

Fred W. Jenkins, *Ammianus Marcellinus: An Annotated Bibliography 1474 to the Present*. Leiden: Brill, 2017. Pp. xviii, 665. ISBN 9789004320291. Hbk €199.00.

Ammianus Marcellinus' *Res Gestae* provide the last great narrative history of Rome written in Latin, the extant portion of which covers the years AD 353 – 378 in eighteen books. As such, Ammianus is an author of critical importance to Latinists, literary scholars of historiography and Latin prose, and historians of Late Antiquity. Fred Jenkins has provided all students of Ammianus with an indispensable scholarly tool by gathering together details of an impressively broad range of materials – editions, translations, commentaries, concordances, websites, and 'secondary works' that include everything from unpublished masters theses to textual notes to monographs, and not just from Europe and North America (though these comprise the majority), but also Eastern Europe, East Asia, Southern Africa, and South America. The chronological range extends from the *editio princeps* in 1474 to 2016. There have been bibliographies of Ammianus published before (notably by Rosen in 1982 and Kelly in OUP's *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, first created in 2011 and updated in 2015), but Jenkins' work far surpasses them in scope and completeness.

Jenkins adheres to a structure established by other volumes in this intermittent series from Brill.¹ An Introduction sets out Jenkins' twofold aim as to help scholars in their research of Ammianus and provide a record of Ammianean scholarship (p. x). There is a brief section on the major trends in scholarship since 1800 (mostly noting a shift from a focus on textual matters in the 18th and 19th centuries to a broader interest in Ammianus by historians and literary critics. One wishes this survey was more comprehensive: it could also have commented on differing approaches and methodologies in different scholarly environments over the past fifty years, Anglo-Saxon vs. continental European; or what sort of questions historians vs. literary critics are asking of Ammianus, for example).

Ten chapters of bibliography follow arranged by genre: one chapter each on Bibliographies, Editions, Translations, Commentaries, Concordances/Indexes/Lexica, and Websites, then four chapters on 'Secondary Studies' broken down chronologically by century (before 1800, 1800–1899, 1900–1999, 2000–2016). Within each chapter, works are arranged chronologically by year then alphabetically by author, and are assigned a reference number that is deployed in the indexes and for cross references. Each entry includes a full bibliographic record (albeit no ISBNs), DOIs (if they exist),

¹ There are only three volumes on ancient texts: R. Radice and R. Davies 1997. *Aristotle's Metaphysics: Annotated Bibliography of the Twentieth-Century Literature*. Brill; T. Rubia, (ed.) 2000. *Philo of Alexandria: An Annotated Bibliography 1987-1996*. Vigiliae Christianae Supplements 57; T. Rubia (ed.) 2012. *Philo of Alexandria: An Annotated Bibliography 1997-2006*. Vigiliae Christianae Supplements 109. It should be noted that Brill appears to have dropped the concept of unified series of Bibliographies and have instead marketed the present volume within its series [Philological and Historical Commentary on Ammianus Marcellinus](#) (although the author refers in the Introduction to the Annotated Bibliographies series, p.xii).

and a note of where an electronic copy may be found (often JSTOR or the like for recent journal articles; or Google Books, the Hathi Trust, the Münchener Digitalisierungszentrum Digitale Bibliothek *vel sim.* for much older material that is out of copyright and has recently been digitized). Often a URL accompanies recent dissertations/theses if their deposit libraries have made them available digitally. Occasionally Jenkins also includes Worldcat acquisition numbers, especially for items not readily available (for example, there appears to be only one copy in existence of Tweedale's 1974 concordance to Ammianus – in the Sorbonne). The inclusion of this sort of electronic metadata is in itself a justification for a volume such as this: in our digital age, it is no longer sufficient merely to know the conventional information of author, title, and publisher, but also *where* to find digitised versions or even the right catalogue to begin the search for hard copies. Gathering so much of this information in one place is a great virtue of this volume. It also begs a question of the publisher, however: why did Brill not create a fully electronic version, which might have included live hyperlinks for DOIs or URLs? The eBook version that does exist (as is standard for Brill) is merely a pdf of the hard copy.

Another great boon is the annotations that accompany the majority of entries. These are often brief, neutral summaries of the arguments of particular articles or chapters, or the highlights of monographs. In the case of books where Ammianus appears obliquely or only in part, the annotation identifies the extent and role of the discussion of Ammianus within the author's wider argument. In other words, these annotations do an admirable job in guiding the scholar towards what s/he may find of interest within each item. Jenkins is open about whether or not he has been able consult items directly (in the vast majority it appears he has), and sometimes he provides a glimpse of his methodology in tracking down more obscure publications. One has to admire the extent of his sleuthing: for example, he is able to include details of an unpublished masters thesis via a reference in the annual report of the author's college (whereas the university library does not even house a copy – item 2013-65).

The material gathered in this volume also provides an opportunity to gain a quantitative overview of Ammianean scholarship: of all modern languages, Ammianus has been translated into German most frequently (seven times); the most prolific modern critic (in terms of number of publications) has been François Paschoud (with 66 items) followed by Guy Sabbah (44); 1973 was a bumper year for secondary literature with 43 items, unsurpassed until 1992 (with 47). Since the late 1990s, however, there has been a constant production of between 50 and 65 items per year, with a record 84 in 2007. Given the steady increase in number of publications from the latter half of the last century through the first 16 years of the new millennium, (and the lack of live hyperlinks discussed above) I would urge the publisher to consider revising the online version to a format more like the *Oxford Bibliographies Online* (in which Kelly's bibliography of Ammianus appears). At present, Jenkins' book is an admirable record of current scholarship on Ammianus, but of course it has necessarily fallen out of date as soon as it was published (even the final entry for 2016 omits several

publications from that year²) – an online version that could be easily updated at regular intervals would mitigate this problem.

The wealth of bibliographic information provided in this book undoubtedly makes it an indispensable reference tool for scholars of Ammianus. Its organisation, particularly of ‘secondary studies’ that take up 550 of the book’s 665 pages, seems geared more towards the needs of a library cataloguer than a researcher, however – secondary works of all types (notes, chapters, articles, books) are lumped together, and the chronological arrangement and absence of any key-terms attached to individual items means that many scholars will make heavy use of the index to find items relevant to specific themes or topics within Ammianean scholarship. There are two indexes, one of ‘Authors’ and the other ‘Subjects’. The latter is reasonably thorough, containing not only the names of individuals or places that appear within the *Res Gestae*, but references to other ancient texts and to scholarly terms (‘representation of space’ and ‘clausulation’ for example). From following through a sample of topics, it seems the index is best at guiding the reader to single-topic articles; monographs that may cover a number of aspects of Ammianus’ work are indexed only under their major themes. Browsing this volume, however, is to be encouraged – even the most seasoned Ammianean scholar will encounter material that has remained absent from Western (particularly Anglophone) scholarship, even if it may require a crash-course in Russian or Japanese (or the help of colleagues who know these languages) to engage with it.

Jenkins must be congratulated for his exhaustive cataloguing of Ammianean scholarship, and especially for being so aware of the need of electronic data. Might Brill now consider giving the *Bibliography* the sort of electronic platform it deserves?

ALAN J. ROSS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
alan.ross@soton.ac.uk

² e.g. G. Kelly and J. Stover 2016. ‘The Hersdeldensis and the Fuldensis of Ammianus Marcellinus: A reconsideration’ *CCJ*62: 108-129, which offers an important correction to the standard assumptions about the manuscript tradition of the *Res Gestae*.