INTRODUCTION

By Lukas de Blois

In this volume the reader will find the proceedings of the first workshop of the international thematic network 'Impact of Empire', which concentrates on the history of the Roman empire, 27 B.C. – A.D. 476. Members of this network are ancient historians, archaeologists classicists, and specialists in the history of Roman law from the universities of Amsterdam, Bern, Bonn, Brussels (ULB), Chapel Hill (NC), Cologne, Crete, Düsseldorf, Edinburgh, Frankfurt am Main, Groningen, Heidelberg, Leiden, Leuven, London, Manchester, Münster, Naples, New York (NYU), Nijmegen, Nottingham, Paris, Sevilla, St. Andrews, Toronto, and Utrecht. The objectives of the network are to organise workshops and publish their proceedings, and – in the long run – to further an exchange of teachers. The publisher is Gieben, Amsterdam. Chairman of the network is the present writer, who is professor of ancient history at the University of Nijmegen in The Netherlands, where the network was established on the second of July 1999. The network focuses on five fields of research: Roman imperial administration and its impact upon the territories which were dominated by the Roman empire, the transformation of economic life in the Mediterranean region and its European hinterland in Roman imperial times, the representation and perception of Roman imperial power, the impact of the actions and of the sheer presence of the Roman empire upon social relations, daily life, and moral attitudes of groups, organisational units and individuals within the local societies that constituted the empire, and the impact of imperial Rome on religions and religious life in the empire. The first topic was the theme of the first workshop at Leiden, June 28- July 1, 2000. The other topics will be treated in workshops at Nottingham (July 5-8, 2001), Rome (March 20-24, 2002), Leiden, and Münster.

The title of the first workshop and of this volume is 'Administration, Prosopography and Appointment Policies in the Roman Empire'. The papers contained in this volume focus on one, two, indeed all three of these themes, within the context of the impact of the Roman empire upon the regions dominated by it. The first three papers concentrate on appointment policies and career structures in the period of the Principate (27 B.C. – A.D. 284). In the first article Werner Eck treats the problem of specialisation in careers of

members of the Roman upper classes, particularly senators, in the second paper Ségolène Demougin discusses the structure of procuratorial careers, and in the third article Olivier Hekster reviews the appointment of emperors designate in the second century A.D. The other papers which are assembled in the first part of the volume focus upon the Roman imperial armed forces. Michael Alexander Speidel discusses the connections between specialisation and promotion in the Roman imperial army and their social consequence and Ian Haynes writes about the impact of auxiliary recruitment on provincial societies from Augustus to Caracalla. The last paper in this part of the volume has been written by Rudolf Haensch, who analyses the recruitment, social position and Romanisation of the soldiers of the two legions of Germania Inferior, the Ist at Bonn and the XXXth at Xanten. In the second part of the volume the reader will find the papers of Michael Peachin, Boudewijn Sirks, Lukas de Blois, Willem Zwolve, Bernard Stolte, and Ulrich Manthe. They pay attention to Roman jurists, administrators, bureaucrats, administrative procedures, the administration of justice and the impact and objectives of rescripts and learned juridical treatises in various regions of the Roman empire. The last section of the volume presents the contributions of Graeme Burton, Jane Gardner, Andreas Kriekhaus, John Richardson and Antonio Caballos Rufino. They treat the impact of the Roman imperial administration and appointment policies on communal rights and politics, the composition of local councils, local administrative structures, Romanisation, and social mobility of regional and local notables, esp. in the Iberian peninsula, but also in other provinces.

In this way important aspects and consequences of Roman imperial administration and appointment policies are discussed, in an interdisciplinary setting, by ancient historians, classicists, archaeologists and specialists in the history of Roman law. In a majority of the contributions prosopography is an useful tool, which is integrated with analyses of Roman imperial administration, appointment policies, and their political and social consequences. Specialists in the fields of Roman Law and Ancient History do not often co-operate in conferences such as this one and in joint scholarly work. In this workshop and in the ensuing proceedings we have successfully tried to cross existing boundaries between the two disciplines, to the advantage of all participants. This workshop has been a meeting point of senior and junior colleagues from different countries and disciplines. It has

turned out to be a good formula, which we will repeat in succeeding workshops.

We owe thanks to the members and advisers of the organising committee, which consisted of Willem Zwolve, Heleen Gall, Margreet Duynstee, Farid Niamut and their assistants, all from the Faculty of Law of the University of Leiden, and of Gerda de Kleijn, Olivier Hekster and Lukas de Blois, from the Faculty of Arts of the University of Nijmegen. The latter was the chairman of this committee. Advisers were Anthony Birley and Werner Eck. We owe thanks as well to the colleagues who chaired the sessions of the workshop, Willem Zwolve, Anthony Birley, Marie-Thérèse Raepsaet-Charlier, Benet Salway, Bernard Stolte, and Johannes Hahn. Last but not least we would like to thank the publisher, Han Gieben, for his efficient, non-bureaucratic co-operation, and our editorial assistant, Jasper Oorthuys.

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