

Franco Montanari, Stephanos Matthaios & Antonios Rengakos, eds., *Brill's Companion to Ancient Greek Scholarship*. 2 volumes. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2015. xx + 636, vii + 868. ISBN 9789004245945, E-ISBN 9789004281929. €385.00

As the cottage industry of scholarly “Companion” volumes continues to expand—there are over 150 in Brill’s catalog alone—, so too do the parameters of the genre. One might, at the least, expect a “Companion” not to exceed an airline’s carry-on restrictions, but this two-volume set, weighing in at over 1500 pages (including 160 of bibliography), extends in both scope and size into the encyclopedic. The editorial triumvirate have already done much to advance the study of ancient philology and grammar through numerous individual publications as well as collaborative efforts, including online resources such as the *Lexicon of Greek Grammarians of Antiquity* (LGGA), *Der Neue Pauly/The New Pauly* (DNP), and the *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics* (EAGLL); no surprise, then, that for this collection of papers they have assembled a superlative cast of contributors (see table of contents below). The first volume, at 636 pages the more slender of the two, is divided into two Parts, “History” and “Disciplinary Profiles”; Part 3, “Between Theory and Practice,” occupies the whole of the second volume’s 868 pages, but has three Sections: “Scholarship,” “Grammar,” and somewhat incongruously “Philological and Linguistic Observations and Theories in Interdisciplinary Context.” Furthermore, each entry is preceded by an outline of its own contents, helpful in quickly locating sections of interest. Following the massive bibliography, the end matter concludes with a “General Index” and a “Passage Index,” both of which are unreliable, a severe shortcoming for work designed to be consulted piecemeal rather than read continuously.

The twenty-five chapters, as might be expected, vary in presentation and approach: there are diachronic narratives and synchronic overviews; descriptive accounts and scholarly argument; broad perspective and narrow focus. Given the inherent tension between introductory information and scholarly discourse in “Companions,” and even more so in such a massive one, unevenness in approach is expected, and overlap in content unavoidable. These, however, are not faults, but rather demonstrate the wide variety of scholarship in a burgeoning field. If there is a common refrain throughout the two volumes, it is the artificiality of the disciplinary divisions to be found in the study of ancient scholarship, and even the arbitrary boundaries to the definition of scholarship itself. Many of the chapters, in fact, open with an apologia for recourse to these definitions, and one of the more salient improvements over earlier studies is the willingness of the contributors to recognize these limitations and to transcend them.

The opening four chapters fill in the historical background of ancient Greek scholarship, from the Homeric age to the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Novokhatko provides a clear overview of the cultural context, including the rise of literacy and education, that were the “pre-conditions for the development of Alexandrian textual philology” (p.15), ending with Plato’s and Aristotle’s approaches to textual criticism.

By necessity, Montana's chapter on Hellenistic scholarship is one of the longest, nearly a monograph in its own right. Following a general historical account with an inevitable focus on Alexandria, he traces three stages of criticism (collection, emendation, and interpretation) via a series of paragraphs devoted to individual scholars and critics. (Many of the chapters—not only the historical—use this biobibliographical approach, which is much like reading entries from the LGGA in paragraph form). Matthaïos begins with the current state of research on Greek scholarship in the Imperial era and Late Antiquity, and then, as Montana, catalogs individual scholars in chronological order (to the extent possible), here further divided into philologists and grammarians. Matthaïos is well aware of the difficulty in maintaining this distinction (p. 196), yet there are some still unfortunate separations and duplications. For example, Nicanor is treated as philologist (pp. 235–6), and then later as a grammarian (pp. 256–7), with different works attributed to him on each occasion; the internal cross-reference does not avoid the feeling of separate individuals. Pontani, entrusted with the difficult task of covering the Byzantine era from 529 to 1453, follows the format established by the preceding chapters; the influence on scholarship of major movements, such as iconoclasm, are adumbrated through the focus on individual personalities, rather than treated in broader terms (knowledge of major issues in Byzantine history, such as the Gregory Palamas and hesychasm, is often assumed).

Part 2, "Disciplinary Profiles" opens with Dickey's exemplary chapter, which methodically outlines the sources of our knowledge of ancient Greek scholarship in a lucid style that will be familiar to readers of her earlier work. Equally lucid is the first of two contributions by Wouters and Swiggers, who examine in comprehensive detail the definitions of grammar, most of which derive from Sextus Empiricus; in addition, they propose a compelling theory of development to account for the changes in the definition. The last three chapters of Part 2, by Dubischar, Valente, and Tosi, each present a typology of ancient scholarly writings. All three echo the *Companion's* refrain about the danger of arbitrary and misleading scholarly divisions, yet strive to make a case for the utility of their efforts. Only Dubischar, however, attempts to provide a theoretical framework (systems theory) as an explanatory mechanism for the typological development. For completists only.

Part 3, comprising the whole of the second volume, opens with three chapters in the Section on "Scholarship," a title that seems to describe in the broadest possible terms the contributions themselves rather than their subject-matter. The first two, written as scholarly interpretations rather than reference material, stand out from all the others. Both demonstrate how much a knowledge of ancient Greek scholarship can contribute to contemporary scholarship. Building upon earlier work, Montanari proposes in a elegantly structured argument that Alexandrian textual-critical practices are grounded in the production of texts as physical objects. He addresses related scholarly controversies (in particular, the multiple *ekdoses* of Aristarchus), though the final pages devolve into a polemic against M.L. West on the question of

whether the Alexandrian critics of Homer engaged in something more than “arbitrary” *Konjunkturalkritik*, as Montanari would argue. The root of their disagreement seems to lie not the sources of variant reading (manuscripts or conjecture), but the sources of authority for the readings selected: while recognizing that the Alexandrians did not have in mind a Lachmannian *recensio* (p. 670), Montanari nonetheless seems to conflate what these critics did with why they did it. The second chapter of “Scholarship,” Hunter’s thoughtful and wide-ranging treatment of early rhetorical criticism of Homer, takes a broader view of ancient scholarship, and reveals how the close readings of our scholarly forebears are often more sensitive, and more modern, than usually thought. In a very different contribution to “Scholarship,” Nünlist eschews argument or interpretation for a mini-Wörterbuch of 89 terms associated with literary criticism, each with its own entry, ranging from a page or two to a mere cross-reference (e.g., “Sublimity: see *solemnity” [p. 751]). The selection, as Nünlist explains, is intended to give an impression of the variety of terms within the space restraints, though it is not clear if this effort is the beginning of a larger work.

The second Section of Part 3, “Grammar,” returns to technical issues of ancient Greek scholarship. Swiggers and Wouters contribute another comprehensive and well-structured chapter, this time on the development of the contents of ancient grammar from Plato to the *Technē* attributed to Dionysius Thrax. The other chapters in this section are all expert accounts of specific fields within ancient scholarship—*Hellenismos* (Pagani), syntax (Lallot), etymology (Sluiter), prosody (Probert), and orthography (Valente)—and each can be recommended as a scholarly introduction to its subject. Sluiter’s chapter in particular deserves mention for her careful analysis of etymology as a conceptual tool. The final Section offers examples of the application of philology and textual criticism—scholarship in the narrow sense—in other disciplines. De Jonge usefully surveys the role of grammatical theory in Greek rhetorical treatises, and Lapini, in a scatter-shot yet stimulating chapter, covers philosophical language (rather than philosophy of language) from the sophists down to late Antiquity, with particular treatments of Aristotle (and later commentaries on him), the Epicureans, Panaetius, and Galen. Meliadò gives a concise overview of the origin and development of mythography, while Nicolai does much the same in for historiography, ethnography, and geography; both chapters use the prosopographical approach of earlier chapters, and given the futility of maintaining disciplinary boundaries, there is an unsurprising and natural amount of overlap between the two—both, for example, discuss in some detail Hecataeus (cf. pp. 1058–59 and 1095–97) and Hellanicus (cf. 1062–1064 and 1097–98). Manetti, in one of the longest non-historical chapters, traces the role of philological scholarship in the history of medical texts from the Hippocratic Corpus through Galen, though surprisingly she does not address the latter’s grammatical work except to excuse its absence in a footnote. Luiselli, despite the general title, focuses on the use of Alexandrian critical techniques by Hipparchus of Nicaea and Attalus of Rhodes on the text of Aratus’ *Phaenomena*, and thus the chapter is only secondarily concerned with

Hellenistic astronomers. Hellman, too, uses a specific topic to address the interrelations of science and philology, in this case the history of the texts of Aristotle's scientific biology, especially the *Parts of Animals*.

The companion makes no claim to complete coverage, as the editors acknowledge in the Preface (p. xv), and to expect from a "Companion" a completeness that would satisfy everyone would be unrealistic. However, given the encyclopedic approach of many of the contributors, as well as the willingness in some cases to expand the definition of "ancient Greek scholarship," some absences might be felt more than others. For example, the exclusion of biblical scholarship, a conscious decision made for practical considerations, is understandable, yet a chapter on, e.g., Hellenistic scholarship and Jewish biblical interpretation, would fill a serious gap made all the more noticeable by occasional references to it, including a paragraph on the translation and interpretation of Hebrew scriptures, noted as "one of the most notable Ptolemaic achievements" (Montana, p. 86). In a similar vein, Stoic grammar is treated only in a few scattered places, such as a section on word-classes (pp. 772–780) in a larger discussion by Swiggers and Wouters on the elements of language, and other references to Stoicism are usually only by association with an individual who is identified as Stoic (e.g., Crates of Mallus). The frequent references to Stoic scholars and "Stoic/Pergamene" influence create the impression that a comprehensive chapter on Stoic grammar and allegorical interpretation is lacking.

Typos and misprints are more common in the first volume than one would like, and in particular Montana's valuable contribution is marred by lack of proofreading and awkward translations (e.g., "the king's bulimia for books"), though his is not the only one to suffer from both faults. Formatting is wildly inconsistent but for the most part trivial, and longer quotations from both ancient and modern languages are not always translated. The quality of translations varies wildly, even in the case of titles (e.g., Theodoretus' *peri pneumatōn* is better as "On breathings" than "On the spirits," p. 272.). There is also throughout inconsistency in nomenclature and orthography (*Suda* v. *Suidas*, Apollonius Rhodius v. Apollonius of Rhodes, Berytos v. Berytus), which would normally be only a minor annoyance, but some cases seem to affect accuracy of the indices. While Apollonius of Rhodes and Apollonius Rhodius are unified into a single heading in the index, William of Moerbeke has been separated from Guillelmus de Moerbeke. On the other hand, Hesychius of Alexandria, according to the index, appears on only two pages, whereas the even less-known Hesychius of Miletus (also known in the text as Hesychius Milesius) appears on nineteen pages. Unfortunately, thirteen of Hesychius of Alexandria's pages are intermingled among those of the Milesian Hesychius. Many, but not all, of Nünlist's entries (e.g. commentaries or *hypomnēmata*, *mimēsis*), which might be a natural starting point for readers seeking basic information, are missing from the pages listed under those headwords, or there are no entries at all. The Passages Index suffers from the same flaws; many *Suda/Suidas* citations did not make it into this index, despite the numerous citations listed, but let one example suffice for its general confusion: on

page 1085 there is a citation of “*Apion*. 1.216” by Flavius Joseph (*sic*), which does not appear in the index of passages under that name (or any other), though “*Apion*. 16,” quoted on page 1060, does. However, there is in the Passages Index a separate heading for Josephus, where there are two other citations listed, one of which is “*Ap*. 12.1.” These errors, and many others, were discovered by occasional checking, not a systematic review.

Despite these criticisms, this *Companion* will prove valuable for its new perspectives and up-to-date bibliography on ancient Greek scholarship. The chapters on specific fields, especially those in Section 3.2: Grammar, are excellent entry points for students and scholars, and for Anglophone readers, it will supplement, if not supplant, standards such as Sandys' *History of Classical Scholarship*, Pfeiffer's *History of Classical Scholarship*, and N.G. Wilson's *Scholars of Byzantium* and *From Byzantium to Italy*. While Eleanor Dickey's own *Ancient Greek Scholarship: An Introduction*, frequently cited in the volumes under review, remains the best single introduction to the field, readers will find in *Brill's Companion* more historical context, more detailed accounts of specific disciplines, and more information on the current scholarly questions.

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