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Religio illicita? Roman legal interactions with early Christianity in context

Janssen, K.P.S.

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Promotores

prof. dr. J. K. Zangenberg

prof. dr. L. de Ligt

Promotiecommissie

dr. R. Flemming
University of Cambridge

prof. dr. A. F. de Jong

prof. mr. H. L. E. Verhagen
Radboud University

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Οὐ γάρ τί μοι Ζεὺς ἦν ὁ κηρύξας τάδε,
οὐδ' ἡ ξύνοικος τῶν κάτω θεῶν Δίκη
τοιούσδ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ὤρισεν νόμους,
οὐδὲ σθένειν τοσοῦτον ὥοιμην τὰ σὰ
κηρύγμαθ' ὥστ' ἄγραπτα κάσφαλῆ θεῶν
νόμιμα δύνασθαι θνητά γ' ὄνθ' ὑπερδραμεῖν.

For it was not Zeus that had published me that edict;
not such are the laws set among men
by the Justice who dwells with the gods below;
nor deemed I that thy decrees were of such force,
that a mortal could override
the unwritten and unfailing statutes of heaven.

SOPHOCLES, *Antigone* 450-455
Translation by Richard Jebb (1962₃)



Contents

Acknowledgements XI

List of Images XII

Introduction 1

I Rome, Christianity, and the Law 1

II Research Objectives and Contributions 3

III Existing Scholarship and Central Debates 4

IV Methodology and Terminology 9

V Scope and Structure 12

1 Roman Administration in Provinces and Empire 17

1.1 Introduction 17

1.2 Sources of Law 19

1.3 Upholding Public Order: Trials and Police Actions 25

1.4 Roman Administration in the Provinces 30

1.4.1 *Governors and Locals in the Provinces* 31

1.4.2 *Emperor, Governor, and the Inhabitants of the Province* 37

1.5 Conclusion 42

2 Divination in Roman Legal Measures 45

2.1 Introduction 45

2.2 Terminology and Definitions 48

2.3 Outline and Central Questions 55

2.4 Divination in the Republic: Early Interactions 57

2.4.1 *Diviners and Foreign Priests during the Second Punic War* 57

2.4.2 *The Expulsion Edict of Cn. Cornelius Hispalus* 59

2.4.3 *The Expulsion Measure of Marcus Agrippa* 61

2.5 Augustan Measures: A Precedent? 62

2.5.1 *The Sibylline Books and Destruction of Oracular Texts* 63

2.5.2 *Limiting Divinatory Inquiries?* 64

2.6 Divination and Conspiracy under Tiberius 70

2.6.1 *The Trial of M. Scribonius Libo Drusus* 70

2.6.2 *Expulsion(s) from Rome* 73

2.6.3 *Banning Divination without Witnesses* 77

2.7 Trials and Expulsions under the Later Julio-Claudians 81

2.7.1 *Divination in Egypt under Caligula* 81

2.7.2 *Trials and Expulsion under Claudius* 82

2.7.3	<i>Trials and Expulsion under Nero?</i>	86
2.8	The Year of the Four Emperors and the Flavians	89
2.8.1	<i>Otho, Vitellius, and Diviners</i>	90
2.8.2	<i>Expulsion under Vespasian</i>	93
2.8.3	<i>Divination under Domitian</i>	94
2.9	Later Incidents: Completing the Picture	99
2.10	The Later Jurists: Creating Coherence	105
2.11	Conclusion	110
3	Judaism in Roman Legal Measures	117
3.1	Introduction	117
3.2	Terminology and Definitions	121
3.3	Outline and Central Questions	125
3.4	Early Points of Contact: Judea and Rome	128
3.5	Judaism under Rome: Early Legal Measures	131
3.5.1	<i>Lucius Valerius Flaccus and the Jewish Communities of Asia</i>	132
3.5.2	<i>Flavius Josephus: Collecting Legal Interactions</i>	133
3.5.3	<i>Dispensation from Military Duties: A Collection</i>	134
3.6	Jewish Communities in the Time of Julius Caesar	139
3.7	Legal Measures between Caesar and Augustus	144
3.8	Augustan Legislation: Precedented Benevolence	148
3.8.1	<i>Delegations from Asia Minor and Cyrene</i>	149
3.8.2	<i>Passing on the Message: Temple Tax in Asia Minor</i>	151
3.8.3	<i>Augustan Measures in Alexandria and Rome</i>	153
3.9	Expulsion under Tiberius	154
3.10	Riots in Alexandria: Religion and Citizenship	156
3.10.1	<i>Alexandria's Jewish Community: Position and Privileges</i>	158
3.10.2	<i>The Origins and Progression of the Riots</i>	160
3.10.3	<i>Religion, Politics, and Citizenship</i>	163
3.10.4	<i>A Delegation to Caligula</i>	166
3.11	The Reign of Claudius	168
3.11.1	<i>Claudius' Letter to the Alexandrians</i>	169
3.11.2	<i>To the Entire World?</i>	173
3.11.3	<i>Expulsion under Claudius</i>	175
3.12	The Road to War: The Time of Nero	178
3.13	The Early Flavians: Taxation and Leniency	181
3.13.1	<i>Intervention in Antioch</i>	182
3.13.2	<i>The Jewish Tax</i>	184
3.13.3	<i>The Aftermath of the Revolt in Alexandria and Cyrene</i>	186
3.13.4	<i>After the Revolt</i>	188

- 3.14 Domitian and Nerva: Changes in the Jewish Tax 190
 - 3.14.1 *Harsh Enforcement under Domitian* 190
 - 3.14.2 *Innovations under Nerva* 194
- 3.15 Trajan and Hadrian: The Causes and Consequences of Revolt 195
 - 3.15.1 *The Diaspora Revolt* 196
 - 3.15.2 *Causes and Consequences of the Bar Kokhba Revolt* 197
- 3.16 The Late Second and Early Third Century: Completing the Picture 200
- 3.17 Conclusion 202

- 4 Early Christianity in Roman Legal Measures 209
 - 4.1 Introduction 209
 - 4.2 Terminology and Definitions 211
 - 4.3 Outline and Central Questions 215
 - 4.4 Before the Great Fire: Early Interactions 221
 - 4.4.1 *Paul in the eastern Mediterranean: Legal Interaction in Acts* 222
 - 4.4.2 *Roman Officials in Acts* 227
 - 4.4.3 *Claudius' Expulsion and the Involvement of Christians* 229
 - 4.4.4 *Peter and Paul in Rome?* 231
 - 4.5 Christians under Nero: Smoke and Fire? 233
 - 4.5.1 *The Course of Justice?* 235
 - 4.5.2 *Christians under Nero according to Suetonius* 238
 - 4.6 Pliny and Trajan: The First Trial? 241
 - 4.6.1 *Letters from the Province* 242
 - 4.6.2 *Christians in Bithynia-Pontus* 244
 - 4.6.3 *Seeking and Shaping Imperial Guidance* 248
 - 4.6.4 *Imperial Response* 251
 - 4.7 Hadrian and Minucius Fundanus: An Obscured View 253
 - 4.8 Antoninus Pius: Dubious Accounts 258
 - 4.8.1 *The Trial of Polycarp* 258
 - 4.8.2 *A Rescript to Asia?* 262
 - 4.8.3 *The Trial of Ptolemaeus and Lucius* 264
 - 4.9 Marcus Aurelius: Christians and the Philosopher-Emperor 267
 - 4.9.1 *Anti-Christian Actions in Asia* 267
 - 4.9.2 *The Trial of Justin Martyr* 269
 - 4.9.3 *Marcus Aurelius protecting Christians?* 272
 - 4.9.4 *Anti-Christian Riots in Lyon: Local Origins* 273
 - 4.9.5 *Anti-Christian Riots in Lyon: Imperial Involvement* 284
 - 4.10 Commodus and the Severans: Diverse Approaches 287
 - 4.10.1 *The Trial of the Scillitan Martyrs* 287

4.10.2	<i>Diverse Proceedings in Northern Africa</i>	289
4.10.3	<i>The Trial of Perpetua</i>	292
4.11	The Road to a General Law?	295
4.12	Conclusion	300
	Conclusion	309
I	Religious Groups in the Roman Empire	309
II	Measures on Religious Groups: Temporary and Local	310
III	Measures on Religious Groups: Legal Actors and Negotiation	311
IV	Measures on Religious Groups: Contributing Factors and Argumentation	312
V	Measures on Religious Groups: Slow Emergence of Procedures	314
VI	Measures on Religious Groups: Tests and Recantations	315
VII	Early Christianity in Context	317

	Bibliography	323
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Appendices

I	Divinatory Practices	355
II	Judaism	367
III	Christianity	385
	Summary (in Dutch)	395
	Curriculum Vitae	403

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List of Images

- I The Owl of Thoms (first century CE) 46
- II Aureus displaying the Augustan Capricorn (19 BCE) 63
- III Detail of the Menorah on the Arch of Titus, Rome (ca. 82 CE) 181
- IV Sestersius referencing the Jewish Tax (97 CE) 194