

- 565** *ardua membra*: Pallad. *Ins.* 161 (closer verbally than Stat. *Theb.* 6.836f.).
570 *captivum ... trahit*: cf. Drac. *Romul.* 5.163, 10.58.
581 *post crimina*: Barcelona *Alcestis* 10, Mar. Victor. *Aleth.* 1.467, Drac. *Laud.* 2.581, 2.669.
588 *corrui ante pedes*: Sedul. *Carm.* 3.107, Ven. Fort. *Mart.* 3.350.
589 *magnanimi iuvenis*: Drac. *Romul.* 9.181.
595 *acer equus*: Drac. *Romul.* 7.80.
596 *in terga redire*: cf. 5.278.

R. often ends more detailed notes with a brief *Fazit*, so I will follow suit. This is an outstandingly intelligent, thorough and well informed (if sometimes prickly) commentary. R. has served his readers — and “Gorippus” — well.

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Andrew Erskine (ed.), *A Companion to Ancient History: Blackwell's Companions to the Ancient World*. Chichester: Blackwell Publishing, 2009. xxxiv + 693 pp. including 5 maps and 27 black-and-white illustrations. ISBN: 978-1-4051-3150-6.

For those whose academic field is ancient history and literature, it is hard to imagine a more daring project than publishing a volume such as the one reviewed here. The thick *Companion to Ancient History*, with its varied articles, each written by an expert in the field, proudly meets its initial purpose as described in the Preface, of offering a wide panorama on many aspects of the ancient world. Like other Blackwell companions, this book is not a handy *vade mecum*, and the present reviewer, after trying it himself, does not recommend carrying this 700-page volume, weighing almost one-and-a-half kilos, in a back pack for long travel abroad. And yet, if one is interested in ancient cultures and history (which, it appears, in this Companion consists mainly of ancient Greece and Rome) this is a perfect book for instructive and delightful hours of reading. Constraints of space require that I only mention the 49 articles in the volume, marking with an asterisk, those I personally found most stimulating. Each reader, needless to say, will find in this rich volume his, or her, preferred sections.

The book begins with interesting personal reflections by Ober, Derow, Giarnina, McLynn and Welch, on the study of ancient history ('Personal Perspectives', pp. 1-10). Eight parts follow. Part I, 'Evidence' (pp. 1-77), presents the main channels which lead to the modern construction of ancient history: 'Historiography' (Marincola), 'Epigraphy'* (Rowe), 'Numismatics'* (Meadows), 'Archeology' (Dyson), 'Oratory' (Steel), and 'Ancient Literature' (Whitmarsh). Part II, 'Problems and Approaches' (pp. 87-174), tackles various methodological issues: 'Ancient History Today'* (North), 'Political History' (Morstein-Marx), 'Economic and Social History' (Morley), 'Ethnicity and Culture' (Herring), 'Population and Demography'* (Scheidel), 'Writing Women into History' (Richlin), 'Interpreting Myth' (Dougherty), and 'Environmental History' (Sallares). Part III, 'People and Places' (pp. 177-298), presents brief histories of what are considered the main components of the large mosaic of ancient history: 'The Near East' (Brosius), 'Egypt under the Pharaohs' (Ray), 'The Jews' (Bohak), 'The Greeks' (Harrison), 'Asia Minor' (Thonemann), 'Rome' (Bruun), 'Italy beyond Rome' (Lomas), 'North Africa' (Crawley Quinn), 'The Iberian Peninsula' (Fear), and 'The "Celts" '* (Witt, quotation marks in the original). Part IV, 'Encountering the Divine' (pp. 299-325), deals briefly with changes in religious beliefs and spiritual systems in the ancient world: 'Religion' (Humphries), and 'The Emergence of Christianity' (Curran). Part V, 'Living and Dying' (pp. 327-425), opens a wider vista on social life in the ancient world: 'The Family' (Harlow and Parkin), 'Food'* (Wilkins), 'Eros: Love and Sexuality' (Davidson), 'Housing' (Nevett), 'Entertainment' (Potter), 'Education' (König), 'Medicine'* (King), and 'Death'* (Noy). Part VI, 'Economy' (pp. 429-495): 'The Mediterranean

and the History of Antiquity' (Hitcher), 'Ancient Economics' (Davies), 'Labor: Free and Unfree' (Fibiger Bang), 'The Countryside' (Witcher), 'Finance and Resources: Public, Private, and Personal' (Millett), and 'Ancient Technology'* (Rihll). Part VII, 'Politics and Power' (pp. 499-541): 'Structures' (Beck), 'Citizenship' (Lintott), 'Law' (Meyer), and 'Warfare' (Rawlings). Part VIII, 'Repercussions' (pp. 545-579), collects echoes of different ideas prevailing in the ancient world, as found in later periods, even in modern times: 'The Impact of Antiquity' (McKitterick), 'Ancient History and National Identity' (Erskine), and 'Hollywood's Ancient World'* (Llewellyn-Jones). The book ends with 73 pages of bibliography (pp. 580-653) which could comprise a small book in itself, and a detailed index of names, places, and concepts (pp. 654-693) — including, e.g., "Amenophes III", "locusts in Africa", "social mobility", and "Karl Marx".

As can be seen, the list of contributions to this volume is most impressive. Yet this begs the question of the potential readership of this Companion. On the one hand, it is perhaps too specific a book for the interested layman, while specialized scholars, on the other hand, will probably not find it necessary for their work. The book meets the needs of advanced students, or better, of the *teachers* of such students, who wish to introduce them to a specific field within the world of ancient history, and thus deserves a place in university libraries. The bibliography appended at the end of each article ('Further Reading') alone is most valuable.

As an Assyriologist, working on Akkadian cuneiform (literary and epistolary) texts, I was surprised to discover that the two main cultures of the Ancient World were Greece and Rome. The two articles that focus on "neighboring" cultures ('The Near East' by M. Brosius and 'Egypt under the Pharaohs' by J. Ray) serve only to reinforce the editor's decision regarding the geographical, temporal, and linguistic-cultural framework of what is titled "Ancient History".

Yet, however unsatisfactory the definition of Ancient History may be (seen from the angle of an Assyriologist, an Egyptologist, or an Iranologist), the appearance of this well-edited, wide-ranging and most interesting volume is a felicitous event, proving that under the reign of Wikipedia there is still need to replace the dethroned Pauly-Wissowa with general studies of the highest quality. Assyriologists, Egyptologists, and Iranologists will certainly find much useful material here for them as well.

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