

**AULUS GELLIUS, *Noctes atticae* 2.24. *De vetere parsimonia; deque antiquis legibus sumptuariis* / AULUS GELLIUSZ, *Noce attyckie, 2.24. O dawnej oszczędności i o starożytnych ustawach dotyczących wydatków*, ed. et trans. ALDONA RITA JUREWICZ, MARIA PIECHOCKA-KŁOS, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, Poznań 2012, pp. 48 [=Fontes Historiae Antiquae. Zeszyty Źródłowe do Dziejów Społeczeństw Antycznych, 25].**

In 2012 University of Adam Mickiewicz Press published the translation of the passage of Aulus Gellius' *Noctes Atticae* titled *Noctes Atticae* 2,24. *De vetere parsimonia; Deque antiquis legibus sumptuariis*. The book has been published as an issue XXV of the bilingual series known as *Fontes Historiae Antiquae*. The translation and commentary have been prepared by Aldona Rita Jurewicz and Maria Piechocka-Kłos. The authors attempted to introduce to Polish readers an interesting and important work which presents the customs and opinions of the Romans on luxurious life as well as the legal and administrative methods of resolving this significant social problem. The work consists of three parts. In the first one the authors described Aulus Gellius himself and his work. The second part contains the bilingual edition of Gellius' text. The Polish translation is correct and comprehensible, but it is possible to find minor editorial errors. Another slight mistake is inserting into the Polish translation the nickname "divine" for Tiberius which cannot be found in the original text (p. 21). In the third part (the most interesting one) the authors comment on particular *leges* which were included by Gellius in his *Noctes Atticae*. The commentary contains a short introduction explaining the reasons for issuing sumptuary laws in Rome. Afterwards the authors described particular laws in chronological order from the times of early

Republic until the establishment of the Principate. The book ends with brief conclusions. It is worth emphasizing that the authors equipped their book with an elaborate and expanded set of footnotes. They made ample use of the sizeable international literature of the subject. It detracts, however, from the quality of the book that the authors omitted the articles of Polish authors, including Anna Pikulska-Radomska<sup>1</sup> or Janusz Sondel<sup>2</sup>. This omission may not be treated, however, as a discrediting one. The issues presented in the reviewed book have never been fully described in Poland in an academic manner. The authors filled that gap and it is important to say that their work will facilitate further studies of the subject that are undertaken by both the Roman law scholars as well as historians and classicists. The large number of commented laws once again shows that the efficiency of sumptuary laws was low and they were generally disobeyed by the Roman citizens.

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<sup>1</sup> A. PIKULSKA-RADOMSKA, *Ustawowa regulacja obyczajów w prawie rzymskim. Wykład habilitacyjny*, *Stur* 37, 1999, p. 213–219.

<sup>2</sup> J. SONDEL, *Les "leges sumptuariae" considérées comme l'expression des conditions sociales et économiques de la Rome antique*, *AIC* 6, 1973, p. 101–124.