
This two-volume set is another asset in the formidable series of the *Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World*. Within the confined space of a review it is, unfortunately, virtually impossible to enter upon the various chapters of such a vast offer of contributions, 57 in all, brought together in the five parts constituting these volumes. Consequently, I shall not be able to mention all 56 contributors, for which omission I apologize. The fact that I do not mention a specific contributor, however, does not mean that I value his or her contribution less than the ones I do mention: generally speaking all contributions are of outstanding quality, though some slightly suffer from the fact that they were originally written in another language than English.

Apart from the usual parts, the preliminary pages contain a useful enumeration of ancient authors and their abbreviations used in these volumes as well as the listing of their most important work(s) (pp. xxiv-xxxvi) and a rather succinct list of reference works and their abbreviations (pp. xxxvii-xli): a remarkable miss I found the lacking of *L’Année philologique* and *Gnomon*, two of the invaluable tools for those engaged in the study of classical historiography. Equally missing are the various sites on the internet that are more or less entirely focused on classical studies.

This ‘Companion’ covers the (study of) the records of the past created in the 800 odd years between the mid fifth century BCE and the late fourth century CE, from Herodotus to Ammianus Marcellinus. In that period thousands of authors have written their historical accounts, be it one on a distant period or one of their own times, of their own city, region, or country or of another country. Only a relatively small portion of that treasure-trove of information has, more or less complete and in various forms, survived until our times. Unnecessary to say methods and goals of these ancient authors show a wide variety. However, also ‘modern’ approach of these main sources for our knowledge of the past shows a distinct variety: while some are interested in the question of trustworthiness, others focus on mentality—to mention only some topics. In the Introduction (pp. 1-9) John Marincola offers a bird’s view of these developments.

Part I, “Contexts” (pp. 11-144), is devoted to “the larger issues involved in the study of the Greek and Roman historians, and seeks to situate classical historiography in the contexts of the societies that produced them and the generic traditions that developed over many centuries” (Marincola, p. xx). Its ten chapters generally succeed very well in conveying the message, starting with a fitting study on “The Place of History in the Ancient World” by Roberto Nicolai (pp. 13-26). In this first part I was very much thrilled by the contributions of P.J. Rhodes,
“Documents and the Greek Historians” (pp. 56-66), in spite of its unusual end (compared with other contributions: no conclusion, no guide for further reading), Suzanne Said, “Myth and Historiography” (pp. 76-88), and John Marincola, “Speeches in Classical Historiography” (pp. 118-32), the latter especially with regard to the evolving discipline of narratology in classical studies. Though the very subject (in: “Readers and Reception: A Text Case”, pp. 133-44) does merit attention of all interested in the classical world, I found this chapter, written by A.J. Woodman, close to an *oratio pro domo* and perhaps even a little elitist. As much as I applaud his central issue—if I grasped it correctly—that reading classical texts in the original language is necessary to fully understand them, I would on the other hand not discard the importance of making the classical world accessible by means of translations for those not fortunate enough to have had the privilege of a classical education.

Part II, “Surveys” (pp. 145-313), consisting of fifteen chapters, I consider to be the true heart of this edition. It offers what it is supposed to offer: a broad survey of the major genres constituting Greek and Roman historical writing. Especially worth while I found the chapters discussing inter-cultural relations. Outstanding examples are “The Greek Historians of Persia” (Dominique Lenfant, pp. 200-9), “Greek Historians of the Near East: Clio’s ‘Other’ Sons” (John Dillery, pp. 221-30), “The Jewish Appropriation of Hellenistic Historiography” (Gregory E. Sterling, pp. 231-43), and “The Greek Historians of Rome” (Christopher Pelling, pp. 244-58). Other important chapters I found “Continuous Histories (*Hellenica*)” (Christopher Tuplin, pp. 159-70), “Universal History from Ephorus to Dio-dorus” (John Marincola, pp. 171-79), and “The Emperor and his Historians” (John Matthews, pp. 290-304). Though on the one hand largely fitting in this chapter, I nevertheless found the last chapter of this part “The Epitomizing Tradition in Late Antiquity” (Thomas M. Banchich, pp. 305-12) on the other hand slightly out of place. In my opinion this chapter might as well—if not better—have fitted in the last part of this work, Part V, devoted to “Transition”, linking up with this part’s only chapter on “Late Antique Historiography, 250-650 CE” (Brian Croke, pp. 567-81).

I am slightly at loss how to value Part III, “Readings” (pp. 313-480), the first part of volume 2 and made up of 24 chapters. This part is intended to examine “individual episodes or themes while simultaneously trying to draw some larger conclusions about what such analyses tell us of the interests and aims of the writers involved” (Marincola, p. xx). Are the chapters on historiography? Yes, they certainly are, and they invariably are of outstanding level. Are they fit to form part of a ‘Companion’? I am inclined to believe that the answer, though hesitatingly, on this question must be in the negative. In a ‘Companion’ one may, in my opinion, expect the main outlines of the field involved, complemented with guidelines for