



ARCHAEOLOGY 223. HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Final examination. Monday 29th January 1996.

Time allowed: Ninety minutes (one and a half hours).

Answer **THREE** questions (**ONE** from Part I, **TWO** from Part II). Do not spend more than thirty minutes (half an hour) on any question.

PART I

Time allowed: 30 minutes.

The following are translations into English of Greek inscriptions from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Choose **ONE** of the inscriptions and write an essay on it. What does the inscription tell us? What sort of information does it provide about contemporary history and society? Remember that all of these inscriptions would have been on public display; they are not private documents, in spite of the private nature of some of the details.

1. Inscription from the city of Ilium (Troy) in Asia Minor. Decree of the city honouring Metrodorus, doctor of Antiochus I.

Since King Antiochus has written a letter to us that when, having suffered a wound in the neck during battle, he was treated by Metrodorus the doctor, and is out of danger, and since a letter has also been sent about Metrodorus by Melagrus, the *strategos*, it has been decided by the Boule and the Demos that they shall praise Metrodorus, son of Timocles, a citizen of the city of Amphipolis, for his excellence and good will towards the Kings, Antiochus I and Seleucus his son, and toward the Demos of Ilium, and that he shall be a benefactor of the city, and that he shall be granted citizenship and the right to own property in the city of Ilium and the right of access to the Boule and Demos of Ilium and that he shall also be enrolled in whatever civic tribe he may wish.

2. Inscription from Cyrene (Libya). Testament of Ptolemy VIII Physcon (Fat Belly).

In the fifteenth year, in the month of Loos. With good luck. This is the testament of King Ptolemy, the younger son of King Ptolemy and Queen Cleopatra, gods manifest. Another copy of this inscription has been sent to Rome. May it be mine with the good will of the gods to take vengeance worthily upon those who have organised against me the unholy plot and have deliberately chosen to deprive me not only of my kingdom but also of my life. If anything happens to me, in accordance with human destiny, before successors are

left by me for my kingdom, I bequeath to the Romans my kingdom, for whom from the beginning friendship and alliance have been preserved by me with all sincerity. And to the same Romans I entrust my possessions for them to protect, appealing to them by all the gods and by their own good reputation that, if any persons attack either my cities or my territory, they may help, in accordance with the friendship and alliance we now have and in accordance with justice, with all their power.

3. Inscription from Phaena, on the road between Damascus and the Hauran. Letter from Saturninus, *legatus* of Syria.

Julius Saturninus to the people of Phaena, the mother-village of the district of Trachon, greetings. If anyone imposes himself on you by force, whether a private soldier or a private person, notify me and you will have justice. For you do not owe any contribution to strangers, and having a guest-house you cannot be forced to receive strangers into your houses. Display this letter of mine in a prominent position in your mother-village, so that no-one may be able to excuse himself on the grounds of ignorance.

PART II

Time allowed: One hour.

Answer **TWO** questions from this section.

4. Describe the political organisation of the Greek city state (*polis*), and the functions of its main officials.

5. Discuss the importance and significance of TWO of the following topics for the history and archaeology of the Near East.

- i) Caecilius Bassus
- ii) The Ituraean kingdoms
- iii) The Roman Imperial Cult
- iv) The *colonia* of Berytus
- v) Trajan's Parthian War

6. What factors led to the rise and fall of Palmyra as an economic and political power in the Near East?

7. What were the consequences for the Near East of the Roman civil war of AD 193-194 between Septimius Severus and Pescennius Niger?

8. How did the rise of the Sasanian Persians affect the balance of power in the Roman Near East?