrees was the material they were recorded on. In the western provinces, bronze tablets were used for this, while in the eastern ones it was mostly marble. Because metal

is easier to reuse, over time epigraphic documents made out on it were more often destroyed than those recorded on stone. Kaja Harter-Uibopuu, meanwhile, endeavours to explain the causes and circumstances of the publication of Senate decrees in Greek. She argues that the reasons varied in different Greek cities. The lack of any common rule in this respect was to an extent the result of the various practices adopted in these cities concerning publication of the documents important to them. This was dictated both by the importance of their contents and propaganda concerns. The latter were often even more significant than the contents of the resolutions made in the Senate decree, as a *senatus consultum* was treated as important evidence of the close relations between the cities and Rome.

The largest group of articles in this volume are those on well-known epigraphic documents referring to *SC*. These articles analyse questions including the content of these documents and the history of their discovery. There are also *lectiones* or reconstructions of certain passages, new editions of some of these documents and new analyses and interpretations (A. Gallo, “*Senatus consulta de Bacchanalibus*. Normenpluralität in der Tafel von Tiriolo und in der livianischen Überlieferung,” pp. 107–145; A. V. Walser, “Das sogenannte *Senatus Consultum Popillianum*,” pp. 147–169; É. Famerie, “Le sénatus-consulte relative au règlement des affaires de Phrygie (RDGE 13). Nouveau texte, nouveau contexte,” pp. 171–185; S. Viaro, “Note sul c.d. ‘*senatus consultum de pago montano*’,” pp. 199–244; S. Marino, “Centro e periferia in età sillana: il *sc. De Stratonicensibus*,” pp. 245–293; D. Bonanno, “Riconoscere un dio ‘*ex senatus consulto*’. La disputa tra gli abitanti di Oropo e i publicani romani (73 a.C.),” pp. 295–312; A. Raggi, “Prologomena a una nuova edizione del *sc. de Aphrodisiensibus*,” pp. 313–330; S. Lhosse, “Zum *SC. Calvisianum* und der Strafgerichtsbarkeit des Senats,” pp. 331–342; A. Terrinoni, “*Ludi, lucar, memoria*: un contributo allo studio dei *senatus consulta* nei commentary augustei dei *ludi saecularis*,” pp. 343–368; M. Rizzi, “Il *senatus consultum de saltus Beguensis* e lo *ius nundinarum* nell’Africa romana,” pp. 369–395).

The third group of texts are those that do not focus on a specific Senate decree, but present issues related to the Senate’s legislative activity and the procedures that accompanied it as well as the socio-administrative reception of these procedures (S. Saba, “Riflessioni sui trattati fra Roma e le città greche,” pp. 187–197; A. Parma, “*Decreta decurionum epigrafici*: Esempi di registrazione delle delibere dell’ordo decurionum,” pp. 397–410). This group also includes the only article on the question of how the Senate’s legislative activity was reflected in the Roman coinage of the Republican period and Empire (R. Wolters, “*SC* und *EX SC* auf Münzen der Römischen Republik und Kaiserzeit,” pp. 411–437).

Sara Saba’s starting point for her discussion of the relationship between Greek cities and Rome is a set of three documents from Astypalaea, comprising a Senate decree, the text of a *foedus* with Rome and an honorific decree to the envoy who contributed to the forming of the alliance. The author compares the contents of these and similar documents from other Greek cities, showing the features shared by the latter with the first two from Astypalaea. She also notes the different perceptions of the importance of the two types of documents by Rome and its Greek partners. From a formal point of view, it was above all those resolutions contained in a treaty that were binding for Rome, while


the Greek partners rather emphasised those elements of diplomatic procedures that they themselves regarded as meriting publication.

The contents of *decreta decurionum* makes it clear that both the Senate's method of operation and its style of formulating decrees had a significant influence on the way Roman city authorities worked. These documents leave no doubt that the authorities of Roman cities and municipalities faithfully imitated the models developed by the most important legislative body of the Roman state in terms of both the way decrees were adopted and the method of their publication. This is also shown convincingly by Aniello Parma on the basis of an analysis of all known *decreta decurionum*, the corpus of which he is preparing for publication.

Roman coins with the letters *SC* or *EX SC* on the obverse, interpreted as *senatus consulto* or *ex senato consulto*, have long been the subject of discussion. Despite their endeavours to explain their function and meaning, scholars are still far from unanimity, mostly because the lack of any evidence on this subject makes it impossible to identify a rule regarding the rules for including these letters on coins. Reinhard Wolters attempts to explain the significance of these letters based on the form in which they appear on coins and the images they accompany. Both the high number of issues of coins with these letters and the discernible difference in the frequency of their use in the Republic and Empire mean that explaining this issue affects identification of the function of the letters and their ideological contents. According to the author, in the republican period the letters *SC* often accompany images referring to the family history of the senatorial officials responsible for minting coins. These letters acquire an explicitly political significance in the period of the Second Triumvirate. During the Empire, the letters *SC* or *EX SC* are usually associated with images referring to the acts of the ruler. However, if they appear without connection to him, their significance can be interpreted in various ways.

This book can without any doubt be recommended not only to historians of Roman law, who for obvious reasons are interested in the Senate's legislative activity, but also to a wide range of researches of various aspects of Rome's history. The abundance of topics discussed by the book's authors means that its readers will find numerous inspirational conclusions.

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