**Book Notes**

**Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy (and Some More General Studies)**

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Susanna Braund’s edition of Seneca’s *De Clementia*¹ is both the first full philological edition of the work in English and a full-scale literary and philosophical study of Seneca’s essay. There is a new text and brief *apparatus criticus*; this is (explicitly) indebted to a more intensive recent edition (by E. Malaspina, 2001, 2nd edn. 2004). The translation on facing pages aims to combine clear and readable English with consistency in the rendering of key terms. It seems to me highly effective; like Brad Inwood, in his recent translations of the letters, Braund brings out the sinewy force of Seneca’s prose, while also allowing full visibility to the philosophical underpinnings. A special feature of this book is a very ample introduction (91 pages), covering the full range of historical, literary, political, and philosophical topics relevant to this fascinating text. I found especially illuminating her treatment of the concept of *clementia*, which underlines the close linkage between this virtue and autocracy, and of the delicate manner in which Seneca pitches the work (addressed to Nero) between flattery and didacticism. Also of special interest is her analysis of the way Seneca handles in a broadly Stoic way a positive treatment of what is, in theoretical terms, not a Stoic virtue. The commentary is on a large, even massive, scale (269 pages, compared with 29 pages of text). Braund combines detailed

*¹ Book Notes discuss books on ancient philosophy that are sent to the journal for review.  
exegetical and critical comment with specific illustration of the interpretative perspective offered in the introduction. Though ample and informative, the annotation seemed to me focused and to the point; since this is the first such English edition, this scale of treatment is justified. The book also contains appendices (including a translation of a partly parallel speech on *clementia* in Dio, and an account of the numismatic record of Agrippina and Nero’s rise to power), as well as bibliographies and indices. Taken as a whole, this is a magnificent study of a relatively little known text. Along with other recent books on Seneca, especially by Inwood, it makes the project of getting to grips with Seneca as an author and a philosopher (and a politician) much more achievable.

Galenic studies are very active at present, with a new translation and commentary series in English planned for publication by Cambridge University Press with Philip van der Eijk as general editor. New volumes are also appearing or planned for the Loeb, Budé and the Corpus Medicorum Graecorum series. So the appearance of this *Cambridge Companion to Galen* is extremely welcome. This is an admirable volume – comprehensive, clearly set out and written, with a wealth of thoughtful, informative and up-to-date overviews by leading international scholars. The book both situates Galen and examines the main topics he treats; although the introduction regrets the absence of some chapters expected but not delivered (notably on diagnostic and the pulse), ancient philosophers will find a great deal here that helps them to negotiate the vast (and still largely unknown) regions of Galen’s corpus. Thus we have chapters placing Galen in his larger context: on the man and his work (Hankinson), Galen and his contemporaries (Lloyd), commentary (Flemming), and reception (Nutton). The other chapters are on his methods or recurrent concerns: methodology (Tieleman), logic and language, both very fully covered (Morison), epistemology (Hankinson), psychology (Donini), philosophy of nature (Hankinson), anatomy (Rocca), physiology (Debru), therapeutics (van der Eijk), drugs (Voigt). Although some overlap of content between chapters is inevitable, there is little that is redundant. The only feature I missed was a chronological survey of Galen’s writings (in so far as we can trace this). There are two very useful appendices, on editions and translations of