

CÉDRIC BRÉLAZ, *La sécurité publique en Asie Mineure sous le Principat (I<sup>er</sup> - III<sup>ème</sup> s. ap. J. -C.). Institutions municipales et institutions impériales dans l'Orient romain*, Schweizerische Beiträge zur Altertumswissenschaft, Band 32, Basel, 2005, I-XI + 530 p. (6 photographs, p. 486-491, and 3 maps, p. 492-494).

This book emerged from a Ph. D. thesis sustained in 2004 at the University of Lausanne and, as the author claimed (p. X), the idea developed from the study of the institution of *irenarchus* in the Roman colony of Philippi (Macedonia). The book is divided into five chapters, an introduction (p. 1-18) and conclusions (p. 321-330). At the end of the book historical (p. 331-343) and epigraphic appendices (p. 345-431) were also included. A rich bibliography divided into sections appears also at the end of the volume (p. 433-484). Indices of quoted sources (p. 495-508), geographic and prosopographic (p. 509-518), thematic (p. 519-529) and of Greek words (p.529-530) complete the book. The five main chapters were devoted to: I. *Les conditions historiques et le cadre juridique du maintien de l'ordre dans les provinces d'Asie Mineure* (p. 19-39); II. *Les facteurs d'insécurité* (p. 41-68); III. *Prévenir et combattre l'insécurité: les institutions municipales* (p. 69-230); IV. *Prévenir et combattre l'insécurité: les structures impériales et militaires* (p. 231-284); V. «*Hostis municipalis*» ou *hostis populi Romani*? *Les conditions de l'intervention des légions romaines dans les provinces anatoliennes* (p. 284-320). All the chapters were also divided into specific sections, in order to be more convenient to follow author's ideas. As anyone can see from the above presented structure, the core of the volume is the chapter devoted to the municipal institutions and their solutions for the public safety, together with the chapter devoted to the imperial structures and to the intervention of the Roman army.

The concern of the public safety is a very actual problem. The author sustained that he understood the concept as: "*la sécurité à laquelle aspirent les habitants des provinces d'Asie Mineure au jour au jour en temps de paix*" (p. 1). Although, I would not be so sure in the equivalence of this concept with its Latin counter parts of *pax publica* and *disciplina publica* (p. 6) more devoted, in my opinion, to the *Concordia civium* (as the author states also that the public disorders due to the lack of food are also attested in the Greek cities of Asia Minor, p. 56-64) and not to the security face of the internal danger of the *latrones* (but the evidence of Velleius II, 126, 3, quoted by the author (p. 31), sustained his interpretation: "*pax Augusta <homines> per omnes terrarum orbis angulos a latrociniorum metu servat immunes*"). Probably it would have been useful a larger comment on this specific issue. Back in the XIX<sup>th</sup> and also at the beginning of the XX<sup>th</sup> century such approaches of the Roman history were not envisaged, as the main concern of those societies was only the security of the nation and of the national state against

outside enemies. As the author states (p. 7), the only monograph devoted to the subject draw back in 1880 when R. Cagnat published a short volume with the title: *De municipalibus et provincialibus militiis in imperio Romano*. Therefore the author concluded that the little attention paid to the problem of public safety and the police activities in the Roman Empire has to do with: "*les recherches se sont pendant longtemps concentrées sur les campagnes militaires dirigées contre les ennemis extérieurs de Rome et sur la garde du limes, au point de négliger le problème de l'état de la sécurité à l'intérieur de l'empire*" (p. 9). From this point of view Brélaz's book opens a new field of investigation and I am sure that the stimulating reading of his conclusions will encouraged other scholars to look more carefully at sources which could be rely on the matter of public safety in other parts of the Empire.

The choosing of the Asia Minor for this kind of study relies on its abundance of epigraphic sources (the other province which has an abundance of sources, especially papyrological sources, is Egypt). These sources attest the fact that the danger of the brigands in Asia Minor was an endemic danger in the first three centuries of our era (p. 52-56). Other danger to the public safety was also the endemic struggle between the citizens of the same city, for various reasons, especially the lack of food (p. 56-64).

In order to fight such menaces, the cities developed special institutions, which are largely described by the author in the third chapter (p. 69-230). Here the author demonstrates his outstanding knowledge of the sources and of the Greek and Roman laws concerning these institutions. The highly specialized magistrates were the *irenarchoi* and the *paraphylakes* to whom the author devoted a large section of the chapter (p. 90-145). *Irenarchos*, part of the local elite, was the magistrate who was in charge with the peace (p. 103-104, *Dig.* 50, 4, 18, 7: "*irenarchae quoque, qui disciplinae publicae et corrigendis moribus praeficiuntur*") and, by an edict of Antoninus Pius when he was proconsul of Asia province, from 135/136, he was obliged to report to the governor and to send to him the retained bandits (p. 105-106). What is also astonishing is the fact that this institution, specific for the Greek cities, spread also to the Roman colonies from the East (p. 208-213). Instead the *paraphylakes* seem to have had competences regarding the police survey of the territories of the city (p. 133-138). The *irenarchoi* became the magistrates in charge of the so called criminal police, who implicated a close collaboration with the Roman authorities (p. 143) and the prestige that evolve from such activities was enormous.

The next chapter is devoted to the presence of the Roman army and Roman military officials in charge with the maintaining of the public order in the provinces from Asia Minor (p. 231-284). The author presented also the auxiliary units which have been deployed in the provinces of Asia Minor. To this section I should add some observations, as the discoveries of the new documents change a little bit the image proposed by the author (cf. p. 284, note 301<sup>a</sup>).

In Asia province only one cohort is attested (p. 237-240). Between 130-145 the *cohors I Claudia Sugamborum veterana* stayed at *Eumeneia*, until 145, transferred from *Montana*, Moesia inferior (see also my contribution from SCIVA 51-52, 2001-2002, p. 223-224, no. 33) and thereafter *I Raetorum*, probably the cohort attested also in Moesia inferior (SCIVA 51-52, 2001-2002, p. 222-223, no. 32). For the *I Lepidiana* cohort it can not be anymore sustain its presence in the East in the time of Trajan's reign, as it is attested in Moesia inferior until 127 (SCIVA 51-52, 2001-2002, p. 215, no. 27; M. A. Speidel, in A. S. Lewin, P. Pellegrini (eds.), *The Late Roman Army in the Near East from Diocletian to the Arab Conquest. Proceedings of a colloquium held at Potenza, Acerenza and Matera, Italy (May 2005)*, BAR Int. Ser. 1717, Oxford, 2007, p. 82-83). As anyone can see from this short presentation it seems that from military point of view the province of Asia was under the surveillance of the Roman army of Moesia inferior, as all the units attested here were transferred from that province (see as well p. 265, note 202).

The cohort *Cypria* attested in Pontus et Bithynia (p. 240-242) can be associated with the *IV Cypria*

cohort attested in Moesia superior and afterwards on the territory of the new province of Dacia. Also from the discussion is missing the *Campestris* cohort (AE 1993, 1429, *Amastris*), assimilated with the *cohors III Campestris* attested also in Moesia superior and Dacia. These two cohorts seem to have been deployed in order to take part in the Trajan's Dacian expeditions (Fl. Matei-Popescu, O. Țentea, *Dacia*, N. S. 50, 2006, p. 130).

The cohort attested by Arrian's *Acies contra Alanos* in the form *Nomadōn* is not *I Flavia Numidarum* as asserted the author (p. 247), but *I Numidarum eq. sag.* (see M. A. Speidel, *op. cit.*, p. 83). The *I Flavia Numidarum* is attested on the territory of Moesia inferior until ca. 155 and thereafter on the territory of Lycia et Pamphylia province (Fl. Matei-Popescu, SCIVA 51-52, 2001-2002, p. 221-222, no. 31).

For the Roman province of Cilicia (p. 249) it is known now that a *cohors IV Gallorum* transferred from Thrace is attested there in 121 (RGZM no. 19).

In conclusion, Brélaz's contribution is one of great importance and, as I said before, it will turn to be a forerunner in the field. He succeeds in proposing a picture of cooperation between the peregrine cities from Asia Minor and the Roman authorities in order to assure the public safety of those provinces against menaces of all kinds. Moreover he succeeds in changing also the picture of the involvement of the Roman army in assuring the public order of the provinces. It seems, at least for the provinces from Asia Minor, that the Roman army was in fact a peace time army, more concern with the public order and safety.

*Florian Matei-Popescu*

