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From Caesarea to Constantinople. Dynastic Place Names and City Titles in the Roman Empire

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Summary

The thesis examines the dynastic names and titles of cities in the Roman Empire, i.e., toponyms and city titles derived from emperors and their family members (first and foremost women and offspring). The work consists of two parts, each comprising four chapters. The first part addresses methodological issues in the study of the discussed toponyms. The second part deals with various aspects of the analysed toponymy as a historical and linguistic phenomenon. The author attempts to determine the total number and geography of localities bearing the relevant names, point to the most frequently assumed toponyms and city titles, analyse the mechanisms of adopting dynastic appellations, and investigate their specificity as commemorative naming.

The first chapter of the monograph covers the difficulties combined with identifying dynastic place names and city titles. These problems sometimes arise from uncertainty as to whether a given proper name is a toponym (or title of a locality) and not, for example, the name of a military unit, festival, building, square, or so-called pseudo-tribe. Under certain circumstances, however, doubt may not concern whether a given onym is a place name, but whether it is of a dynastic nature.

The second chapter discusses situations in which the attestation for the names under examination and their spelling is questionable. It analyses cases in which, based on other evidence, it can be assumed that certain names have been distorted in the source material, as well as cases in which the loss of inscriptions mentioning them makes it difficult or impossible to verify their spelling. The author also draws attention to instances in which the appellations in question are attested as abbreviations, as ethnica, or as the names of the inhabitants. What should be kept in mind, the above-mentioned forms do not always allow the full form of the place name to be determined.

own initiative. Their use seems to be under control in the light of Vespasian's lost letter to the inhabitants of Sabora, and the so-called rescript from Hispellum issued by Constantine the Great, Constantine II, Constantius II, and Constans. In addition to the intentional (top-down and bottom-up) naming, there may also have been a mechanism by which they became associated with specific cities to some extent by chance. This presumption applies to instances where it seems that the relevant names or titles were borrowed by localities from military units stationed in their vicinity.

The eighth and final chapter of the dissertation highlights the characteristic features of the discussed toponyms and titles as commemorative names. In the case of dynastic names, naming an object is more important than its identification, differentiation, or localisation, as is proper for the commemorative names. As a rule, the appellations under consideration are not so much associated with the acquisition of specific places, but with the commemoration of certain events linking the community with the eponym. Their range is wide and includes, among others, his birth or death, his victory over enemies, his proclamation as emperor, or learning about the elevation to the rank of augustus. Particular attention is paid to the instability of dynastic appellations, which linguists point to as potentially one of the main drawbacks of commemorative names. Although the instability of the analysed names and titles was not necessarily caused solely by the so-called *damnatio memoriae*, it constitutes a key background against which this shortcoming is considered in the eighth chapter.

650 localities (or communities) of the Roman Empire that bore or could have borne dynastic names or titles between the reigns of the young Caesar/ Augustus and Constantine the Great, as well as source references mentioning specific appellations, are listed in the Appendix to the dissertation. It provides the first comprehensive attempt to compile the dynastic toponyms and city titles of the Roman Empire since Brigitte Galsterer-Kröll's study (1972), and at the same time, the most complete in historiography to date.

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