

A.R. Dyck, *Cicero, Pro Sexto Roscio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Pp. xv + 242. ISBN 978-0-521-88224-8 (hbk.) / ISBN 978-0-521-70886-9 (pbk.).

Andrew Dyck is an experienced commentator on Cicero's works (*De Officiis, De Legibus, De Natura Deorum* 1, *Catilinarians*). He has now edited Cicero's speech in defence of Sextus Roscius for the Cambridge "green and yellow" series (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics), building on previous work on the *Pro Sexto Roscio* ('Evidence and rhetoric in Cicero's *Pro Roscio Amerino*: the case against Sex. Roscius', *CQ* 53 (2003), 235–46). Aside from the recent edition with French translation and notes by Hinard and Benferhat (*Cicéron, Discours, I.2: Pour Sextus Roscius*, Budé, Paris, 2006), this is the first commentary on this speech for almost a century. It is therefore a very welcome addition to the recent surge in new commentaries on Cicero's works.

The book comprises an Introduction (1–22) on the historical context of the trial and Cicero's speech (charge, court, proscriptions, date, characters, advocate's role, language and style, afterlife of speech) as well as a short section on the text and the edition's disagreements with the edition of Hinard and Benferhat (21–2). Then follows the text (23–55) and the commentary (56–209), an appendix on prose rhythm (210–11), a list of references (212–22) and indices (223–42). In the first pages of the book, there are also two maps of the Roman world in 80 BC and the city of Rome (xii–xiv), and a chronological table (xv).

The Introduction covers a great deal, but it still manages to give a short and precise context in which to understand the speech. We get details about the Roman courts, the expectations of an advocate, the trial of Roscius in its historical context of Civil War, Sulla's dictatorship and the proscriptions. One of Dyck's special interests is prose rhythm and he devotes a section of his introduction and an appendix to this topic; undoubtedly Dyck could say much more about Cicero's prose rhythm in this speech but the brief, yet exact presentation is just right for a commentary in this series. A couple of points which have been disputed over the years are discussed, such as the date of the trial, the strength/weaknesses of Cicero's case and individual arguments, and the presence of Sulla at Volaterrae when the embassy arrived from Ameria to complain about the confiscation of Roscius' property (points of difference from Hinard & Benferhat are discussed in A.R. Dyck on Hinard & Benferhat, *Mnemosyne* 62 (2009) 675–678).

Dyck's edition of the text provides a number of disagreements (21–2) with the recent edition of Hinard and Benferhat (mentioned above), and Dyck discusses his reasons for some of these changes in his 2003 article (mentioned above) and at the relevant place in the commentary. Dyck deems Hinard's edition 'ultra-conservative' (Dyck (2003) 675), suggesting Dyck's edition to be more adventurous. A list of deviations from the OCT (1905) and Teubner (1968) editions, still much in use, would perhaps have been helpful too.

The commentary is divided into parts which correspond with the parts in the speech (*exordium, narratio, digressio* I and II, *divisio, refutatio/argumentatio, peroratio*), helpfully

introduced at the beginning of the commentary. Each such part is also introduced and accompanied with a detailed list of the content of the speech. The commentary is strong on points of rhetoric, language and linguistics. It gives very brief explanations of historical context, perhaps too brief in the view of historians. Larger concepts such as *maiores* and *nobiles* are dealt with by way of one or two references to modern scholarship or simply the *OLD*, even if the scholarship on these concepts is rich and divided. But this is not a commentary along the lines of Dyck on *De Officiis* or *De Legibus*, which incorporated detailed discussions of, for example, philosophical concepts, and listed all relevant modern scholarship instead of a selection. Such an approach is not within the remit of the Cambridge “green and yellow” series.

Instead, Dyck has focuses mainly on the rhetoric of Cicero’s speech and points of language. The commentary is particularly useful on Cicero’s rhetorical arguments used within the legal setting, and the credibility of these arguments. Nowhere is one allowed to lose oversight of where a particular passage fits into the overall rhetorical strategy, aided by the introductions to each part of the speech.

The bibliography (‘References’) is concise, as is the commentary. Not all recent scholarship is included. For example, Lintott’s (*Cicero as Evidence. A Historian’s Companion*, Oxford, 2008, Appendix 1) discussion of the speech complements Dyck’s book well as Lintott presents his understanding of what plausibly did happen by contrast to the constructions presented by Cicero and the prosecutor Erucius so thoroughly dealt with by Dyck. Of course, Lintott’s book may have come out too late for inclusion.

The indices (*Latin words, Greek words, General index*) are helpful gateways to the commentary, although the very long lists of references to central characters such as Chrysogonus, Sulla, Erucius, and the four Roscii could perhaps have been more useful had they been divided into sub-entries; but this is just a small quibble.

There is much that is valuable to any reader of the speech, and those interested in (Ciceronian) rhetoric and legal argument will be particularly assisted.

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