

CONFERENCES AND REPORTS

Report on the International Roman Law Conference “Perfection School – Roman Foundations of European Private Law” held in Haskovo, Bulgaria, 28 April – 4 May 2014

The International Roman Law Conference “Perfection School – Roman Foundations of European Private Law” was held in Haskovo, Bulgaria, on 28 April to 4 May 2014. The event was organized by the Interuniversity Centre for Studies of Roman Law and Romanistic Science in cooperation with the University of National and World Economy at the premises of the Regional Centre for Distance Learning. The main aim of the conference was to bring Roman law scholars from the whole of Europe together and to examine the roots of contemporary private law collectively. However, in compliance with its name, the convention resembled the ideal of ancient school where teachers share their knowledge with students and enrich their future scientific work. This concept was originally suggested by participants of the 8th seminar “*Diritto romano ed attualità*”, which took place in October 2012. Almost thirty participants attended the conference, coming from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine.

The opening word was brought forward by **Konstantin Tanev** from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia who was the main organizer of the conference. He emphasized the function of Roman law as an universal basis of civil law and appreciated close cooperation between European Roman law scholars, which is intensified by regular conferences and seminars. The first contribution named “*I difficili confini tra malizia ed astuzia, nella riflessione tardo-repubblicana*” was presented by **Alessandro Corbino** from Catania, stressing possible difficulties regarding malice. **Leonid Kofanov** from the Russian Academy of Sciences devoted his contribution to the topic “*Ius naturale, ius gentium, ius commercii e loro rapporto con il ius civile*”. He inspected different relations between Roman law, international law and natural law. The last speech of the first day was held by **Piotr Niczyporuk** from Białystok and bore the title “Bankers activities in the Ancient Rome as a Prototype of Modern Banking Operations”. Economic life of ancient Rome during its greatest financial development was described, mainly in relationship to *depositum irregulare* and *argentarii* who accepted monetary deposits and invested the capitals.

Francesco Musumeci from Catania opened the second day of the conference presenting his contribution “*Iactus mercium: Lex Rhodia e regime romano*”, focusing on damages for goods thrown out of a boat in order to avoid greater harm. **Oswaldo Sacchi** from Naples followed with speech entitled “*Persona come res e come individuo. Da un’esperienza del diritto romano a paradigma per il contemporaneo*” introducing different views on a person in Roman law and modern legal norms. The contribution “*Difficoltà di adempimento delle obbligazioni nel diritto romano e nel diritto europeo*” was delivered by **Natale Rampazzo** from the Institute for International Legal Studies of the National Research Council. He focused on difficulties regarding performance of obligations according to Roman law and European law. **Emilija Stanković** from the University of Kragujevac presented her research on the topic “*Laesio enormis*”. Her speech paid attention to edict on prices passed by Diocletian, which laid foundations for this institute. Finally, **Magdolna Sič** from the University of Novi Sad presented her work on “Roman Cadastres, Land Registers and *instrumentum venditionis* – the Elements of Modern Land Registries”. Contribution of Roman law in the area of land recording was emphasized as information about land parcels and legally recognized interests in land were recorded in ancient Rome.

The first intervention of the third day “The Right to Appeal Before Late Antiquity” was presented by **Valerio Minale** from Bocconi University in Milan, who inspected admissibility of an appeal. **Jan Šejdl** from the Charles University dedicated his report “*Piccole osservazioni sulle servitù personali*” to the issue of classification of servitudes, and **Marek Novák** from the Charles University presented his research on development of possession in his speech “Protection of Possession in Roman Law

and Modern Czech Civil Codes”. The contribution entitled “The Position of Actors and Actresses in Roman Marriage Law” was delivered by **Elżbieta Loska** from the Cardinal **Stefan Wyszyński** University in Warsaw, who focused on difficulties regarding the acting profession. **Lyuba Radulova** from the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia followed with her speech “*Alcuni problemi giuridici legati al portorium*” describing complications concerning the institute of *portorium*.

The following day of the conference was opened by the contribution “*La coemptio (Gai 1.114-115a) come riflesso di una realtà economica*” presented by **Ghenka Mozzuhina** from the South-West University Neofit Rilski in Blagoevgrad, who concentrated on the particularly interesting marriage type – *coemptio*. **Stoyan Lazarov** from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia presented his research on “Procedural Basis of Subrogation” and was followed by **Emilia Ganeva** from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, who delivered a report on “The Influence of Morality on the Civil Law Through the Prism of *Restitutio in Integrum*”. She highlighted the importance of praetorian law at the end of the Republic as it was strongly influenced by morality and social needs in order to achieve justice. Then, the speech on the topic “The Competences of *Praefectus Vigilum* in Ancient Rome” was held by **Piotr Kołodko** from Białystok. He described the establishment of fire service organizations and provided further details about the competencies of the city prefect. Sorin-Alexandru Vernea from Bucharest followed with his contribution “Vendor’s Warranty against Eviction and Defects in Roman Law”, which analysed the division of risk regarding contract of sale. **Anton Panov** from Russian Academy of Sciences presented his research “*I contratti di locatio conductio e deposito nella legge marittima di Rodi, nei Basilici e nel Digesto*” which dealt with legislative provisions concerning the institutes of *locatio conductio* and *depositum* in the Rhodian Sea Law, the Basilika and the Digest. **David Falada** from the Charles University held the speech “*Tradizione romanistica e scuole di pensiero*” presenting Roman law tradition. Finally, the conference was concluded by the contribution entitled “*L'emergenza di prestito come contratto di buona fede? L'impostazione di Cervidio Scaevola relativa al periculi pretium*”, which was delivered by **Konstantin Tanev** from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia and focused on the institute of *periculi pretium* in the view of Cervidius Scaevola.

On the last day of the conference, participants visited archaeological site Tatul located near the town of Kardzhali in the Rhodope Mountains. Ancient history of Bulgaria was commemorated by long forgotten and newly excavated Thracian sanctuary and the tomb of mythical singer Orpheus.

A number of interesting contributions were presented in Haskovo, deepening the existing knowledge about Roman law and revealing up to now unnoticed connections with contemporary private law norms. Subsequent discussions and numerous comments expressed by respected professors served as welcomed incentives for future scientific work for all participants. The friendly atmosphere of the conference brought many opportunities for informal meetings of all participating scholars and enabled their further cooperation.

Marek Novák*

* Marek Novák, Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic