

Papyrus sources deserve special attention among the data regarding grain prices in the 3rd century because they give few credible values¹⁰. If it is to be assumed, according to R. Duncan-Jones¹¹, that *modius castrensis* equals 1 1/2 of Italian modius, then the price of 1 modius of grain in the edict amounts to about 66,6 denarii whereas the papyri state the following: 1/31, 1/34 and 1/48 solidus, while *Vita Pachomii* states 1/43 solidus¹². Only the document from the year 338 from Oxyrhynchus includes the price of 1/18 solidus which is close to the level of prices from the edict, as the cost of 1 modius of grain is equal to 1/20 solidus, which comes from the theological Hebrew treaty from the late 4th century¹³. In light of these data, the price of 1/30 solidus, or about 0,15 g of gold quoted in the Ammianus Marcellinus work from the middle of the 4th century, is to be recognized as representative¹⁴.

¹⁰ On the subject of grain prices see L.C. West, A.Ch. Johnson, *Byzantine Egypt: Economic Studies*, Princeton 1949, p. 176–178; L. Ruggini, *Economia e società nell' „Italia annonaria”, Rapporti fra agricoltura e commercio del IV al VI secolo i.C.*, Milano 1961, p. 380 f.; Szilagyi, *o.c.* p. 337; A.H.M. Jones, *The Later Roman Empire. 284–602*, I, Oxford 1964, p. 445 f.; D. Sperber, *Costs of Living in Roman Palestine*, JESHO VIII 1965, p. 251–253, 258, 270 f.; IX 1966, p. 183, 193; Balil, *o.c.* p. 51, 55 f.; Mrozek, *Preisverhältnisse*, p. 24. See also Mickwitz, *Goldwertindex*, p. 99; P. de Jonge, *A Curious place in Ammianus Marcellinus Dealing with the Scarcity of Corn and Cornprices*, Mnemosyne I 1948, p. 73 f.; S. Mazzarino, *Aspetti sociali del quarto secolo. Ricerche di storia tardoromana*, Roma 1951, p. 408–410; A. Chastagnol, *La préfecture urbaine à Rome sous le Bas Empire*, Paris 1960, p. 212; J. Liebeschuetz, *Money Economy and Taxation in Kind in the Fourth Century*, Rhein. Mus. CIV 1961, p. 242; A. Piganiol, *L'Empire chrétien (325–395)*, Paris 1972, p. 328, note 5. Because of lack of representative features the following prices were omitted: 40 myriades per artabe (P. Lond. 1886); 1/5, 1/10 and 1/15 solidus per modius (Julian Misopog. 369 A); 1/10 sol. (Ammian. Marc. XXVIII 18); 1/8 sol. (Y. Baba Kama 9,4); 1/12 sol. (*Suid. Lex.* I s.v.); 1/10 sol. Cass. *Var.* XII 27,28); 2 500 drachms attic. per metron (Euseb. *Hist. eccl.* IX 8,4); 1/10 sol. per modius (Ammian. Marc. XX 8,15); 7 sol. per medimnos (Procop. *de bell. goth.* III 17); 6 sol. per modius (Anon. Vales. XI 50); from 1 to 4 denarii per modius (Persachin 32 A); 50 den. per modius (Harv. St. Li. 312); 3 000 den. per modius (PER. E. 2000); 900 den. (SB 7621), 1/4 den. (Baba Mezia 65 A); 50 T. per artabe (P. Princeton 188); 1/4, 1/12 and 1/6 sol. per modius (Josh. Chron).

¹¹ See R. Duncan-Jones, *The Size of the Modius Castrensis*, ZPE XXI 1976, p. 35 f. Likewise Ruggini, *o.c.* p. 368; J-P. Callu, *La politique monétaire des Empereurs romains de 238 à 311*, Paris 1969, p. 396; R. Mac Mullen, *Diocletian's Edict and the Castrensis Modius*, Aegyptus XLI 1961. Otherwise J. Jahn, ZPE XXXVIII 1980, p. 223 f.

¹² *Ed. diocl.* 1,1a, 1,2; P. Lond 1914; P. Princeton 188; SPP XX 81; *Vita Pachomii* 33–34.

¹³ P.O. 85; Y. Baba Kama 9,4.

¹⁴ Ammian. Marc. XXVIII 18. Compare F.M. Heichelheim, *An Ancient Economic History*, III, Leiden 1958–1970, p. 291; Ruggini, *o.c.* p. 385.