

**Stephen Lambert, *Inscribed Athenian Laws and Decrees 352/1–322/1 BC: Epigraphical Essays*.** Leiden: Brill, 2012. €108. US \$148. ISBN 9789004209312.

If you are looking for a book to give to a beloved niece or nephew who is showing signs of an interest in Greek history, stop reading this review now. In fact, unless you are a hard-core epigrapher with marble dust instead of blood in your veins, you should pass on to the next review. If, however, you sleep on marble slabs with copies of *Inscriptiones Graecae* as your pillow, and if discussions about fragmentary letters are your daily fare, you will want this book either for yourself or for your university library.

Stephen Lambert began the task of producing a new edition of part of *Inscriptiones Graecae* II (Part 1, fascicule 2) in 1999. While working on the inscriptions for the volume he produced a series of articles, *prolegomena*, intended to discuss readings and innovations in a manner fuller than is possible in the terse *IG* format (xi). Most of these articles were published in *ZPE*, while some appeared in *festschriften* or other collections. Thus, apart from the “Appendix: Select Addenda and Corrigenda (2011)” (401–406), there is nothing new here. The usefulness of the book lies in how it pulls together these studies and presents them as a whole, a “one-stop-shopping” option for scholars interested in the inscriptions of mid-fourth century Attica. And this is not a negligible thing. Although *ZPE* is regularly found on the shelves of university libraries (or, at least, among their on-line journals), many *festschriften* and conference proceedings are less common.<sup>1</sup>

The papers have been divided into three sections: Main Series, Other Prolegomena, Chronology. The Main Series consists of five articles published in *ZPE* between 2004 and 2007. These five articles represent the core of Lambert’s research. Each chapter deals with one group of state laws and decrees from the thirty-year period of 352/1–322/1; Lambert begins with decrees that honour Athenians (I), moves on to religious regulations (II), discusses honours awarded to foreigners (III and IV) and finishes with treaties and other, left-over, state documents (V). Future researchers will find it very helpful to have all these together in one volume as there are many cross-references between the chapters and, in particular, because the bibliography in earlier articles is not repeated in later ones; thus, the reader is regularly sent to search in an earlier chapter. This must have been a little annoying for those who first read these as articles in *ZPE*.

On the whole the material in each chapter is presented clearly, with a view to making it easy for researchers to find what they need quickly. To take Chapter One as an example, we begin with a relatively short introduction, which includes the preliminary bibliography in large footnote. The decrees covered by the chapter are divided into six sections. Each section presents its decrees in a table in four columns: date, reference,

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Chapter Twelve, “*IG* II<sup>2</sup> 410: An Erasure Reconsidered,” originally appeared in D. Jordan and J. Traill, J. eds., *Lettered Attica, Proceedings of the Athens Symposium*, March 2000 (Toronto: Canadian Archaeological Institute at Athens, 2003), which seems to be held in the libraries of no more than seven Canadian institutions.

honorand, honour. Where necessary, items in the columns are clarified or amplified by footnotes. Inscriptions that are discussed later in the text are marked by a star. In short, a researcher who is interested in a specific inscription will begin by checking the index of inscriptions cited (407–414), will then turn to the appropriate chapter and table for a quick overview of the inscription’s contents plus bibliography, and, finally, consider the commentary Lambert provides for many of the inscriptions. These chapters constitute a true *vademecum* for a scholar journeying through *IG II<sup>3</sup>1.2*.

The second section, “Other Prolegomena,” presents twelve studies on different inscriptions, not all of which appear in *IG II<sup>3</sup>1.2*. Some deal with single inscriptions (for example, Chapter Eight on *IG II<sup>2</sup> 231*; Chapter Nine on *IG II<sup>2</sup> 283*), while others consist of notes on several inscriptions (Chapter Six: “Ten Notes on Attic Inscriptions”; Chapter Eleven: “Afterwords”). These will be of interest primarily to researchers working on the specific inscriptions involved.

Some of the chapters in this section should, however, be read by a much wider audience. Chapter Fourteen, “Restoring Athenian Names,” is a very useful discussion of the dangers of trying to restore fragmentary names. Lambert offers three guiding principles: “go back to the roots,” “avoid overrestoration,” “follow the trend” (322). The first principle urges epigraphers to go back to the inscription itself (if possible) to check what the actual letters are and how many letters are missing. Lambert also reminds us to go back to the original publications and check the bibliography. A full background check would have prevented Kirchner from republishing an inscription from Troizen [*IG IV (I) 825*] as an Athenian one (*IG II<sup>2</sup> 2420*; it had been moved to the Piraeus museum), which changes the significance of the names listed on it (322–323). The examples of poor restorations with which Lambert illustrates his other two principles are equally worrying. Other chapters of general interest are Chapter Fifteen, “Polis and Theatre in Lykourgan Athens: The Honorific Decrees,” and Chapter Seventeen, “Inscribed Treaties ca. 350–321: An Epigraphical Perspective on Athenian Foreign Policy,” which explores changes in the format and nature of treaties before and after Chaeroneia.

The final, very brief, section on chronology returns to a topic that several of the earlier papers touch on: the calendar of Athens in the mid-fourth century. Epigraphers have many tools to help them date inscriptions. For Lambert’s period, the names of all the archons are known along with many, though not all, of the annual secretaries (who were selected from the ten tribes on rotation, beginning the cycle with Tribe I [Erechtheis] and running through to Tribe X [Antiochis] before starting all over again). But dating within the year (or figuring out the year from internal information) depends on many factors (was it an ordinary or intercalary year; was the month full or hollow; and how did the prytanies line up with the lunar calendar). Chapter Eighteen presents what is known securely and what is likely in tabular form and explores many of the issues surrounding the mid-fourth century Athenian calendar.

The book concludes with five useful indices: the inscriptions; an *IG II<sup>3</sup>* concordance; personal names; subjects; Greek.

This volume is a testament to Lambert's scholarship and the sheer effort that has gone into revising this part of *Inscriptiones Graecae*. Lambert has truly re-edited his inscriptions, travelling to inspect them, seeking out squeezes and transcriptions of damaged and missing inscriptions. The deep knowledge of Athenian names, of procedures and practices, of calendars and of Greek required to perform this task is astonishing. As a result it may seem inappropriate to quibble with aspects of this book, but I was disappointed by two things in particular. The first was Lambert's decision not to republish photographs that had accompanied the original publications. His rationale for doing so (photographs were provided only where none had existed and that has now been done, and, furthermore, the photographs are in the *IG* fascicule [xii]) is not unreasonable, but it does assume, sadly, that we all have access to the new fascicule. Thus the advantage of bringing these articles together mentioned above is frustrated somewhat by the continued need to consult either the original publication or the new *IG* to see the illustrations. The second disappointment is the absence of a comprehensive bibliography. Since the work was done to produce the indices, would it have been too difficult to add a common bibliography as well?

But these are editorial quibbles, perhaps not entirely due to the author, and while they frustrated me, they do not detract in any substantial way from the high quality scholarship that these eighteen articles represent. Dedicated users of *IG* will be happy to see this book.

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