

The Family as a managerial unit

a patrimonial empire/society

1. The Roman Familia

R.P. Saller *Patriarchy, Property and Death in the Roman Family*, Cambridge
1994

nature of Roman family

nuclear versus extended families: a modern debate
kinds of marriage and divorce
other uses of familia: familia cretaria, familia Caesaris

patria potestas

authority
property rights of paterfamilias
demography
Saller's simulation: only 10% 40 yr olds in potestate

testation

E. Champlin *Final Judgements. Duty and emotion in Roman wills 200
BC - AD 250*, Berkeley 1991

inheritances and legacies
no "eldest son: younger son" syndrome
implications for landholding etc.

peculium

adults in potestate, soldiers and slaves allowed peculium and to speculate with it
control of freedmen via patria potestas

2. Households of the Rich

number of children
numbers of slaves: 100's for a senator?
property and other interests
management of wealth

the households of Republican aristocrats and the early emperors

3. Ex-slaves

manumission.

Who? when? why?
social rebirth
continued relationship between ex-master (patronus) and ex slave (libertus)
officia and sanctions

the economics of freedom

ex-slaves relatively skilled literacy numeracy)
ex-slaves relatively under-capitalized (no inheritance)
social rebirth

the culture of freedmen

independant freedmen

P. Garnsey (1981) 'Independant freedmen and the economy of Roman Italy under the Principate,' *Klio* 63, 359-71

- Orbi, freedmen without a paterfamilias
- Seviri Augustales (freedmen priests)
- libertine society of Ostia and Puteoli (as satirised by Petronius)

4. Legal Institutionalization

D. Johnston, *Roman Law in Context* (Cambridge 1999) chs. 3 & 5

actio institoria.

W.V. Harris, Roman terracotta lamps: the organization of an industry, *JRS* 70 (1980) 126-45

J.-J. Aubert Workshop managers, in Harris, W.V. ed. *The inscribed economy : production and distribution in the Roman Empire in the light of instrumentum domesticum*, JRA supplement 6, Ann Arbor, MI 1993.

J.-J. Aubert (1994) *Business Managers in Ancient Rome. A social and economic study of institores 200 BC - AD 250*

- action for redress against a principal for transactions conducted by his agent
- ie: a law of agency that enables distant agents to buy, sell, lease etc.
- developed - in C 2nd BC - for vilici (farm managers)
- attested in running a range of businesses: insularii, vilici, officinatores

Murecine tablets

the Sulpicii of Puteoli

use of Roman law to govern middling size financial deals

cf. Transylvanian contracts for the sale of individual slaves)

5. Moral Distance

- negotia OK, merces NOT
- producing for export OK, making a living from export NOT
- selling necessities OK, buying them NOT (autarky)