

# Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of tables</i>	ix
<i>List of contributors</i>	x
<i>Preface</i>	xiv
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xxi
Introduction: documentary evidence, social realities and the history of language <i>Fergus Millar</i>	I
I THE LANGUAGE OF POWER: LATIN IN THE ROMAN NEAR EAST	13
1 The presence, role and significance of Latin in the epigraphy and culture of the Roman Near East <i>Werner Eck</i>	15
2 Latin in cities of the Roman Near East <i>Benjamin Isaac</i>	43
II SOCIAL AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS AS REFLECTED IN THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	73
3 Euergetism in Josephus and the epigraphic culture of first-century Jerusalem <i>Seth Schwartz</i>	75
4 Legal and social status of <i>threptoi</i> and related categories in narrative and documentary sources <i>Marijana Rieč</i>	93

5	Ritual performances of divine justice: the epigraphy of confession, atonement, and exaltation in Roman Asia Minor	115
	<i>Angelos Chaniotis</i>	
6	Continuity of Nabataean law in the Petra papyri: a methodological exercise	154
	<i>Hannah M. Cotton</i>	
III	THE EPIGRAPHIC LANGUAGE OF RELIGION	175
7	'Languages' and religion in second- to fourth-century Palestine: in search of the impact of Rome	177
	<i>Nicole Belayche</i>	
8	The epigraphic habit and the Jewish diasporas of Asia Minor and Syria	203
	<i>Walter Ameling</i>	
9	Religion and language in Dura-Europos	235
	<i>Ted Kaizer</i>	
IV	LINGUISTIC METAMORPHOSES AND CONTINUITY OF CULTURES	255
10	On the margins of culture: the practice of transcription in the ancient world	257
	<i>Jonathan J. Price and Shlomo Naeh</i>	
11	Edessene Syriac inscriptions in late antique Syria	289
	<i>Sebastian Brock</i>	
12	Samaritan writing and writings	303
	<i>Dan Barag</i>	
13	The Jewish magical tradition from late antique Palestine to the Cairo Genizah	324
	<i>Gideon Bohak</i>	
V	GREEK INTO ARABIC	343
14	The Nabataean connection of the Benei Ḥezir	345
	<i>Ernst Axel Knauf</i>	

15	Greek inscriptions in transition from the Byzantine to the early Islamic period <i>Leah Di Segni</i>	352
16	Arab kings, Arab tribes and the beginnings of Arab historical memory in late Roman epigraphy <i>Robert G. Hoyland</i>	374
17	Greek, Coptic and the 'language of the Hijra': the rise and decline of the Coptic language in late antique and medieval Egypt <i>Tonio Sebastian Richter</i>	401
18	'What remains behind': Hellenism and Romanitas in Christian Egypt after the Arab conquest <i>Arietta Papaconstantinou</i>	447
	Index	467

## *Figures*

12.1	Lamp no. 1	<i>page</i> 306
12.2	Lamp no. 5 – front side	308
12.3	Lamp no. 5 – back side	308
12.4	Lamp no. 5 – back side, left (letters י–א)	309
12.5	Lamp no. 5 – back side, right (letters ז–ו)	309
12.6	Capital from Emmaus	312
12.7	The palaeo-Hebrew and Samaritan alphabets:	
	A. Palaeo-Hebrew, eighth to seventh centuries BCE	
	B. Palaeo-Hebrew on coins of 66–70 CE	
	C. Palaeo-Hebrew on coins of 132–5 CE	
	D. Samaritan	320

## *Tables*

17.1	Functional domains of minority vs. dominant languages	<i>page</i> 402
17.2	Greek loanwords in Demotic	407
17.3	Matrix language turnover hypothesis	409
17.4	First Letter of Clement 42.4 in the Achmimic dialect of Coptic	409
17.5	Greek graffito from the great temple of Abu Simbel	410
17.6	Words from <i>P.Heid.</i> inv. G 414, a Greek–Egyptian word list	411
17.7	Graffito from Abydos	412
17.8	Stela in honour of a <i>strategos</i> of the Hermopolite nome	412
17.9	<i>Chester Beatty Papyrus</i> VII: Greek Isaiah with Egyptian glosses	413
17.10	Arabic loanwords in Coptic scientific manuscripts	423
17.11	Arabic loanwords in Coptic documentary texts I: technical terms	424
17.12	Arabic loanwords in Coptic documentary texts II: diverse items	425
17.13	Distribution of languages after the fall of the Tower of Babel according to Athanasius of Qûs	429
17.14	Variables of language change	433