

ABSTRACTS

Roland Steinacher

A Millennium in the Alps. Problems of a Roman and Post-Roman History of the Alpine Regions of the Province of Raetia

This contribution provides an overview of the Roman and post-Roman history of the Alpine regions in the province of Raetia, highlighting potential research areas that merit further attention. Generally, the Roman bureaucracy and administrative systems persisted on the Italian peninsula until the mid-sixth century, with the East Alpine region maintaining a continuous orientation toward Italy. After the collapse of Gothic rule in Italy, the Franks expanded their power outwards from Gallia, extending their authority over the Alpine territories of both parts of Raetia as well as the East Alpine federates (confederations bound to Rome by treaty), namely the Breones and Venostes. We have a reasonably clear picture of the political structure of the Alpine valleys within Raetia Curiensis, which was organized according to the pattern of late antiquity. It seems probable that the Inn, Wipp and Eisack valleys were organized in a comparable way. The precise age and function of the episcopal see at Säben, along with the role, legal status, and military function of ethnically defined groups like the Breones, remain subjects of ongoing debate. However, new insights into these questions may be attainable through historical comparisons with other regions of the post-Roman West, as well as through modern excavation techniques and more nuanced archaeological approaches.

Gerald Grabherr

Archaeological Findings from the Province of Raetia during the Roman Imperial Era, with a Particular Focus on the Alpine Region

Rome subdued the central area of the Alps in one military campaign in the year 15 BC and the whole region remained part of the Roman Empire for about 500 years. In consequence, different tribes from the area of Lake Como and Lake Maggiore to the south of the Alpine passes, from the northern Alpine foreland up to the Danube River, and even from beyond, were all included in the newly constituted Roman province of Raetia. Focusing principally on the Alpine part of the province, the author provides an overview of the archeological traces of the Roman occupation prior to its partition and transformation in late antiquity. The article sheds light on archeological traces, which testify to the extent of economic development, the significant transalpine transit trade and the infrastructure necessary for it. Aside from the role played by the Roman army in the development of Raetia and its population, questions are also posed regarding cultural continuity and regional identities, as manifested in the cultural goods revealed by archeological finds. In this respect, the article also addresses other themes, such as the development of settlements, ranging from agricultural homesteads to towns with official status under Roman law, sacred sites, and other places of religious activities.

Annina Wyss Schildknecht/Marcus Zagermann

Rhaetia I and II in Long Late Antiquity from the Viewpoint of Archeology

For the Roman province of Rhaetia, the lengthy period of Long Late Antiquity (from the third to eighth century AD) was determined by numerous political, social and religious upheavals, but also new impulses. The end of the Limes necessitated a military reorganization. The capital cities of Augusta Vindelicum/Augsburg und Curia/Chur became smaller but gained a new position of power, thanks to the concentration of military and civil authorities and the installation of bishops (something proven by evidence in the case of Chur, but only presumed for Augsburg). The newly emerged settlement of hilltop sites testified to a shift in habitation. The churches built in the fifth and sixth centuries characterize the changing landscape, with burial sites consequently concentrated around them. The increasing number of grave goods accompanying these burials then provide a direct insight into the people who lived in Rhaetia in this period.

Salvatore Liccardo

Cataloguing and Representing the Peoples North of the Alps. Conservation and Adaption of Ancient Geography in Times of Transition

Inhabited by German-speakers for centuries and politically dependent on polities whose centre was located north of the Alps since the mid-sixth century, Rhaetia might appear to be the southern tip of a macro-region whose centre of gravity lay to the north. However, an analysis of late antique chorographic and cartographic sources and their use of ethnonyms in the construction and representation of space shows that, in the geographical representation of late and post-Roman literati, Rhaetia remained firmly connected to the Italian peninsula. Hence, this article aims to highlight how these men of letters dealt with an ethnic landscape undergoing a process of transformation and to show what place Rhaetia occupied in their spatial imagination and historical consciousness. It does so in three ways: firstly, by re-evaluating a source type often neglected by modern research, that is to say, name lists (especially the *Cosmographia* of Julius Honorius); secondly, by focusing on the parchment known as the Peutinger Table; and lastly, by examining the transmission of certain ethnonyms, especially the name Juthungi.

Martin Bauer-Zetzmann

Sepulchral and Cultic Inscriptions Between the Etsch and Inn Valleys. The 'Epigraphic Habit' in the Inner Alpine Border Area of Noricum, Raetia and Italia

The Roman-era inscriptions from the inner Alpine region of Raetia secunda (an area covered by modern-day North and South Tyrol) have to date been largely overlooked in historical research. This contribution aims to help remedy this situation and to provide an initial overview of the source material. In pursuing the analysis further, it is possible to make a number of basic conclusions about the 'epigraphic habit' in the region. In particular, it is striking that the stone inscriptions were mainly erected by new inhabitants and representatives of the Roman imperial power, whereas the indigenous population – unlike in other provinces – rarely adopted this Roman cultural practice. In conclusion, the author presents the first edition of a fragmentary inscription known to scholars since the late nineteenth century, but hitherto disregarded in research.

Elisa Possenti

Trentino Between the 4th and 8th Centuries: The Archaeological Data

Based on archaeological data, the article offers an overview of the principal transformations experienced by the territory now covered by Trentino between the fourth and seventh centuries. Within this period, there are three chronological phases to take into consideration: from the start of the fourth to the end of the fifth century; from the end of the fifth century to the mid-sixth century; and from the year 569 to 774. In tracing these phases, the analysis takes into account the characteristics and specificities of the urban context of Trento on the one hand and the rural areas on the other hand. Taking all the archaeological findings together, it is possible to deduce a line of evolution beginning with the period of late antiquity and reaching up to the Lombard period, which was marked partly by continuity and partly by moments of rupture with regard to the preceding centuries. Within this overall development, certain phenomena were particularly noticeable, such as the militarization of society, the spread of Christianity and paleoenvironmental changes that had repercussions for the pattern of settlement, social structure and material culture of the Trentine territory.