Since 2007, a team of American and British ancient historians has been preparing a new translation of the Codex Justinianus. The ‘Codex Project’ was launched by chief editor Bruce W. Frier; the goal of the project is to create the first reliable English translation of the Codex Justinianus on the basis of the standard edition by Paul Krüger. Since 1932, the notoriously unreliable translation by Scott has remained the only one in English. The new translation by the Codex Project should appear soon.

The translation of the Codex Project will not, however, be created ex nihilo. The work has been expedited by the existence of an unpublished translation by Justice Fred H. Blume, whose work has served as the basis of the text. The remarkable story of the young immigrant from Winzlar, Germany, is well worth reading. Settled in Cheyenne, Blume served for 42 years on the Wyoming Supreme Court; in his spare time, from 1920 to 1952, he laboured over a commented translation of both the Codex Justinianus and the Novels of Justinian. Blume also collaborated with Clyde Pharr on the English translation of the Codex Theodosianus, which remains the essential translation today. But while Pharr saw the translation of the Codex Theodosianus into print, Blume’s translation of the Codex Justinianus remained unpublished: Pharr had planned a series of English translations of legal texts, but only his own

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1 I thank Simon Corcoran, Wolfgang Kaiser, Sebastian Schmidt-Hofner and Bernard Stolte for valuable comments and criticism.
2 The editio maior by P. Krüger (ed.), Codex Justinianus (Berlin, 1877), will be subsequently cited as ‘Krüger’.
6 Pharr explicitly thanks Blume in the forward: C. Pharr (trans.), The Theodosian Code and Novels and the Sirmondian Constitutions. Corpus of Roman Law 1 (New York, 1952), vii and especially viii with respect to the Codex Justinianus. For an account of Pharr and his collaborators, see L. Jones Hall, ‘Clyde Pharr, the women of Vanderbilt, and the Wyoming judge: the story behind the translation of the Theodosian Code in mid-century America’, Roman Legal Tradition 8 (2012), 1–42.
Theodosian Code and Ancient Roman Statutes by Johnson, Coleman-Norton and Bourne appeared.\(^7\)

That will soon change. In 1971, Blume left his personal library to the University of Wyoming; more than 30 years later, Timothy Kearley, Director of the Law Library, rediscovered Blume’s typewritten translation, digitized and edited the 4,521-page manuscript, and has made both versions available online.\(^8\) On the basis of Blume’s complete translation, and with the blessing of Blume’s estate (his nephew, Frederick Paul Blume), the Codex Project began to review and revise the translation and at last prepare it for publication.

As the editor of Book 1 of the Codex Justinianus, I have had ample opportunity to scrutinize the Latin and Greek text on which the translation is based. In the following, I present my reflections on a number of passages in which I have introduced emendations or editorial changes to the standard text of the Codex Justinianus established by Paul Krüger. Obviously, since I depend on Krüger’s apparatus criticus for the readings of the most important manuscripts and have not consulted them myself, it will remain for a future editor ultimately to decide how convincing the following proposals are. The needs of a translator, however, are different from those of an editor. In several passages, I have chosen alternatives for reasons of intelligibility and coherence, where a conservative editor might let Krüger’s text stand. Until a new editor, however, replaces Krüger’s now 135-year-old major edition and re-evaluates the evidence of the manuscripts and other witnesses,\(^9\) it must suffice to explain here the minor changes I have made to the text for the purpose of preparing the English translation of Book 1.

The passages discussed below are: CJ 1.2.15, 1.3.32.7 (and 1.2.17.2), 1.3.45.1, 1.3.53.1 (and 9.13.1.1), 1.4.34.12, 1.12.6.9, 1.17.2.9, 1.17.2.10, 1.17.2.16, 1.23.7 pr., 1.26.2, 1.27.2.1, 1.27.2.18, 1.34.2, 1.49.1.2. A summary of the passages and the proposed changes appears in the form of a table at the end of this article.

1. CJ 1.2.15 (22.33 K.)

\(^{(4)\text{CJ} 1.2.15\text{ begins as follows in Krüger’s edition:}}\)

\[[\text{Emperor Zeno Augustus}] \ldots \text{Εἰ \ τις \ δωρεάν \ κινήτων \ ἢ \ ἀκινήτων \ ἢ \ αὐτοκινήτων \ πραγμάτων \ ἢ \ οἰκονόμησε \ δικαίου \ ... τὴν \ αὐτὴν \ δωρεάν \ ... \ κρατεῖν \ καὶ \ ἐν \ ἀπατηθεὶς \ ἕκ \ παντὸς \ εἶναι \ τρόπου \ ...}\]

\[\text{If anyone should donate immovable, movable, self-moving, or any category of property ... the donation ... (shall be) valid and subject to collection ...}\]

Since the Greek constitutions of the Codex Justinianus were lost in the Latin manuscript tradition, Krüger restored what remained of them from a variety of later Greek


\(^{8}\) See the website of the ‘Annotated Justinian Code’ (n. 5). See further Kearley (n. 5), 526.

collections. He restored CJ 1.2.15 from the Nomocanon XIV Titulorum, a synthesis of secular and ecclesiastical law assembled in the early seventh century. 10 The inscriptio of the constitution, which indicates the emperor who promulgated it, is missing in all witnesses, including the Nomocanon, but Krüger inferred from the following constitution that Zeno was the author and restored his name accordingly. 11 One further supplement may be made, though. In the process of excerpting and potentially adapting this passage, the editor of the Nomocanon omitted a subordinating verb that would account for the infinitives χροστείν and εἶναι in the surviving text. A literal translation of these words would give ‘be valid’ and ‘to be’, not ‘shall be’ as supplied above. For this reason, and to make the passage more intelligible, I also supply the verb Θεσπίζομεν (‘We decree’ = Latin sancimus) before the extant passage. A form of this or a similar verb must have stood somewhere in the original constitution, although not necessarily as the first word. 12

Proposed text:

[Aύτοκράτων Ζήνων Α.] ... [Θεσπίζομεν] εἰ τις δωρεάν ...

[Emperor Zeno Augustus] ... [We decree that], if anyone should donate ...

2. CJ 1.3.32.7 (39.17 K.) AND CJ 1.2.17.2 (24.18 K.)

In this constitution, Leo and Anthemi (a. 472) confirm the privileges of various Christian churches and charitable houses, among them xenodochia and ptochia (n. pl.), that is (pilgrim) hospices and poorhouses. 13 The superintendents of such


11 Cf. Krüger ad loc.; the codices are discussed on p. vii.

12 The beginnings of CJ 1.2.17 or even CJ 1.2.16 (with decernimus instead of the more usual word sancimus) are convenient comparanda. N. van der Wal and B.H. Stolte (edd.), Collectio Tripartita: Justinian on Religious and Ecclesiastical Affairs (Groningen, 1994), 49 restore εἰ τις in the paratitlon as the opening words of the constitution (1.3 parat. 7). A lacuna is clearly suggested by the words ης η άρχη in the paratitlon; the editors believe that the scribe may have wrongly assumed that repetition of εἰς τις, which immediately follows in the summary of the constitution, was a mistake (I thank Bernard Stolte for his input about this reading). If the opening words indeed originally were εἰ τις, then perhaps θεσπίζομεν should be restored in the Codex Justinianus before the words την αυτήν δωρεάν (Krüger, p. 22, line 36) to provide a main verb. The main verb in Coll. Trip. 2.15 is οναγκάζεται, but it is unlikely to be original. The construction has been simplified, making τις (‘anyone’) both the person giving the donation (δορισμα) and the person compelled (οναγκαζεται) to carry it out. In the original, the subject of the infinitives χροστείν and εἶναι is δωρεάν, the donation, not the person who makes it.

institutions are freed from public liturgies (munera). Alongside bishops and their clerics or monks, the text lists the superintendents of hospices (xenodochos) and, surprisingly, beggars (ptochos):

Privilegiis sane singulis quibuscumque sacrosanctis ecclesiis orthodoxae fidei, xenodochiis sive ptochiis tam generaliiter quam specialiter attributis perpetuo reservandis, nullis eas earumque sacerdotes aut clericos cuiuslibet gradus aut monachos vel ptochos aut xenodochos orthodoxae fidei deputatos extraordinariis muneri praecipimus praegravari.

The individual privileges conferred on the various holy churches of the orthodox faith, hospices, or poorhouses, both generally and specifically, shall be maintained permanently. We order that neither they nor their bishops or clerics, of whatever rank, or monks, or beggars or the superintendents of hospices, of orthodox faith, should be burdened by assignment to extraordinary liturgies.

The word in bold, ptochos – that is, the Greek word πτωχούς – must be a mistake; it is otherwise unattested in Latin.14 Krüger indicates in the apparatus that codices C and originally also R had the reading ptochios, whereas codex M read ptochis, before it too was emended to read ptochos.15 Most probably, a mistake of haplography very early in the manuscript tradition caused the normal word for the superintendent of a poorhouse in the accusative plural, ptochotrophos,16 to be shortened inadvertently to ptochos. A scribe probably leapt from the h in the ch of ptocho- directly to the end of the word, the -hos of -trophos, without realizing he had omitted the intervening letters.17 However the reading came about, the passage must be emended one way or another, since the confusion of the superintendent of a charitable institution with its beneficiaries is inexplicable, and it makes no sense at all to protect beggars against extraordinary liturgies they had no means of fulfilling.18 The Greek translation in the Nomocanon (9.1, p. 534 Pitra), moreover, reads τοὺς ἐν τοῖς πτωχείοις ἢ ξενοδοχείοις ἀφορισμένους (‘those assigned to hospices or poorhouses’), subsuming the superintendents of both institutions in one construction. Hence a Latin original in which ‘beggars’ or ‘the poor’ took the place of the superintendents of poorhouses alongside the superintendents of hospices is unlikely.

Proposed text:

... aut monachos vel ptochotrophos aut xenodochos orthodoxae fidei ...

... or monks, or superintendents of poorhouses or hospices, of orthodox faith ...

CJ 1.2.17.2, from an undated constitution of Anastasius (491–518), presents a similar case, in which the superintendent of a πτωχείον, here called the διοικητής, is ordered
to be present at the authentication of the endowment of the poorhouse together with his ministers ‘and the poor’ (καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν). It seems better to read πτωχοτρόφων here too than to assume that the names of beggars really were registered alongside those of the superintendent of the poorhouse and his staff. If the poor were required to attend, one might expect in the same passage by analogy that the guests at the hospice or even the orphans at the orphanage would similarly be summoned; obviously, that is not the case. The explanation by haplography offered above, however, does not apply to the Greek version of the constitution, §2 of which Krüger restored from a later sixth-century collection, the Collectio Tripartita. There is no recorded variant for the passage in this version. The manuscript reading would be correct, then, with respect to the Collectio Tripartita, but it seems fair to suspect that a mistake identical to that proposed for CJ 1.3.32.7 had already been made in the lost Latin original of CJ 1.2.17.2.

3. CJ 1.3.45.1 (48.11 K.)

CJ 1.3.45.1 has been restored from both the Nomocanon and the Collectio XXV Capitulorum.22

Ἀλλ’ εἰ μὲν οἰκοδομήν ἑκκλησίας ἐπιτάξειν ὁ διαθέμενος, εἰςω τριετίας πάντως παρασκευάζειν αὐτὴν πληρούσθαι, εἰ δὲ ξενώνοις ποιῆσαι, εἰσὶς ἐνὸς ἐνιαυτοῦ μόνον τοῦτο ποιεῖν ἀναγκαζέσθαι, ὡς ἰκανοῦ τοῦ χρόνου τοῦτοῦ καθεστῶτος πληρώσα τὰ βεβουλευμένα τοὺς τετελευτηκόσι ...

If the testator orders the construction of a church, they (i.e. the heirs) shall see to it that it is completed entirely within three years; if the building of a hospice, they shall be compelled to do this only within one year, for this is a sufficient period of time for carrying out the wishes of the deceased ...

In this passage, if the deceased instructs his heir to build a church, the heir has three years to build it; if the deceased wants a hospice, does the heir have only one year to build it, or does he have a year to do only that (that is, build a hospice exclusively)? As the text presently stands (μόνον τοῦτο), it suggests that the heir may do nothing in the year concerned other than build the hospice. Emending μόνον, however, by putting it in the genitive case μόνου in agreement with ἐνὸς ἐνιαυτοῦ would make much

19 Duff (n. 13), 96 with n. 4 leaves it an open question whether πτωχῶν in CJ 1.2.17.2 also may be corrupt.
20 Coll. Trip. 2.17: van der Wal and Stolte (n. 12), 26, line 13. In brief on the Tripartita, see Lokin and van der Wal (n. 10), 61–2; Trojanos (n. 10), 135–6.
21 Coincidentally, van der Wal and Stolte (n. 12) note a similar error in Coll. Trip. 1.2.17, p. 26, line 13, the same line containing πτωχῶν: MS P reads for ξενώνων (‘hospices’) ξένων (‘guests’, i.e. ‘pilgrims’).
22 The entire constitution is extant in the Collectio XXV Capitulorum, const. 8. See G.E. Heimbach, Anekdota, vol. 2 (Leipzig, 1840), 145–201; here 156–60. On the Collectio XXV Capitulorum, see S. Trojanos, ‘Byzantine Canon Law to 1100’, in W. Hartmann and K. Pennington (edd.), The History of Byzantine and Eastern Canon Law to 1500 (Washington, DC, 2012), 132–3. Pitra notes the presence of the constitution in the ‘auctaria’ to Nomoc. 2.1 (p. 484), implying that the augmented Bestes-version of the Nomocanon had the same reading as the Codex Justinianus then available to Pitra; in Herrmann’s edition of the Corpus Juris Civilis, vol. 2, Codex Justinianus (Leipzig, 1843), ad loc., the constitution had already been restored from the Collectio XXV Capitulorum. I thank Bernard Stolte for this explanation of Pitra’s reference. The version in the Collectio Tripartita is Coll. Trip. 1.3.45.
more sense, and the combination of these terms is attested elsewhere in Justinian’s Novels.23 Mόνου moreover is the reading of the Collectio XXV Capitulorum.24 The explanation that immediately follows in the text – that this amount of time (one year) should be enough to build the hospice – would have no purpose if the specific activity of the heir, not the time in which he completes it, was relevant. The point of the passage is not to limit the activity of the heir, but rather to fix the amount of time within which he must complete the project entrusted to him by the deceased. Unless the word μόνον should be removed entirely,25 we might hypothesize that an early scribe changed the ending –ου to –ον to make it agree with τότο.26

Proposed text:

... εἴσο ενός ενιαυτοῦ μόνου τοῦτο ποιεῖν ἀναγκαζότας, ὡς ἰκανοῦ τοῦ χρόνου τούτου καθεστώτως πληρώσαι τὰ βεβουλευμένα τοῖς πεπελευτηκόσιν...  

... they shall be compelled to do this within one year alone, for this is a sufficient period of time for carrying out the wishes of the deceased ...

4. CJ 1.3.53.1 (55.15 K.) (AND CJ 9.13.1.1 [832.5 K.])

Punctuation is also interpretation. The meaning of this passage depends in part on the placement of a comma, and one widespread interpretation of it seems incorrect. I have loosely adapted Blume’s original translation of CJ 1.3.53.1 and CJ 9.13.1.1 (which differ somewhat) to highlight the interpretation in question:

Qui itaque huiusmodi crimen commiserint et qui eis auxilium tempore invasionis praebuerint, ubi inventi fuerint in ipsa rapina et adhuc flagrante crimine comprehensi a parentibus sanctimonialium virginitum vel viduarum vel diaconissarum aut earum consanguineis vel tutoribus seu curatoribus, convicti interficiantur.

Those who commit a crime of this kind and those who assist them at the time of the assault, if they are discovered in the act of ravishing and caught in flagrante, may, as convicted criminals, be killed by the parents of the holy virgins or widows or deaconesses, or by their relatives, tutores, or curatores.

As Blume translates, this constitution at first glance appears to grant the family and guardians of a ravished woman the right to kill raptores caught in the act, just as the paterfamilias or husband of a woman might kill an adulterer under the lex Iulia de adulteriis.27 The resemblance, however, is misleading. The right to kill adulterers (ius

23 Very similar to the passage under consideration: Nov. 123.17: εἴσο επροσθεσίας ενιαυτοῦ καὶ μόνου. Cf. also Nov. 59.6: ἢ γε ἐνός μόνου, and Nov. 123.28: ἐνός καὶ μόνου προσώπου.
24 Coll. XXV Capitulorum, const. 8 (Heimbach [n. 22], 157).
25 According to Krüger ad loc., the Nomocanon reads ενιαυτοῦ ενός and lacks μόνον; Pitra, in fact, reads εἴσο ενιαυτοῦ without μόνον (Nomoc. 2.1, p. 482), while the version in the Collectio Tripartita reads merely εἴσο ενιαυτοῦ (van der Wal and Stolte [n. 12], 43, lines 24–5). Bernard Stolte has kindly informed me that he considers εἴσο ενιαυτοῦ (also without ενός) the reading of the better manuscripts, with εἴσο ενιαυτοῦ as a varia lectio.
26 The Latin translation provided in Krüger’s stereotype edition ignores the word and thus smoothes over the messiness of the text.
27 E.g. R. Haase, ‘Justinian I. und der Frauenraub (raptus)’, ZRG 111 (1994), 463–4 interprets the law in precisely the same way; so also J.A. Brundage, Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe (Chicago, 1987), 119 and many others.
occidendi) could be exercised under the lex Iulia only by the men closest to the women affected: either her father or her husband, and under conditions that tended to make its use unpleasant or hazardous.\(^28\) Here, a much greater number of people are involved: the woman’s parents and relatives (to what degree?), and even her legal guardians; in the parallel law \(CJ\) 9.13.1, which additionally concerns freedwomen and slaves, the list of potential killers includes even patrons and slave-owners (§1).

Whatever these persons were expected to do, however, must derive not from the verb interficiantur but from one of the preceding participles. Krüger’s punctuation of this dense passage, with a comma before the word convicti, should lead the reader to connect the persons in the construction a parentibus ... consanguineis vel tutoribus seu curato-ribus with the participle comprehensi. Accordingly, a raptor may be condemned and executed if he is caught (comprehensi) in the act by the parents, relatives or guardians of the woman. It makes little sense, though, why the perpetrator should be punishable only if he is detected and seized by the persons named. The punctuation of the passage is disputable also on stylistic grounds. The participial phrases in the clause ubi inventi fuerint in ipsa rapina et adhuc flagrante crimen comprehensi create an elegant chiasmus, while it is equally possible to connect the ablative of agent a parentibus, etc. not with the preceding participle comprehensi but with one of the passives that follow: the passive participle convicti or the passive verb interficiantur.

Although Blume understands convicti in a metaphorical sense, ‘as convicted criminals’,\(^29\) this word should indicate that even rapiores caught in flagrante should be tried.\(^30\) The due trial of criminals caught in the act, including rapiores, is attested in another constitution in the Codex Justinianus.\(^31\) Moreover, within the constitution, Justinian insists that rapiores caught in the act but able to avoid capture should be condemned to death only ‘after legitimate proof recognized by the law’.\(^32\) The persons connected to the woman might have seized the raptor caught in the act, but, more importantly, they are expected to prosecute him, bringing about his conviction. In the case of the rape of a slave, for instance, it would necessarily have been the owner (dominus, \(CJ\) 9.13.1.1) who brought charges. In the longer, secular version of the law, Justinian similarly punishing parents who fail to prosecute the raptus of their daughter (\(CJ\) 9.13.1.3c), although he says nothing about her relatives or guardians. Primarily the parents or guardians must be responsible for the prosecution of the perpetrator.

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\(^28\) T.A.J. McGinn, Prostitution, Sexuality, and the Law in Ancient Rome (Oxford, 2003), 146–7 and 203–7. The father could kill the adulterer only if he also killed his daughter; the husband could kill the adulterer only if he fell into one of several categories of low-status or disreputable persons. Justinian in Nov. 117.15 permits a suspicious husband to kill an adulterer discovered merely meeting his wife in certain places, but only if he has first warned him in writing three times.

\(^29\) Only in \(CJ\) 9.13.1.1; he omits it in \(CJ\) 1.3.53.1.

\(^30\) Thus P. Karlin-Hayter, ‘Further notes on Byzantine marriage: raptus-ἀρπαγή or μηνστεία’, Dumbarton Oaks Papers 46 (1992), 141 translates (without comment) ‘if proved guilty’; so also Scott (n. 3) (‘if convicted’).

\(^31\) \(CJ\) 1.3.53.2: post legitimas et iuri cognitas probationes; cf. \(CJ\) 1.13.1.1c. When Justinian himself offers an interpretation of the law in Nov. 143 and 150, he describes his innovations as prescribing death not only for the raptor but also for his accomplices and as offering not only the parents but also the relatives and guardians huiusmodi ... per eandem legem vindextam, which again seems to suggest prosecution.
That the family or tutor/curator of a woman would undertake the prosecution in a criminal trial is attested by several examples.\footnote{Cf. Constantine’s law on adulterium, CTh 9.7.2 = CJ 9.9.29; already in CJ 9.9.7.1 (a. 223), a violata virgo adulta attempts to avenge herself adsistentibus curatoribus, per quos etiam negotia eius gerenda sunt. On the ability of women to bring criminal charges, see briefly T. Mommsen, Römisches Strafrecht (Berlin, 1899), 369.}

It is thus all the more remarkable that the Greek version of this constitution in the Collectio Tripartita explicitly grants parents, siblings and guardians the right to kill not only the rapists caught in flagrante (ἐπ’ αὐτοφόρῳ), but also their accomplices.\footnote{Coll. Trip. 1.3.53: Τοῖς γονεύεται καὶ τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς καὶ τοῖς κηδεμούσι τῶν παρθένων καὶ διακονισθέντων καὶ τῶν ἀνέμενον τῷ θεῷ χρὴν ἔξεστι τοῖς ἀρπαγάς αὐτῶν καὶ τοὺς ἐν καιρῷ τῆς ἐφόδου βοηθοῦντας κύοτοι ἐπ’ εὐτοφόρῳ φονεύειν. Unfortunately, neither Justinian, Nov. 143 and 150, nor Leo the Wise, Nov. 35, summarizing his law, elaborate on the circumstances of the death of the raptor and his accomplices. They seem to envision merely the standard death sentence.} The limited ius occidendi of the lex lulia was subject to abuse;\footnote{McGinn (n. 28), 189 and 205.} to what extravagant bloodbaths could abuse of a carte blanche for multiple killings have led, if it really were law?

To return to the punctuation and translation of this passage: one could retain Krüger’s punctuation and argue that the persons named were required to capture the offender; their involvement in the ensuing trial would be assumed but not stated. More probably, however, Justinian expects them to undertake the prosecution itself on behalf of the violated women. If so, then our comma should be moved after convicti and another inserted after comprehensi, creating a distinct appositional clause. Of course, if the Codex Justinianus was written in scriptura continua with punctuation only at the end of a fragment like the sixth-century Codex Florentinus of the Digest, ancient readers will have had to interpret the text for themselves.\footnote{On ancient Latin punctuation generally, see T. Habinek, The Colometry of Latin Prose (Berkeley, 1985), esp. 42–88. On the Florentinus, see W. Kaiser, ‘Schreiber und Korrektoren des Codex Florentinus’, ZRG 118 (2001), 144 and 150–5 for his remarks on the preferred ‘Interpunktion’ of each hand.}

Proposed text:

Qui itaque huiusmodi crimen commiserint et qui eis auxilium tempore invasionis praebuerint, ubi inventi fuerint in ipsa rapina et adhuc flagrante crimine comprehensi, a parentibus sanctimo-nialium virginum vel viduarum vel diaconissarum aut earum consanguineis vel tutoribus seu curatoribus convicti, interficientur.

Those who commit a crime of this kind and those who assist them at the time of the assault, if they are discovered in the act of ravishing and caught in flagrante, (and if) convicted by the parents of the holy virgins or widows or deaconesses, or by their relatives, tutores, or curatores, may be executed.

The same punctuation is also recommended in CJ 9.13.1.1, of which CJ 1.3.53 is a version adapted especially for consecrated virgins.\footnote{F. Schulz, ‘Umarbeitungen justinianischer Gesetze bei ihrer Aufnahme in den Codex Justinianus von 534’, in Acta Congressus Iuridici Internationalis VII saeculo a decretalibus Gregorii IX et XIV a Codice Justiniano promulgatis, vol. 1 (Rome, 1935), 83–90.}

5. CJ 1.4.34.12 (73.5 K.)

This passage, from a constitution that appears both in the Nomocanon (9.27) and in the Collectio XXV Capitulorum (const. 21), concerns clergymen who are caught playing...
dice and engaged in other forms of gambling. The guilty are excommunicated or banished from the Church; §§11–13 threaten punishment for religious and secular authorities who fail to carry out Justinian’s commands. What he commands is contained in §§9–10. A wealthy clergyman who proves to be an unrepentant gambler is to be enrolled in the curia of the city where he served as priest (τὸ τῆς πόλεως ἐκείνης βουλευτήριον, καθ’ ἵνα ἱεράτο πρόστερον, §10, p. 72, line 24), or even in the curia of another city that needs decurions, if his own city should be too small; a poor clergyman, on the other hand, is enrolled as a cohortalis on the staff of the governor (τοξωτής τὸ λοιπὸν ἔσται τῆς ἐπισχορίου τάξεως, ibid., lines 26–7). In both contingencies, the guilty party should be made to perform liturgies appropriate to his status. At the end of §12, however, where the punishments are briefly recapitulated, we read that one should see to it, ‘as has been established above’ (p. 73, line 4), that such a person is not delivered up to a curia or gubernatorial staff:

... καὶ ἐπειδήν παρ’ αὐτὸν ὁ ἐπὶ τοῖς τοιούτοις ἀλούς καθαρισθεῖ, μὴ τῇ βουλῇ τῆς πόλεως ἢ τῇ τάξει τοῦτον παραδοθήναι παρασκευάσαν.

... and when one convicted of such misconduct has been deposed, they shall see to it that he is not handed over either to the curia of the city or to the provincial staff.

The reading μή simply cannot be right. Krüger reports the reading ἢ in the Nomocanon, yet prefers the reading μὴ in the Collectio XXV Capitulum. In fact, the version of the constitution in the Nomocanon has neither ἢ nor μὴ in the corresponding place. There still is little reason to accept μὴ, however. The version of the constitution in the Nomocanon and Collectio Tripartita, though worded differently, clearly indicates that the offender must become either a curialis or a cohortalis. The grammatical structure of the longer version also makes a parallel ἢ...ἡ construction likely. The reading ἢ is therefore recommended for μὴ retained by Krüger:

ἡ τῇ βουλῇ τῆς πόλεως ἢ τῇ τάξει τοῦτον παραδοθήναι παρασκευάσαν.

they shall see to it that he is handed over either to the curia of the city or to the provincial staff.

Mommsen attempted to eliminate the inconsistency a different way: he proposed to add μὴ before the verb καθαρισθεῖ. This emendation would produce a parallel negative construction with μὴ and an optative verb: μὴ καθαρισθεῖν and μὴ...παρασκευάσασθαι. But it seems highly unlikely that someone caught in such vice (ὁ ἐπὶ τοῖς τοιούτοις ἀλούς) would not be deposed from office (μὴ καθαρισθεῖ). The reading ἢ is clearly the better choice. Perhaps a scribe wrote μὴ for ἢ to avoid a presumed duplication of the eta in καθαρισθεῖ.

6. CJ 1.12.6.9 (100.28 K.)

§9 of this constitution regulates how clergymen should act when unfree persons of various status seek refuge on holy ground. The scene is depicted very vividly. In Krüger’s edition, we read:

38 Krüger ad loc.: ‘μὴ Coll. [XXV Cap.], ἢ Nomoc.’ Pitra, Nomoc. 9.27 (p. 559) actually reads: τελείως ἐκβάλλεται τοῦ κλήρου, καὶ γίνεται βουλευτής, μετὰ τῆς αὐτοῦ περιουσίας, τῆς πόλεως ὡς ἢν κληρικὸς... εἰ δὲ μὴ ἔχει ουσίαν, γίνεται ταξευτὴς.
39 See Coll. Trip. 1.4.34 (van der Wal and Stolte [n. 12], 67, lines 21–4).
40 Cf. Krüger, 73 n. 1.
Sane si servus aut colonus vel adscripticus, familiaris sive libertus et huiusmodi aliqua persona domestica vel condicioni subditæ conquassatis rebus certis atque subtractis aut se ipsum furatus ad sacrosancta se contulerit loca, statim a religiosis oeconomis sive defensoribus, ubi primum hoc scire potuerint, per eos videlicet ad quos pertinent, ipsis praesentibus pro ecclesiastica disciplina et qualitate commissi aut ulionei competenti aut intercessione humanissima procedente, remissione veniae et sacramenti interveniente securi ad locum statumque proprium revertantur.

If, however, a slave, free or unfree tenant, servant or freedman, and any household member of this sort or bound to this status goes to sacrosanct places after breaking and pilfering certain things or having stolen himself, then immediately by the pious stewards or defenders, as soon as they are aware of the situation, namely through those to whom they belong, the fugitives may safely return to their proper place and condition after, in the presence of the stewards or defenders, according to ecclesiastical discipline and the nature of the crime, either appropriate punishment has been meted out, or most compassionate intercession has been made, and forgiveness has been granted by pardon and on oath ...

On closer inspection, something is lacking. If slaves or coloni, etc. flee to a consecrated place, then the holy administrators or defenders of the church should – do what with them? No verb is provided to indicate what the fugitives may expect from the clergymen until we reach the word revertantur, where they are already on their way home. What happens before that point? It also remains unclear to what the clause per eos videlicet ad quos pertinent (‘namely through those to whom they belong’) refers. Mention of the persons responsible for the fugitives seems very abrupt. The sole main verb revertantur has to accommodate both the prepositional phrase a religiosis oeconomis sive defensoribus (‘by the pious stewards and defenders’) and the prepositional phrase per eos videlicet ad quos pertinent. This combination of modifying phrases does not make adequate sense. This messiness becomes particularly obvious when one tries to translate the passage: should the unfree persons return from the holy church administrators or defenders by the persons to whom they belong? Does the preposition a indicate movement away from the clergymen or, as appears at first glance, that something is done by the clergymen? The Latin in fact leads the reader to assume ‘by the holy church administrators or defenders’ until one arrives at the intransitive deponent verb revertantur.

This confusion is alleviated if one posits a small lacuna after the word potuerint in which a missing verb should be supplied. Probably, the fugitives should be reported by the clergymen, so that they may be retrieved by their owners or landlords. If one supplies the words nuntientur, ut, for example, the return of the fugitives is accomplished by the people who are responsible for them, while the clergymen (ipsis praesentibus) are in attendance to ensure that everything proceeds in an orderly fashion. The following paragraph of the constitution (§10), moreover, specifically stipulates that the clergymen should investigate fugitives and their cases and inform (instruant) the governors or ‘those persons to whom the cases and persons pertain’ (eos, ad quos causæ et personæ pertinent). CTh 9.45.5, from the year 432, prescribes nearly the same procedure when a slave flees to a church.

41 Rendered accurately ὑποστρεφέτωσιν in the Basilika. A passive translation, e.g. ‘are to be returned’, relies on the flexibility of ‘return’ in English, which may be transitive or intransitive (‘give back’ versus ‘go back’). Such a passive sense for revertor is not possible in Latin.
42 The Greek translation in Basilika 5.1.14 decides in favour of the former: παρὰ τῶν θεοσεβεστάτων οἰκονόμων εἴτε τῶν ἔκδικων, but even in Greek there is no verb that indicates what is done by them.
43 CTh 9.45.5 (a. 432): si quidem servus cuiusquam ecclesiæ ... petierit, is non plus uno die ibi-dem dimittatur, quin domino eius ... a clericis quorum interest nuntietur. isque eum imperitia indulgentia peccatorum ... in honorem loci et eius respectu, ad eius auxilium convolvavit, abeducat. Words

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then they shall immediately <be reported> by the pious stewards or defenders, as soon as they are aware of the situation, <so that> the fugitives may safely return to their proper place and condition, namely through those to whom they belong ...

As soon as the clergymen are aware of the fugitives, they should report them, so that their owners or landlords may take them back.44

7. CJ 1.17.2.9 (113.1 K.)

Discussion of the next three passages is complicated by the fact that they enjoy two different manuscript traditions. CJ 1.17.2 is better known as c. Tanta, the introductory constitution that explains the conception of the Digest and enacts it as law. The text may thus be compared directly with the famous Florentinus manuscript of the Digest, the only witness to c. Tanta outside the Codex Justinianus.45 Krüger took two of the following readings explicitly from the Florentinus.46

In the first case, Krüger prefers the reading omne of the Florentinus to the reading omnes preserved in the Codex Justinianus. In the passage concerned, the members of the commission that prepared the Digest are named and praised:

... nec non CRATINUS virum illustrem et comitem sacrarum largitionum et optimum antecessorum huius alme urbis constitutum: qui omnes ad praedictum opus electi sunt una cum STEPHANO, MENA, PROSDOCIO, EUTOLMIO, TIMOTHEO, LEONIDE, LEONTIO, PLATONE, IACOBO, CONSTANTINO, IOHANNE, viris prudentissimis; qui patroni quidem sunt causarum apud maximum sedem praefecturae, quae orientalibus praetorii praesidet, omne autem suae virtutis testimonium undique accipientes et a nobis ad tanti operis consummationem electi sunt.

... and CRATINUS, vir illustris, Count of the Imperial Finances and outstanding professor of This Generous City. All these were chosen for the above mentioned work together with STEPHANUS, MENAS, PROSDOCIOE, EUTOLMIO, TIMOTHEUS, LEONIDES, LEONTIUS, PLATO, JACOBUS, CONSTANTINE, JOHN, most learned men, who are advocates at the supreme tribunal of the prefecture that presides over the governors of the Orient; but they have gathered all testimony of their excellence from all quarters and were chosen by Us to carry out this work so great.

The most important witnesses for the word omne are divided: the Florentinus and the first reading of the second-most-important manuscript of the Codex (R) read omne; the Montecassino codex (C), on the other hand, the corrected reading of R, and the

such as indicentur (which also appears in CTh 9.45.5) or deferantur would also be possible supplements.

44 The version in the Collectio Tripartita reads ἀποδίδονται (‘they are handed over’ [sc. to the owners]) rather than translate revertantur (cf. the Basilika translation, n. 41 above) and ignores the ambiguous prepositional phrase a religiosis oeconomis sive defensoribus.

45 On the Florentinus, see Kaiser (n. 36). Readings in the Florentinus were recently discussed by R. Röhle, ‘Neue Lesarten zum Text des Codex Florentinus’, ZRG 122 (2005), 62–90. C. Tanta is not preserved in the medieval manuscript tradition. In general on c. Tanta, see T. Wallinga, Tanta/Dedoken: Two Introductory Constitutions to Justinian’s Digest (Groningen, 1989).

46 Subsequent references to ‘Mommsen’ are to the editio maior by T. Mommsen (ed.), Digesta Justiniani Augusti, vol. 1 (Berlin, 1870).
Montepessulanus codex (M) read omnes. At first glance, it is not clear which variant is preferable. A parallel, however, may be identified in the preceding passage qui omnes ... electi sunt, as well as in the immediately following statement et, cum omnes in unum convenerunt gubernatione Triboniani. Justinian refers several times to all members of the Digest commission. The Greek version of the passage in the constitution Δέδωκεν appears to confirm this interpretation. Δέδωκεν reads:

... οἵπερ πάντες (= omnes) όρθοες μέν εἰσιν τῶν ἐνδοξοτάτων ὑπάρχων τῶν ἱερῶν ἡμῶν πραιτωρίων, δέξαν δὲ παρὰ πάσιν (= undique) τὴν ἐπί σοφία δικαίως ἔχοντες εἰχότος παρ’ ἡμῖν ἐκρίθησαν ἄξιοι καθεστάναι τοῦ τοσούτου μετασχεῖν ἀγάνος.

... who all are advocates of the Prefects of Our most glorious sacred Praetoria and rightly hold esteem from all quarters, have appropriately all been judged by us to be worthy to partake in so great a task.

Although the placement of πάντες in Δέδωκεν would lead one to expect omnes before patroni in the Latin version, its later placement appears to be caused by the rephrasing of the Latin version as an antithesis with two verbs (sunt and electi sunt); qui gives the subject, while omnes in agreement with it allows natural use of the adverbial, post-positive participle autem (instead of an awkward et qui). In Greek, πάντες stands next to the first of two participles that precede the main verb. The phrase παρὰ πάσιν in Δέδωκεν, on the other hand, should not be taken as equivalent to omne: it is translated by undique.

Moreover, the combination omne ... testimonium is contradicted by what is said immediately after: if the men had already received all testimony (i.e. recognition; Δέδωκεν: δόξαν) of their excellence or ability, their inclusion in the commission to prepare the Digest would not be an additional distinction. It is obvious, though, that Justinian wants to have both: all the men have demonstrated their outstanding talent, and additionally they have been elected by Justinian to compile the Digest. The appointment ensues from their existing prestige yet also adds to it. The reading omnes is thus not only stylistically, but also logically, superior. We may therefore prefer the reading of the tradition of the Codex to that of the Florentinus.

Proposed text:

... omnes autem suae virtutis testimonium undique accipientes ... 

... all have gathered testimony of their excellence from all quarters ...

8. CJ 1.17.2.10 (113.16 K.)

A single letter can make the difference between the perfect subjunctive fuerit and pluperfect indicative fuerat. In the following excerpt, Justinian describes what was removed and what was retained in the legal texts incorporated in the Digest. These texts include not only works of Roman jurisprudence, but also imperial constitutions that the jurists may have cited in their works. Justinian explains that even when an imperial constitution...

\[47\] Krüger: ‘omne\[ F^R\], omnes CR^M’; Mommsen: ‘omne\[ F^O\] omnes CO^QQT’. On the codices, see Krüger, p. VIII. Mommsen did not use M, but he refers here to the manuscripts Q and T, used elsewhere also by Krüger, for the reading omnes.
was cited in the old writings of the jurists, he did not spare its text, but emended it as necessary. He let the names of the emperors stand, however, and adds that

quidquid legum veritati decorum et necessarium fuerat, hoc nostris emendationibus servavimus.

We exempted from Our emendations whatsoever had been appropriate and indispensable for the authenticity of the laws.

The word fuerat places the content that was pertinent and necessary for the authenticity of the imperial constitutions in the past before Justinian’s intervention. Some part of these texts had (once) been necessary to ensure their authenticity; it follows, however, that when Justinian set about to emend such constitutions, this content was no longer necessary. On the contrary, though, Justinian is not referring to relevance that had once existed, and exists no more, but to relevance that still exists as the text is edited. It is because such content remains important that Justinian retains it in the Codex. What is decorum et necessarium must be recognized as contemporary with the revision of the text in the immediate past, and it remains decorum et necessarium in the present. The same thought is expressed more densely in Δέδωκεν: there Justinian makes the ‘truth’ of the laws his own.48 This chronological distinction is expressed in Latin by the variant fuerit.

Proposed text:

quidquid legum veritati decorum et necessarium fuerit, hoc nostris emendationibus servavimus.

We exempted from Our emendations whatsoever was appropriate and indispensable for the authenticity of the laws.

As far as the manuscripts are concerned, the better manuscripts of the Codex Justinianus (Krüger’s C and R, Mommsen’s S)49 have the reading fuerit. In his introduction to the Digest, Mommsen rated their consensus as ‘non minoris auctoritatis quam est Florentina’.50 In a footnote, he listed examples in which the readings of the Codex tradition are superior to those of the Florentinus.51 The reading fuerit in CJ 1.17.2.10 may be added to the list.

9. CJ 1.17.2.16 (114.34 K.)

In the last passage from c. Tanta, Justinian concedes that something that should have been included in the Digest might have been overlooked:

Sed et si quid forsitan praetermissum est, quod in tantis milibus quasi in profundo positum latabit, et, cum idoneum fuerat poni, obscuritate involutum necessario derelictum est: quis hoc apprehendere recto animo possit?

48 Δέδωκεν 10: τὴν δὲ τῶν νόμων ἡμετέρων ἡμετέρων ἐποιήσαμεν.
49 Krüger ad loc.: ‘fuerat’ F, fuerit CR, fuit M’; Mommsen ad loc.: ‘fuerit’ S (S in the editio maior indicates cases in which the manuscripts of the Codex Justinianus [i.e. COQT = Krüger’s CRQT] are in agreement).
50 Mommsen, p. xxxxi.
51 Mommsen, p. xxxxii n. 1.
But even if something has been overlooked, which lurks in the depths among so many thousands (of books) and, although it was suitable to include, was inevitably left covered in darkness — who in his right mind could understand (seize?) this?

According to this reading, Justinian asks how any reasonable person can understand (apprehendere; less likely: ‘seize upon’) such an omission. Both Krüger and Mommsen remark in the apparatus ‘reprehendere (dett.)’. In other words, reprehendere is the reading in less important or less reliable manuscripts. Their scepticism of apprehendere is justified. The word apprehendere is strange here, because the sentence seems to anticipate a verb of blaming, so that the apology immediately after the passage has a point. To illustrate the argument from Justinian’s perspective: how could a reasonable man not understand or not appreciate that in so large a compilation as the Digest something might have been overlooked? What is interesting is that the reading apprehendere appears to be original, which is precisely why it is retained by Krüger and Mommsen. It appears uniformly both in the Florentinus and in the Codex tradition. It is possible that a non has fallen out of the text, which would give the translation, ‘Who in his right mind could not understand this?’ This would preserve the reading apprehendere and give appropriate sense, but I am hesitant to adopt it. The kind of understanding expressed by apprehendo is more the result of a process of understanding than the process itself, more a ‘realization’ or ‘appreciation’ (or indeed a ‘grasping’) than simply ‘understanding’. The qualification recto animo seems better suited to express incredulity at the audacity of potential critics rather than the obtuseness of those who fail to appreciate that mistakes inevitably are made in a massive undertaking.

Unless one assumes an unlikely error by the drafter of the constitution, the most plausible explanation for this strange locution is that it entered the tradition as a mistake made in the very first copies. As Krüger indicates, the codices deteriores read reprehendere; I incline to think they are right. For the translation, I propose to read:

… quis hoc reprehendere recto animo possit?

… who in his right mind could fault this?

10. CJ 1.23.7 PR. (123.20 K.)

This constitution exhibits confusion of quae and quaevis and the coordinating conjunctions vel ... vel:

52 TLL 2.307 (Klotz) s.v. apprehendo includes the passage under the definition ‘attraho, adsumo in oratione vel sim.’, but such an interpretation hardly emerges from the context.

53 Mommsen ad loc.: ‘reprehendere (edd.)?’

54 C. 1.17.2.16: primo quidem propter ingenii mortalis exiguitatem: deinde propter ipsius rei vitium, quod multis inutilibus permixtum nullam sui ad eruendum praebuit copiam: deinde quod multo utilius est paucis idonea effugere, quam multis inutilibus homines praegravari.

55 Suggested by Simon Corcoran in personal correspondence.

56 This shade of meaning is why TLL 2.307 (Klotz) s.v. apprehendo translates this sense with ‘cognoscere, observare’ but not ‘intellegere’ (given merely as a synonym).

57 T. Honoré, Tribonian (London, 1978), 113–14 attributes c. Tanta to Tribonian even though he had not yet become Justinian’s Quaestor. On Tribonian as Justinian’s Quaestor sacri palatii and his part in compiling the Digest, as well as attendant scholarly controversy, see T. Honoré, Justinian’s Digest: Character and Compilation (Oxford, 2010).
Vniversa rescripta, sive in personam precantium sive ad quemlibet iudicem manaverint, *quae vel adnotatio vel quaevis*\(^{58}\) pragmatica sanctio nominetur, sub ea condizione proferri praepiciímus, si preces veritate nituntur, nec aliquem fructum precator oraculo percipiat impletri, licet in iudicio adserat veritatem, nisi quaestio fidei precum imperiali beneficio monstretur inserta.

We order that all rescripts, whether they issue out to petitioners or to some judge, which is named *either* an annotation *or any* pragmatic sanction, shall be produced on this condition, that the petition is grounded in truth; nor shall a petitioner reap any benefit from the oracle\(^{59}\) obtained, though he alleges the truth in court, unless an inquiry into the veracity of the petition is shown inserted in the imperial indulgence.

The legislator apparently intends to regulate all rescripts, including *adnotationes* and *pragmaticae sanctiones*\(^{60}\). The wording is none the less strange. He begins with *universa rescripta* (*all rescripts*), but then specifies one rescript that is called either an *adnotatio* or *any* (*quaevis*) *pragmatica sanctio*. If the emperor intended to regulate only *universae adnotationes* or *pragmaticae sanctiones*, the scope of the constitution would be reduced significantly, since *adnotationes* and *pragmaticae sanctiones* were only two kinds of rescripts among several.\(^{61}\) But the purpose of the relative clause is not to limit the scope of the constitution to *adnotationes* and *pragmaticae sanctiones*, but rather to subject those forms explicitly to the enactment. It is one of the peculiarities of the late antique legislative style that universal declarations are reinforced with particulars, so as to emphasize and clarify what has already been established. Thus here the two rough categories of rescripts first are summarized: both those that are issued to private petitioners (*in personam precantium*) and those that are dispatched to public officials (especially provincial governors: *ad quemlibet iudicem*) on inquiry. To these, *adnotationes* and *pragmaticae sanctiones* should be added, which are valid only in connection with a single case. The relative pronoun *quaes* is not neuter plural referring to *universa rescripta*, but feminine singular in agreement with the nearest substantive, *adnotatio*; the singular verb nominetur similarly agrees in number with its neighbour, *pragmatica sanctio*. The draftsman apparently chose a relative clause to avoid repeating the *sive construction* that he had used in the first half of the sentence.

The reading *quaevis* is more difficult. Although Krüger decided in favour of one of the attested variants, he was sufficiently sceptical to mention in the apparatus that Mommsen had proposed to read *quaevae adnotatio quaevae pragmatica*. Mommsen’s instinct to emend the text is understandable. The unevenness of the phrases *quaes vel* and *vel quaevis* is itself suspicious. Numerous passages in the Codex Justinianus show how the terms *adnotatio* and *pragmatica sanctio* are often discussed specifically together or, as here, with *rescripta* in general.\(^{62}\) It is thus legitimate to expect the

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\(^{58}\) Krüger ad loc.: *‘quaevis’* \(W^b\), quae ius C, quamvis RM.

\(^{59}\) I.e. an imperial rescript.

\(^{60}\) In this sense, see e.g. M. Kaser and K. Hackl, *Der römische Zivilprozessrecht* (Munich, 1996), §98 IV, p. 636 n. 35.

\(^{61}\) See briefly Kaser and Hackl (n. 60), §98 II, p. 634 with nn. 11–12; see further R. Mathisen, *‘Adnotatio and petitio: the emperor’s favor and special exceptions in the early Byzantine Empire’*, in D. Feissel and J. Gascou (edd.), *La pétition à Byzance: Table ronde, XXe congrès international des études byzantines, 19–25 août 2001*. Centre de Recherche d’Histoire et Civilisation de Byzance Monographies 14 (Paris, 2004), 23–32.

\(^{62}\) *CJ* 1.2.10 (= 11.4.2): *nec si caeleste contra proferatur oraculum, sive adnotatio sit sive divina pragmatica; 1.2.2.6:* nullum rescriptum, nullam pragmaticam sanctionem, nullum sacram adnotationem; 4.59.2: vel sacrum iam eliciit aut in posterum eliciendo rescripto aut pragmatica sanctione vel sacrar nostrae pietatis adnotatione; 4.61.12: vel pragmaticis sacris vel adnotationibus fuerit elicium; 10.12.2.2: nec pragmatica iussione vel sacra adnotatione vel quolibet oraculo divino suo mandatis;
disturbed passage in *CJ* 1.23.7 to correspond roughly to passages in which rescripts are first discussed generally and then both *adnotationes* and *pragmaticae sanctiones* are specified. *CJ* 1.2.10 (= 11.4.2) is the most similar passage to compare: *nec si caeleste contra proferatur oraculum, sive adnotatio sit sive divina pragmatica*, whereby the ‘heavenly oracle’ mentioned is none other than the sacred words of the emperor, a private rescript. In all comparable passages, repetition of the conjunctions *vel* and *sive* or *seu* is frequent; *quaeve*, on the other hand, appears in the *Codex Justinianus* only in the combination *qui quaeve* (‘who, man or woman’),63 and *quaevis* appears in the *Codex Justinianus* only in *CJ* 1.23.7 pr. Hence Mommsen’s attempt to tie *rescripta, adnotatione* and *pragmatica sanctio* together as three parts by means of -ve seems improbable, although he succeeds in making something intelligible of the manuscript readings *quaevel* and *vel quaevis* (or rather *quaesius* or *quamvis*). A different solution would be to assume that *quaevis* (or *quamvis* or *quaesius*) results from duplication of the first words of the phrase *quaevel*. The confused manuscript tradition may have arisen as various attempts were made to integrate the superfluous words intelligibly into the sentence.64

Proposed text:

Vniversa rescripta, sive in personam precantium sive ad quemlibet iudicem manaverint, quae vel adnotatio vel pragmatica sanctio nominetur, sub ea condicione proferri praecipimus ...

We order that all rescripts, whether they issue out to petitioners or to some judge, whether named either an annotation or a pragmatic sanction, shall be produced on this condition ...

11. *CJ* 1.26.265 (125.6 K.)

This brief constitution may be cited in full:


*The same Augustus to Restitutus. It is reasonable that a ruling (*forma*) given by the Praetorian Prefect, and if (etsi: even if?) it is general, not at variance with the laws or constitutions, should be observed if no innovation has been made subsequently by My authority. Given August 13, in the consulship of Severus and Quintianus (235).*

The reading *et si* first appears in the stereotype edition of the *Codex Justinianus*. In the *editio maior*, one still reads *etsi*. In both cases, though, the meaning remains mysterious. The *forma* of the praetorian prefect should be understood as a verdict or decision,

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63 *CJ* 6.61.4 pr. and 1, 7.4.6, 11.7.7, and *quisquam quaevae* once (*CJ* 10.12.2 pr.).
64 E.g. *quaevel adnotatio vel pragmatica > quaevel adnotatio vel quaevel pragmatica > quaevel adnotatio vel quaevis* (or *quaesius* or *quamvis*) pragmatica.
65 On this controversial constitution, see F. Arcaria, ‘Sul potere normativo del prefetto del pretorio’, *SDHI* 63 (1997), 301–41.
probably in the form of a document. Apparently, the constitution revolves around the question to what extent such a decision may be cited as a precedent. If the reading should really be *et si*, not *etsi*, then one might have expected a corresponding *et si* before the words *nihil postea*, creating a ‘both–and’ construction: ‘both if it is *generalis*, <and> if no innovation has been made subsequently by My authority’, the *forma* of the prefect remains valid. Alternatively, if one interprets the reading as *etsi* (‘*even if*’), a negation would be expected, since a decision that may be qualified with adjective *generalis* should be suited to serve as a precedent. In that case, one would expect *etsi* <non> *generalis sit*. One last solution, and probably the simplest, is offered by isolated witnesses that omit the first *et*.

Formam a praefecto praetorio datam, si *generalis sit*, minime legibus vel constitutionibus contrarium, si nihil postea ex auctoritate mea innovatum est, servari aequum est.

It is reasonable that a ruling (*forma*) given by the Praetorian Prefect, if it is general, not at variance with the laws or constitutions, should be observed if no innovation has been made subsequently by My authority.

Or should one conversely place *et* before the words *si nihil*, ‘If it is *generalis* ... and if nothing has been decreed ... ’ etc.?

It may remain an open question which of the alternatives – *et si* ... *et si*, *etsi* <non>, *si* ... *si or si* ... *et si* – should be given preference, but they all are better than the reading printed in the standard edition. The Greek version of the constitution in the *Basilika*, however, the massive late ninth-century compendium of law compiled under Leo VI the Wise, might support the reading *si generalis sit*. The Greek version reads,69

κρατείτωσαν οἱ ἑπάρχον τύποι γενικοὶ ὄντες.

The general edicts of the Praetorian Prefects shall be valid.

The force of *γενικοὶ ὄντες* is essentially the same as *si generalis sit*. Only the Vatican codex among the chief witnesses agrees – but that may perhaps tip the scales.

Proposed text:

Formam a praefecto praetorio datam, si *generalis sit* ...

... a ruling (*forma*) given by the Praetorian Prefect, if it is general ...

12. *CJ* 1.27.2.1 (131.26 K.)

In a forthcoming article on the Würzburg fragment of the *Codex Justinianus*, Simon Corcoran proposes a very attractive emendation. We presently read,

67 Krüger ad loc.: ‘*etsi* CRM², et M², si *W cum B*’.  
68 On the *Basilika*, see Lokin and van der Wal (n. 10), 81–87.  
69 *Basilika* 6.4.7.  
70 Krüger ad loc.  
71 Corcoran (n. 9 [forthcoming]).
et armatas militias et duces militum ordinare disponimus.

We have resolved to organize both the armed forces and leaders of the soldiers.

The armies in question are those that should protect the newly recovered provinces of Africa. The expression ‘leaders of the soldiers’ is surprisingly simplistic, more at home in an elementary Latin textbook than in Justinianic law. Corcoran is undoubtedly right to see here (commenting on fol. 1r) a mistake for duces limitum (‘frontier commanders’), whom Justinian immediately begins to discuss: ‘We therefore decree that the dux limitis of the province of Tripolitana shall have his seat presently in the city of Leptis Magna’ (§1a). Corcoran notes that all the manuscripts, including the Würzburg fragment, read militum. The most likely explanation of the error is simple transposition of the $l$ and $m$.

Proposed text:

et armatas militias et duces limitum ordinare disponimus.

We have resolved to organize both the armed forces and frontier commanders.

13. CJ 1.27.2.18 (134.20 K.)

Among the affairs that the reconquest of Africa brought with it, the salaries of the new provincial administration needed to be regulated. The salary of the dux and his staff should be met by local taxes. The amounts for the various officials are given in an appended list (§§19–34). The most diverse expressions are dredged up to express what the list shows, establishes or contains with appropriate variatio: §17: ... quantum subter adnexa declarat notitia (‘the amount that the schedule appended below shows’); §17a: ... in subdita notitia taxatum est (‘has been defined in the appended schedule’); ibid.: ... quorum nomina in subiecta notitia continentur (‘whose names are listed in the appended schedule’). Finally we meet an unusual use of the verb detinet:

Ad haec iubemus, ut deo iuvante unusquisque dux seu eorum officia, secundum quod notitia subter adnexa detinet, emolumenta sua ex tributis Africanae provinciae ex kalendis Septembris instantis felicissimae tertiae decimae indictionis percipiant.

In addition, We order that, with the help of God, each commander or his staff shall, according to the amount that the schedule attached below ‘detains’, receive their perquisites from the tribute of the province of Africa from September 1st of the coming, most prosperous thirteenth indication.

The officials should receive the salaries that are listed in the notitia. But can detinet mean approximately the same thing as continet? Unfortunately not, which the variant continet mentioned by Krüger in the apparatus also shows. One might write the usage off as a mistake by the author of the constitution. There is an alternative, however, that comes quite close to the expression with taxare used just before our passage:

72 Kaser and Hackl (n. 60), §83 III, pp. 551–3, give a brief overview.
namely, *destinare*. By adding an *s*, one could read: *secundum quod notitia subter adnexa destinet*, i.e. the *duces* and their staffs receive the salary that the *notitia* (mildly personified) ‘assigns’ or ‘establishes’ for them. Justinian uses this word in a similar sense elsewhere.

Proposed text:

... unususque dux seu eorum officia, secundum quod notitia subter adnexa destinet, emolumenta sua ... percipiant.

... each commander or his staff shall, according to the amount defined in the schedule attached below, receive their perquisites ...

14. *CJ* 1.34.2 (143.25–6 K.)

The following passage has been restored from *Basilika* 6.1.103 and represents an abridgement of Justinian’s original constitution. We read in Krüger’s edition:

’Ο αὐτός βασιλεὺς. Φορνιζέτωσαν οἱ τῶν ἐπαρχιῶν ἀρχοντες καὶ οἱ τοῦτον τάξεις οἰκείω κινδύνῳ μιθεύμον τὰ τῆς ἱδικῆς κτήσεως κτήματα βλάβην ὑφίστασθαι ἢ τὴν ἐξ αὐτῶν μειοῦσθαι πρόσωδον ἢ ἐμπαιζέσθαι. ἔξέστω δὲ τῷ κόμητὶ τῆς ἱδικῆς κτήσεως καὶ προστιμάν ἑυτοῖς καὶ μετά τὴν ἀρχήν τὴν γενομένην ἀνασώσατα βλάβην, ἀλλὰ μιθεύμαν δεχέσθουσαν ἀπόρων ἢ ὀμοκήσουν ἐπιβολὴν.

*The same Emperor.* The provincial governors and their official staffs shall, at their own peril, see to it that the property of the Imperial Patrimony suffers no loss, diminution of its revenue, or fraud. The Count of the Imperial Patrimony shall have the power to fine them and after (his?) term of office to make good the loss, and they shall not accept any addition (ἐπιβολῆ) of unproductive or collectively assessed land.

To prevent provincial governors from diminishing imperial property, the *comes sacri patrimonii* is entitled both to inflict fines on them (καὶ προστιμάν αὐτοίς) and to do some other thing to them for which a verb is lacking. As the text presently stands, the *comes* is strangely described as ‘having the power’ to make good (i.e. at his expense) any loss caused by the governors after his (or rather their?) time in office. A supplement such as e.g. καὶ προστιμάν αὐτοίς καὶ <ἀναγκάζειν> ... ἀνασώσατα κτλ. would make the governors, not the *comes*, subject of the second infinitive ἀνασώσατα. Then the governor who caused the loss would have to make it up, and the administrator of the property affected (the *comes patrimonii*) would see to it that he did so. As with other Greek texts restored from later collections, a conservative editor may well prefer to let the text

74 For this sense, see *TLL* 5.1.756.50–757.17 s.v. *destino* (destinare aliquid alciui).
75 *CJ* 5.17.11.2a: ... *quam [sc. partem] et viris et mulieribus ex hac lege destinavimus*. Cf. also *CJ* 9.19.1 (Gordian): *res religioni destinatas*; and *CJ* 10.65.2.1 (Valerian and Gallienus): *si honorariis advocatorum erat ea quantitas destinata.*
76 The Latin translation in the stereotype edition mistakenly renders ἐπιβολῆ as *praetextus* and ὀμοκήσουσαν as *eiudem generis*. The ἐπιβολῆ was a kind of superindiction by which the owners of productive land were assigned unproductive or abandoned land and forced to pay its tax burden; cf. the usage in *Nov.* 128.7–8 (where the curious hybrid word ὀμοκήσουσαν, i.e. *contributarius* likewise appears). On the ἐπιβολῆ, see J. Karayannopoulos, ‘Die kollektive Steuerverantwortung in der frühbyzantinischen Zeit’, *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* 43 (1956), 289–322; id., *Das Finanzwesen des frühbyzantinischen Staates* (Munich, 1958), 237–59.
77 Cf. Krüger ad loc., line 15.
stand: other than the contents, there is no indication of how the missing infinitive could have been lost, and we are not dealing with the original text of the Codex. I incline to think that the reading in the Basilika is the result of careless editing. The subject of the next sentence, ἀλλὰ μηδεμίαν δεχέσθωσαν ἀπόρων ἢ ὀμοκήνσων ἐπιβολήν, appears to be the governors again, who were commanded in a similar third-person imperative (φροντιζέτωσαν) above.

Proposed text:

ἐξέστω δὲ τῷ κόμητι τῆς ἱδικῆς κτήσεως καὶ προστιμῶν αὐτοῖς καὶ <ἀναγκάζειν> μετὰ τὴν ἁρχὴν τὴν γενομένην ἀνασώσασθαι βλάβην, ἀλλὰ μηδεμίαν δεχέσθωσαν ἀπόρων ἢ ὀμοκήνσων ἐπιβολήν.

The Count of the Imperial Patrimony shall have the power to fine them and after (their) term of office <force them> to make good the loss, and they shall accept any addition (ἐπιβολή) of unproductive or collectively assessed land.

15. CJ 1.49.1.2 (153.28 K.)

In this final passage, the punctuation again seems in need of correction. Krüger prints the text as follows:

Nec ullam ante praefinitum tempus de provincia discedendi excusationem ei tribuat vel divina revocatoria vel codicilli alterius administrationis oblati vel praeceptum amplissimae tuae sedis, ut alterius provinciae moderatris vices obtineat, aut praeceptum praefatae vel alterius civilis seu militaris cuiuscumque potestatis, ut quacumque sollicitudinem publicam gerat aut exhibeatur vel deducatur, aut postremum cuuislibet artis astutia, cuiuscumque occasionis excogitata calliditas excludatur, ut modis omnibus, quae pro universarum provinciarum salute sancimus, sortiantur effectum.

Nor may any divine letter of recall or codicils conferred on him for another office or an order from your Most Exalted Prefecture grant him any excuse for leaving the province before the appointed time, so that he might take the place of the governor of another province; nor an order of the aforesaid prefecture or another civil or military official, that he undertake some public charge or be summoned or brought elsewhere; nor, lastly, any clever scheme, any cunning devised to provide any reason whatsoever shall be eliminated, so that what We decree on behalf of the safety of all provincials shall in every way be carried into full effect.

All possible ways a governor could illicitly obtain leave from his province are forbidden. First documents originating at the imperial court (divina revocatoria and codicelli) are invalidated or banned; next a command from the praetorian prefect (praeceptum amplissimae tuae sedis) that he administer another province; third, a command from the prefect or even another official (vel alterius civilis seu militaris cuiuscumque potestatis) that the governor be given some other task, summoned or transferred out of the province; and last (postremum: that is, ‘in conclusion’), all artificial excuses (cuuislibet artis astutia) are forbidden. A similar phrase follows – cuiuscumque occasionis excogitata calliditas excludatur – but the thought is new: the phrase qualified with postremum should really be the last item of a series. Thus cuuislibet artis astutia numbers as the last of the things that present a governor an excuse to leave his province (Nec ... discedendi excusationem et tribuat). In this final sentence, Justinian pauses to summarize the foregoing: every cleverly conceived excuse shall be excluded so that the decision of the emperor has the desired result.
CONCLUSION

It is useful to remember the serious obstacles that the text of the *Codex Justinianus* presents to potential editors and translators. Conceived as a bilingual text, the *Codex Justinianus* survives in separate, virtually monolingual, traditions, Latin and Greek. The text restored in modern editions is necessarily a patchwork derived from both, to say nothing about the remains of complete manuscripts.\(^7^8\) Certainty about lost Greek texts, in particular, is often impossible. Both traditions are subject to the usual vagaries of textual transmission, but the extant witnesses often give no decisive, obvious answer, and in some cases it remains unclear whether a strange reading is original to the text or introduced by scribes. The language of the laws only exacerbates these problems: the imperial constitutions of the Later Roman Empire are not only legal documents that demand careful reading and interpretation, but also consciously rhetorical formulations intended to impress and persuade us. It is hoped that this article may raise awareness of the complexity of the text of the *Codex Justinianus*; such awareness is particularly necessary at the moment when the *Codex Justinianus* will be made widely available in reliable English translation. One should never grow too comfortable with a familiar edition or translation.

To conclude this small contribution to the textual criticism of the *Codex Justinianus*, the following emendations or supplements may be presented in a table:

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<td>1.2.17.2</td>
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<td>εἴσω ἐνὸς ἑνιαυτοῦ μόνον τοῦτο ποιεῖν</td>
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\(^7^8\) See the contributions by Corcoran in n. 9 above.
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<th>... flagrante crimine comprehensi, a parentibus ... convicti, interficiantur.</th>
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<td>ἢ τῇ βουλῇ τῆς πόλεως ἢ τῇ τάξει τούτον παραδοθήναι παρασκευάσαιεν</td>
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<td>1.12.6.9</td>
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<td>statim a religiosis oeconomis sive defensoribus, ubi primum hoc scire potuerint, &lt;nuntientur, ut&gt; per eos videlicet ad quos pertinent ... revertantur</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.17.2.9</td>
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<td>omnes autem suae virtutis testimonium undique accipientes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.17.2.10</td>
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<td>quidquid legum veritati decorum et necessarium fuerit, hoc nostris emendationibus servavimus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>quis hoc reprehendere recto animo possit?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.23.7 pr.</td>
<td>123/20</td>
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<td>Universa rescripta ..., quae vel adnotatio vel pragmaetica sanctio nominetur, sub ea condicione proferri praeципimus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.26.2</td>
<td>125/6</td>
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<td>Formam a praefecto praetorio datam, si generalis sit, minime legibus vel</td>
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<td>constitutionibus contrariam</td>
<td>constitutionibus contrariam</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.27.2.1</strong></td>
<td>131/26 et armatas militias et duces militum ordinare disponimus.</td>
<td>131/26 et armatas militias et duces limitum ordinare disponimus.</td>
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<td><strong>1.27.2.18</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1.34.2</strong></td>
<td>143/25–6 ἐξέστω δὲ τῷ κόμητι ... καὶ προστιμάν αὐτοῖς καὶ μετὰ τὴν ἀρχὴν τὴν γενομένην ἀνασώσαι βλάβην</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.49.1.2</strong></td>
<td>153/28 aut postremum cuiuslibet artis astutia, cuiuscumque occasionis excogitata calliditas excludatur ...</td>
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*University of California, Berkeley*

JOHN NOËL DILLON

john.noel.dillon@gmail.com