
En marge du Serment hippocratique. Contrats et serments dans le monde gréco-romain edited by Marie-Hélène Marganne and Antonio Ricciardetto

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This slim volume constitutes the ‘Actes de la Journée d’étude internationale’, held in Liège on 29 October 2014, edited by Marie-Hélène Marganne and Antonio Ricciardetto. Marganne contributes a short conclusion [157–161] while Ricciardetto provides the introduction [7–10], a chapter of his own [135–154], and a further chapter written jointly with Danielle Gourevitch [67–117]. In addition there are contributions by Jacques Jouanna [11–37], David Leith [39–50], Barbara Anagnostou-Canas [51–65], and Jean A. Strauss [119–134]. The final pages are devoted to résumés or abstracts of the papers, ‘notices bio-bibliographiques’ relating to the contributors, an extensive bibliography, and a very full index. All papers are succinctly summarized in Ricciardetto’s introduction and briefly evaluated in Marganne’s conclusion.

The first chapter is Jouanna’s contribution, ‘Le *Serment* hippocratique. Famille, religion et droit’. This rich paper comprises, firstly, a full account of the textual tradition, ranging from the Greek manuscripts to the Latin and Arabic tradition; and secondly, a discussion of religious aspects of the *Oath* and of its relation to contracts. There are two valuable appendices: the first lists all manuscript and documentary evidence for the *Oath*, as well as ancient sources relating both to its religious content and to the connection with contracts; the second presents the critical text as published in 1996.

In the second chapter, ‘The Hippocratic *Oath* in Roman Oxyrhynchus’, Leith takes us to papyrological testimonies of the second to fourth centuries: one is a copy of the *Oath*, while the others make reference to it. Leith argues convincingly that these have their origin in an educational context, in which the *Oath* provided a set of rules to be followed. The third chapter, ‘Contrats et serments dans l’Égypte hellénistique et romaine’ by Anagnostou-Canas, offers a wide-ranging account of oaths and contracts of all kinds, arranged

with commendable clarity in sections distinguished both chronologically and by topic.

The following chapter, 'Entre Rome et l'Égypte romaine. Pour une étude de la nourrice entre littérature médicale et contrats de travail', by Ricciardetto and Gourevitch, stands out by virtue of its length and its rather dubious relevance to the volume, as entitled. It is also unbalanced, in that of its 50 pages [67–117] almost 30 [89–117] are devoted to a catalogue of contracts. However the contribution does amplify the evidence of Soranus in shedding light on the place of a little-known group in the social and domestic life of late antiquity.

The final chapters, 'Les contrats d'apprentissage et d'enseignement relatifs à des esclaves dans la documentation papyrologique grecque d'Égypte' by Straus and 'Un contrat d'enseignement de la médecine du IIIe siècle avant notre ère. P.Heid. III 226' by Ricciardetto, both deal with particular types of contract: the former establishes a general taxonomy of apprenticeships and the latter focuses on the particular case of medical teaching. In both chapters, the evidence of papyrology is skilfully analyzed and deployed.

While the first chapter is outstanding and the following contributions are meritorious, the volume does not cohere as a whole: the reader hoping to hear about the Hippocratic *Oath* throughout will be disappointed. That the volume is identified as 'Collection *Papyrologica Leodiensia* 7' tells us more about the content than the title 'En marge du *Serment* hippocratique', or even the sub-title 'Contrats et serments dans le monde gréco-romain'.