

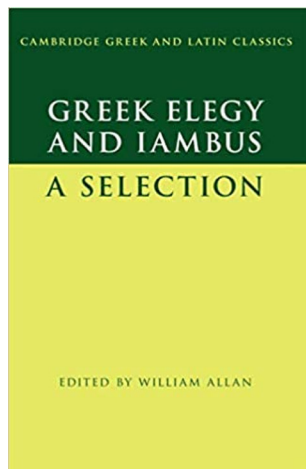
Book Review

Greek Elegy and Iambus. A Selection

Allan (W.) (ed.). Pp. xvi + 254, maps. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

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This Green and Yellow is first rate for a Classicist wanting to start learning about Greek elegy and iambics, but who does not know where to start. A cultural history lacks detail. A Loeb containing everything is a fearsome mountain to climb, especially when the texts lack explanation and analysis. Allan introduces the works of Archilochus, Semonides, Callinus, Tyrtaeus Mimnermus, Solon, Theognis, Xenophanes, Hipponax and Simonides by choosing several of their best and most interesting works. After reading this book,

you do not feel an expert, but far more confident and well-informed. To many of us, these poets are names who occasionally appear in commentaries; it is splendid to be given a working knowledge of them especially as they were so famous and influential.

Most satisfying are the biographies and commentaries. Each poet is introduced and his influence and life considered. The commentaries provide cultural and linguistic detail, allowing someone with a working knowledge of Greek to read and enjoy the poems without a lexicon. Allan has given enough of a thread of language to lead us through the labyrinth. Nonetheless, this is a very scholarly book and highly suitable for top level academic reference. It could, with care, also be used with a strong A Level Greek class. Of particular note would be Archilochus 1 (about war and poetry), 17a (the Telephus myth); 42-3 (obscene poetry); 172-81 (the fox and eagle fable); Semonides 7 (the tirade against women – the commentary could be used for teaching Greek opinions about women); Tyrtaeus 5-7 (Spartan militarism); Mimnermus 2 (brevity of life – N.B. he is the writer of *Smyrneis* mentioned by Callimachus); Solon 4 (the necessity of restraining the wealthy elite – all are useful for teaching *Democracy*); Theognis 53-68 (an aristocratic response to democratic revolution and the nature of homoeroticism); Xenophanes' counter-cultural ideas presented in poetic form in order to reach a wider audience than academic prose – 1 (a self-referential hymn about the symposium), 2 (praise of intellect over athletic prowess), B14 DK (a challenge to the anthropomorphic nature of the gods, a theory

which influenced Plato); Hipponax's street language and choliambics and seduction of a free Greek woman (13-14; 16-17); Simonides 11 (the *Plataea Hymn*) shows Greek confidence following 479 B.C.

There is a good map, bibliography, introduction with notes upon metre and the textual tradition. I really enjoyed reading and engaging with these bawdy, intellectual, amusing, thought-provoking, and now more accessible poems.

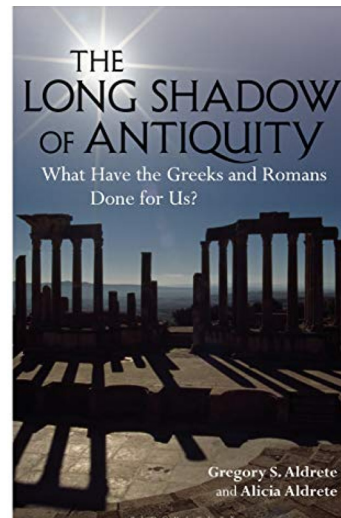
doi:10.1017/S2058631020000148

The Long Shadow of Antiquity. What Have the Greeks and Romans Done for Us?

Aldrete, G. and Aldrete, A. Pp. xii + 411, illus
London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019. Paper, £16.99, (Cased, £31.50).
ISBN: 978-1-350-08338-7.

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'Know Yourself', the aphorism supposedly inscribed on the façade of the Temple to Apollo, is taken by Gregory Aldrete and Alicia Aldrete as the underlying rationale of their book, *The Long Shadow of Antiquity. What Have the Greeks and Romans Done for Us?* (p.ix). It is the starting point from which the authors consider the contribution ancient Greece and Rome have made to modern society. The sheer range of topics presented in *The Long Shadow of Antiquity* has the potential to make it a rather weighty tome; however, the authors have

explicitly aimed this book at the general reader and, happily, succeed in taking one on an 'entertaining journey' (p.x) through some of the main structures, ideas and institutions of both civilisations. The book romps from the Greeks to the Romans, and back again, while holding the attention of the reader with interesting anecdotes, well-deployed black and white images to illustrate points, and the occasional cautionary tale. The result is a solid overview of the contribution of the ancient Greeks and Romans to our own world.

The approach taken in this text is well-considered, with nine chapters that reflect the aspects of life as we would define it today. The book begins with chapters on the basics: Food and Shelter, the Jour-

ney through Life, and Entertainment (in which a mirror is held up to the modern fascination with fitness and diet). There is then progress through the weightier topics of Power, Science, and Superstition and Religion, before finishing with Language, Culture and some of the Parallel Issues that face both us and the ancients in Chapter 9.

Each of these long chapters is divided into mostly clear sub-sections, and comparisons are drawn to modern society throughout. This allows rather broad topics such as Chapter 8's 'Words, ideas, and stories: Language, law, philosophy, and literature' to be investigated in accessible chunks. In this instance the alphabets of both civilisations are explored, before embarking on an explanation of the impact of both Greek and Latin on our society in terms of etymology, the evolution of Western language, legislature, mythology, poetry and theatre, thus exemplifying that 'journey' Aldrete and Aldrete determined to take us on from the start. Here, as in all chapters of the book, a plethora of sources is used to evidence the arguments made, although the reader is not allowed to become mired in the debates of Epicureanism or the Cynics, but is instead allowed a wry smile at Diogenes presenting a plucked chicken to Plato.

As far as possible, the authors give equal consideration to both ancient civilisations and, rather importantly, ensure that the contribution of ancient Greece to the ideas, structures and institutions of Rome is also recognised. For a reader in the British Isles, it is worthwhile noting that, while the focus is on the impact on Western civilisation, many of the comparisons drawn are with America. This particularly true of 'Chapter 4: Power to the People', where a considerable amount of time is devoted to the impact their classical education had on the Founding Fathers. This is balanced to an extent by a consideration of the fascist systems of 20th century Europe.

There is a dry humour running throughout this book, and the authors do not miss any opportunity to return to the central theme of 'know yourself' - offering examples such as the manipulative tactics of orators as cautionary tales for today's society. 'Chapter 9: Ancient and Modern Parallels' explores some of the most important global questions society faces today including environmental problems and the assimilation of immigrants. The examination of the ancients' knowledge of, and attitude to, the environment and their impact on it, is concluded with a sobering observation that environmental changes at least contributed to both the rise and fall of Rome (p.350). Equally, the discussion of resistance to Alexander the Great's efforts to fuse Persian and Macedonian cultures presents interesting angles on modern cultural mixing and interchange.

On a number of occasions in *The Long Shadow of Antiquity*, the authors recognise L.P. Hartley's observation that 'the past is a foreign country; they do things differently there' (p.381). While pointing out those similarities and connections that unite ancient and modern humans, they also draw out some of the crucial differences such as attitudes to slavery, women, and homosexuality, that mark us apart. These differences are not as explicitly developed as the connections, but that is a natural consequence of the aim of the book to show how the past has shaped us.

The general reader will take a lot from this interesting, informative, and fast-paced book. It manages to strike a balance between the good, the bad, and the ugly of the ancients' contribution to the modern Western world, and it is accessible enough to make it a useful recommendation to A Level students of Classical Civilisation or Ancient History; there is an excellent bibliography that provides ample scope for further research and its synthesis of many ancient sources will help to build a clear understanding of how they were received at the time, and their enduring importance.

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Lectiones Memorabiles III: Selections from Caesar, Horace, Livy, Ovid, and Virgil.

Colakis, M. and Taoka, Y. Pp. xvi + 360, ill., maps.
Mundelein, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers Inc.,
2018. Paper, US\$29. ISBN 978-0-86516-858-9.

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This book has the set texts for three of the themes of the IB specification for Latin, covering the themes *Virgil*, *History* and *Love Poets*. The Virgil section contains the last 340 lines of Book XII of the *Aeneid* and a couple of *Eclogues*. The history contains 22 chapters of Caesar (the stand of Vercingetorix) and four chapters of Livy (Hannibal in Italy). The Love Poets section has a selection of familiar and less familiar poems of Catullus, Ovid (from *Amores* 1) and some Horace *Odes*.

The book is in a series from the US publishers Bolchazy-Carducci and so will probably not be well-known to readers of *JCT*. It is worthy of consideration. The authors are both academics with a good track record in teaching in US high schools and colleges, and this experience is clearly reflected in this volume.

The layout has between 10 and 20 lines of Latin text on the left-hand side and notes on those lines on the rest of the page and on the facing page, minimising the amount of page-turning required. The notes, as is usual at this level, are a mixture of glosses, grammatical explanations and comments on content. There is a comprehensive Latin to English glossary at the back of the book. The book is also illustrated with a variety of black and white images from antiquity up to the current day via the Renaissance.

This layout is easy to use - all the information apart from vocabulary is available on the current page. The typeface is large, clear and attractive. The Latin words in the notes are in bold which helps draw the user's attention to them - not least to see whether there is a comment or not. I could not see what editions the texts are based on, but the book uses the letter *v* throughout for consonantal *u*.

The notes feel to be at a good level for the target audience, though they may be too grammatical for some styles of teaching. The book does not shy away from commenting on how the Latin fits together, and it does this in preference to longer glosses of phrases that some editors use. It regularly references the language to entries in a grammar book: being US in origin, this is to Allen and Greenough's *New Latin Grammar* rather than Morwood and so some of the terms are those used in the US (such as 'accusative of specification' instead of 'accusative of respect'; or referring to the 'present subjunctive in the protasis of a future less vivid condition'). The upside of this is that Allen and Greenough is available on-line section by section (<http://dcc.dickinson.edu/allen-greenough/>), so the entry can be brought up and projected on-screen for the whole class to see: this is probably