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**Brillant, Les Secrétaires Athéniens *Les Secrétaires Athéniens*, par M. Brillant. (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Hautes Études, fascicule 191.) I Vol. Pp. xxi +148. Paris: Honoré Champion, 1911. 4 francs.**

M. N. Tod

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*Specimina codicum Latinorum Vaticano-*  
*rum* collegerunt FRANCISCUS EHRLE  
S.J. et PAULUS LIEBAERT. Vol. I.  
Large 8vo. Pp. xxxvi+8. Fifty  
photographs. Bonnae: A. Marcus  
et E. Weber, 1912.

LESS than twenty years ago palaeography was a science confined to a very few even among advanced scholars, and most schoolboys were as innocent of the meaning of an apparatus criticus as they were of metaphysics. And, I fear, it is with an unregenerate sigh of relief at having been born in those days, and of pity for the younger generation, that most of us regard the announcement of a cheap series of facsimiles illustrating the various departments of Greek and Latin palaeography "in usum scholarum." Whether a system of specialisation in the cradle is likely to be beneficial in any way to the unfortunate youth who is subjected to it may well be doubted; though probably, except in the case of those who would take to it without such assistance and in defiance of authority, one may rely on boys' nature to make it as harmless and as useless as any other kind of school instruction. But all this is merely by the way and does not detract in the least from the utility of the series for students, of whatever age they may be.

Ehrle and Liebaert's specimens, as one would expect from the editors' names, are fully equal to the previous volumes, and higher praise can hardly be accorded them. They comprise excellent representative examples of practically all the main styles of book hand from the fourth century to the fifteenth. As the editors have drawn their material mainly from the Vatican Library, they have naturally reproduced a large number of the early capital and uncial MSS. in which that library is especially rich. One is glad to note that they have chosen in many cases MSS. with cursive marginalia, as the old cursive writing is of great importance for the study of the history of contractions and of the subsequent national hands.

In their introductory remarks they lay stress on these early MSS., suggesting, what is certainly badly required, further research on the history and the

means of dating such hands. It may seem rather a hopeless study after the many attempts that have been made: but the advances that can be effected by such special research is well illustrated by another branch of Italian palaeography, which is well represented in the volume. Not only is what used vaguely to be referred to as the "Lombardic" script now divided into North and South Italian, but in the latter—the Beneventan script—two schools, those of Monte Cassino and of Bari, have been detected.

Northern scripts are rather less fully exemplified, though quite sufficiently: indeed I notice only one serious omission. There is no example of the pointed "Irish" hand, though it was used occasionally even as far south as Bobbio.

The descriptions of the plates are furnished with an useful bibliography, giving the main authorities who have treated of each separate MS., and with transcripts of all the plates which might present any difficulty to beginners.

E. O. WINSTEDT.

### BRILLANT, *LES SECRÉTAIRES ATHÉNIENS.*

*Les Secrétaires Athéniens*, par M. BRILLANT. (Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études, fascicule 191.) 1 Vol. Pp. xxi+148. Paris: Honoré Champion, 1911. 4 francs.

THE subject of the Athenian secretaries of state is certainly no new one; that at least is made clear by a glance at the bibliography prefixed to this work. Boeckh, Hille, Schaefer, Wilamowitz and other scholars had studied it before the discovery of the *Ἀθηναίων Πολιτεία*, and in more recent years Drerup, Pennedorf, W. S. Ferguson and A. Mommsen (whose articles in *Philologus* M. Brillant appears to have overlooked) have attempted, with the aid of Aristotle (*Ἀθ. Πολ.* liv.) to solve its difficulties. Yet no agreement has been reached hitherto, and the two discussions which have appeared this last summer, that of M. Brillant and Schulthess' article in Pauly - Wissowa, *Realencyclopädie s.v. γραμματεῖς*, take widely divergent views.

Certainty is perhaps unattainable with the materials at our disposal, but the recent publication by Kirchner of an important list of members and officials of the *βουλή* (*Ath. Mitt.* xxix. 244 ff.) reminds us that these materials are being supplemented from time to time by fresh epigraphical discoveries, and fosters the hope that the future may supply us with definite answers to some at least of our questions.

After an introduction dealing with the Athenian secretaries, in which attention is called to their number and variety and the distinction between the magistrates who bore the title and their *ὑπηρέται* is emphasised, M. Brillant passes on to a careful examination of the text of 'Αθ. Πολ. liv. 3, assuming without question its Aristotelian authorship and taking for granted—rightly, perhaps, but without sufficient examination—its value as our principal authority on the question. Chapter II. is devoted to a discussion of the *γραμματεὺς τῆς βουλῆς* prior to the reform of 368-3 B.C., an elected official who held office for a single prytany and was not a member of the *πρυτανεύουσα φυλή*. In the following chapter the author deals with the *γραμματεὺς κατὰ πρυτανείαν*, an annual magistrate chosen by lot. Here we reach the crux of the whole question. Was this latter official substituted for the *γραμματεὺς τῆς βουλῆς*, or did the two exist side by side for nearly half a century? The latter view is accepted by the majority of scholars, who point to the continued, though sporadic, appearance of the title *γραμματεὺς τῆς βουλῆς* in inscriptions down to 318-7 B.C. M. Brillant, however, following and amplifying the theory originally propounded by Boeckh and recently maintained by W. S. Ferguson, seeks to prove that we must 'see in the *γραμματεὺς τῆς βουλῆς* and in the *γραμματεὺς κατὰ πρυτανείαν* one and the same official' and that the use of the former designation after 362 B.C. is really popular and not official, the survival of a title officially discontinued. The author argues with skill as well as conviction and this chapter alone would afford ample justification, if any such were needed, for the publication of his treatise. In chapter IV he states and

supplements the law first formulated by Ferguson for the succession of the secretaries of state, that they follow each other in the official order of the tribes—a law afterwards shown to hold good also for the priests of Asclepius at Athens and for those of Serapis at Delos. The history of the secretaryship is then traced from the time of Aristotle onwards; the three years of oligarchy, 321-319 B.C., were succeeded by a return to the old institutions and the *γραμματεὺς κατὰ πρυτανείαν* resumed in 318 his former place and functions. The author next deals with the other two secretaries mentioned in 'Αθ. Πολ. liv., the *ἐπὶ τοῦ νόμου* and the reader (*γραμματεὺς ὁ ἀναγνώσκόμενος τῷ δήμῳ καὶ τῇ βουλῇ*), who in the inscriptions appears as *γραμματεὺς τῆς βουλῆς καὶ τοῦ δήμου*. Two appendices are devoted to the *ἀντιγραφεῖς* known to us from literary sources and inscriptions and to the secretary of the thesmothetae.

The work is simple and unaffected in style, clear in arrangement, and as interesting as the subject will permit. Errors and misprints, though not entirely absent, seem to be few, and the sources, ancient and modern, have been carefully studied. While finality cannot be claimed for M. Brillant's conclusions, it is safe to say that no student of the Attic secretaries can afford in future to ignore this valuable contribution to our knowledge.

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#### OXYRHYNCHUS PAPYRI.

*Oxyrhynchus Papyri*. Edited, with translations and notes, by A. S. HUNT, D.Litt. Part VIII., with 7 plates; Part IX., with 6 plates. 1911-12. *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta Papyracea nuper reperta*. Clarendon Press.

DR. HUNT apologises for the delay in publishing each of these volumes; but those who know will rather admire his speed. It is no light matter to edit a volume of this sort, especially when the literary finds are unusually novel. For we have in these volumes parts of the *Meliambi* of Cercidas, an