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Mitteilungen

Projet Volterra

Named in memory of the distinguished Roman lawyer Edoardo Volterra, the general aim of the Projet Volterra is to promote the study of Roman legislation in its full social, political and legal context. In furtherance of this general aim, the area of Roman imperial legislation was felt to be particularly poorly exploited by scholars in general. It was decided that access to the material, originating from scattered and diverse sources, would be most satisfactorily facilitated by the production of a database in an electronic medium, which would act not only as a *Regest*, but also contain the texts of imperial legal pronouncements (where the *ipsissima verba* of the issuers survive) from whatever provenance (be it an epigraphic, papyrological, literary or juristic source), details relating to each text's transmission (including their fate during subsequent codifications), the texts of ancient *scholia* upon them, and an annotated bibliography of relevant modern scholarly output. The singular advantage of this format is that it brings together for the first time the source material itself, ancient interpretation of the material, and modern historical as well as legal commentary. In this way, it is complementary to, rather than in competition with, various other on-going projects (such as the *Palingenesia* of the Accademia Romanistica Costantiniana) or already published electronic databases (FIVRIS, Bibliotheca Iuris Antiqui), whose scope is either broader and less focused or narrower and of more single intent than that of the Projet Volterra database. While in no sense providing entirely new editions, the texts of laws included in the Projet Volterra database are critical texts, involving the checking of original manuscripts where necessary, and are hence created by manually entering the text and apparatus adopted, rather than scanning existing publications. For further specific details please take a look at our website at the address given below.

Initially based solely at the École Française de Rome, the project was adopted by the British Academy in 1995 and, based at University College London, this British wing of the project was funded by Her Majesty's Government's Humanities Research Board for an initial three-year period from September 1995; the work being undertaken by Dr. R. W. B. Salway. The legislation of the 'House of Constantine' and the ephemeral emperor Jovian (AD 337–364) was selected as the initial sample tranche. The project was visited by the Committee for Academy Research Projects and the Humanities Research Board in October 1997, commented upon very favourably and subsequently authorised to re-appoint Dr Salway for a second three-year period in order to take the project on into its next stage: the expansion of the chronological parameters both forward and back, to take in the disparate and problematic legislation of the later tetrarchie and Constantinian periods, as well as the era of the Valentinianic

dynasty. This was intended to enable the Projet Volterra to fill in the gap which exists between the *palingenesiae* of imperial legislation produced by Professor A. M. Honoré to accompany his studies of the legal output of the Severan to tetrarchic and the Theodosian eras respectively: *Emperors and Lawyers* (2nd ed., 1994) and *Law in the Crisis of Empire* (1998). It is planned that this stage will be completed by the end of the second three-year period in 2001.

The first sample tranche having been completed, a successful bid was made to the newly-established Arts and Humanities Research Board in 1998 in order to appoint Dr. S. J. J. Corcoran for one year, from January to December 1999, in order that he might employ his specialist expertise (as author of *The Empire of the Tetrarchs. Imperial Pronouncements and Government, AD 284–324* [1996]) to accelerate the work of the database by working on the creation of critical texts of legislation and supporting bibliography for the period c. AD 300–324. This has allowed Dr Salway to concentrate his efforts on extending the coverage of the database into the Valentinianic era (AD 364–383). Accordingly, in the time of Dr Corcoran's employment on the project so far, he has produced the basic critical texts of the epigraphically attested legislation of the tetrarchic and Constantinian periods and Dr Salway has tripled the number of entries in the database, taking its coverage up to AD 383. It is hoped that Dr Corcoran's time will be funded for the completion of the work on the Constantinian period (AD 324–337) in order to close the gap between his current work and the starting point of the initial tranche of the database.

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Zum Tode David Daubes

Am 24. Februar 1999 ist David Daube im Alter von 90 Jahren in Berkeley verstorben. Ein Nachruf wird im 118. Band dieser Zeitschrift erscheinen.