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→ Leszek MROZEWICZ, *Studia Flaviana*, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie-
go Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk, Poznań 2010, in 8*, pp. 232, 1 plan,
14 illustr. Paper. ISBN 987-83-7654-063-4.

A distinguished Polish scholarly society, the Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences, has published recently the results of collective research done in the chair of the History of Ancient Societies at the Institute of History of the Adam Mickiewicz University; the project was called "Transformation of the Roman Empire in the Flavian Times." The book is a collection of ten essays on the crucial period of the early Roman empire. It should attract the interest of the readers of "The Polish Journal of Biblical Research", as it casts some light on the politics and religion of the period described so thoroughly by Josephus Flavius and the main Roman historians, Suetonius, Tacitus and Cassius Dio. Contributors to the volume rightly underline the integration processes in the empire during the reign of the Flavian rulers, who reorganized the interior structures of the state, introduced a new political elite, supported municipal and urban processes in the provinces, and built the limes.

All the contributions are in Polish, but end with at least one-page English summaries. The contents of the volume are as follows: 1. Leszek Mrozewicz, Imperium rzymskie w okresie panowania Flawiuszy. Główne kierunki rozwoju i zagrożenia [The Roman Empire during the reign of the Flavians. The main directions of development and the main threats], pp. 9-39; 2. Krzysztof Królczyk, Prowincje rzymskie nad Renem i górnym Dunajem w okresie rządów cesarzy flawijskiej (69 – 86 rok po Chr.) [Roman provinces upon the Rhine and the Upper Danube during the reign of the Flavian emperors (68 – 86 A.D.)], pp. 41-66;

3. Leszek Mrozewicz, Flawiusze nad Dunajem [The Flavians on the Danube river], pp. 67-79; 4. Sebastian Ruciński, Pierwszy stronnik cesarza Wespazjana: Tyberiusz Juliusz Aleksander [The first supporter of the emperor Vespasian, Tiberius Julius Alexander], pp. 81-93; 5. Katarzyna Balbuza, Alians polityki z religią, czyli o znaczeniu wizyty Wespazjana w Aleksandrii oraz o znakach zwiastujących jego rządy [The Alliance of politics and religion. The meaning of Vespasian's visit to Alexandria and the signs heralding his rule], pp. 95-117; 6. Anna Tatarkiewicz, Flawiusze i "kulty egipskie" na Polu Marsowym. Zarys problemu [The Flavians and Egyptian cults in the Field of Mars. Outlining the problem], pp. 119-141; 7. Sebastian Ruciński, Prefektura pretorianów w okresie flawijskim [Pretorian prefecture in the Flavian period], pp. 143-162; 8. Dorota Latanowicz-Domecka, Polityka budowlana Flawiuszy w Rzymie. Rozważania wstępne [The construction policy of the Flavians in Rome], pp. 163-179; 9. Maria Musielak, 'Flavii' w prowincji Achaja w I-III wieku [The Flavii in the province of Achaëa in the 1-3rd centuries], pp. 181-197; 10. Jakub Kozłowski, Inkorporacja państw wasalnych (71/72 n.e.) a stosunki z królestwem Arsacydów [Incorporation of vassal states (71/72 AD) and the relations with the Arsacid kingdom], pp. 199-223. The book ends with detailed a index of personalities of the ancient period (pp. 225-229).

The contributions most interesting for our readers should be those written by Sebastian Ruciński, Katarzyna Balbuza, and Anna Tatarkiewicz. Ruciński tries to evaluate the role played by Tiberius Julius Alexander and his friend and military colleague, Gaius Licinius Mucianus, governors of Syria and Egypt respectively, in bringing up Vespasian to the imperial throne. The career of Tiberius Julius Alexander, a Jew from a Hellenized family in Egypt, is reconstructed in detail. Ruciński finds no explanation why Tiberius left Egypt in the year 70 A.D. to fight along Titus with the besieged Jerusalem. It cannot be excluded that Tiberius was eventually advanced to praetorian prefecture and died in a natural way soon after. However, Rucinski instead explains the silence about Tiberius' career by arguing that he really was a prefect of praetorians during Titus' stay in the East, but that after returning to Rome Titus led them himself.

Katarzyna Balbuza concentrates on the forecasts which helped Vespasian to establish himself on the imperial throne. She analyses in particular his visit to the temple of Serapis in Alexandria and puts the newly appointed ruler's miracles in the general picture of the Egyptian religion of the period. Vespasian was announced to the Egyptian people in some

way as a new god and pharaoh. Taking into consideration the contemporary ideology, the religious context of Vespasian's visit to Egypt was the tendency for legitimization and lying the foundation of a new dynasty. Balbuza tries to explain why Flavius did not pay attention to this aspect of Vespasian's visit to Egypt stressing instead its political, financial and military motivations. Josephus Flavius believed like every Jew in the very old Biblical prophecy that a new ruler of the world would come from Judaea, so he intentionally omitted Vespasian's visit to the temple of Serapis.

Anna Tatariewicz emphasizes that the growth of Egyptian cults in Rome more intensified under Vespasian and his successors. Vespasian, proclaimed emperor by the Egyptian legions in Alexandria, bought the loyalty of Egypt, the granary of Rome, by putting himself next to Serapis. It is significant that Domitian built the temple of Serapis and Isis just by the temples of Minerva and Saepta Julia in the Field of Mars in Rome. The sanctuary of the Egyptian gods would manifest both Domitian's religiousness and his Egyptomania of sorts connected with the fact that he was saved from death in the temple of Isis and that the Flavians' rule was legitimized by the Egyptian god Serapis. The so-called Domitian's obelisk is probably the preserved central element of the religious complex.

Not only the three briefly presented contributions, but also all the remaining studies, shed new light on the history of the Flavian dynasty. They also enable us to better understand some aspects of the religious policy of the rulers, who were protectors of Josephus Flavius. It is regrettable that the book has only very short abstracts in English. Only the first study by Leszek Mrozewicz has appeared in an abbreviated form as a pamphlet of 42 pages titled *The Roman Empire During the Reign of the Flavians* in the series "Akme. Studia Historica", as No. 7/2010 published by the Institute of History of Warsaw University.

ZDZISŁAW J. KAPERKA

Jerzy CIECIELAĞ, *Żydzi w okresie Drugiej Świątyni 538 przed Chr. – 70 po Chr.* [Jews in the Period of the Second Temple, 538 B.C. – 70 A.D.], Universitas, Kraków 2011, in 8* (15 x 23,5 cm), pp. 464, [5] colour maps. Paper. ISBN 978-83-242-1612-3.