This brief chapter stresses the difference between the revolutionary possibilities of applying Information Technology to the Greek and Roman epigraphic record and its limited effects to date. It traces the reasons partly to scholarly attitudes, partly to the lack of a list of prioritised objectives, partly to divergences in the very concepts of ‘inscription’ and of ‘data-base’ and partly to a lack of unity and collaboration.

Response to Alan Bowman

Roger Bagnall

This chapter suggests ways in which we can utilize models to quantify agricultural economic activity in Egypt and, on the basis of the available documentation, including tax records, to build up a detailed picture of the distribution and productivity of villages landholdings in particular areas and the level of urbanization.

The Council of Chalcedon by Michael Whitby

G. E. M. De Ste. Croix

This chapter discusses the Council of Chalcedon and its implications for the development of orthodoxy in the early Christian Church.
Ste. Croix continued his challenge to traditional views about the history of the early Church through an exhaustive study of the Council of Chalcedon, which Emperor Marcian summoned in 451 in an attempt to resolve disputes about how the divine and human elements combined in the single person of Christ. His investigation revealed that proceedings were kept under close imperial control, which was implemented through the presiding officer, the general Anatolius. Far from being a neutral referee, Anatolius emerges as a significant correspondent of Bishop Theodoret, one of the key individuals at Chalcedon where he was reinstated in spite of doubts about his doctrinal views. Church Councils are revealed to have been particularly unruly events, with the attending bishops repeatedly shouting down their opponents, the detailed records being subject to manipulation, and violence or intimidation never far away.