

If you're thinking that there are many other books like this out there, then I can reassure you this one is worth some attention. We all know you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but the front of the book is disappointingly old-fashioned and easy to overlook, and certainly not something a teenage classicist would be drawn to on the shelf. Yet once inside, Chapter 1 on *Ben Hur*, *Harris Potter and the Classics* provides a strong initial hook using material many of us of any age or experience will be familiar with. For me, the more specialist content on the *Perseids*, *Demagoguery* (yes, you're right, Trump gets a mention here!) and *Saturnalia* provided more intellectual stimulation and convinced me that this is a book worth reading in full.

Each chapter is just a few pages long, making it an easy read which you can dip in and out of at whim, especially if a student (or teacher) has a short attention span or limited time. Accessibility is further enhanced as all derivations are CAPITALISED, even where the derivative forms just part of the word, allowing the secret lives of words to jump out from their hiding places. The modern references to Biden, Covid 19 and Wonder Woman are refreshing and keep the book relevant to us in the 21st year of the 21st century. Clearly aimed at a US audience, with topics such as Labor Day, George Washington and Thanksgiving, there is much to enjoy for us here in the UK too. As a teacher I can see myself extracting sections to use as starter activities or wider reading for my students. The colour pictures, unlike the cover, add to the appeal as a teaching aid and even more useful are the appendices which include a thorough list of Latin to English derivations, including a considerable number of words used on the WJEC and OCR GCSE vocabulary lists.

What started as a newspaper column for *The Apalachicola Times* in Florida, USA, has morphed into a delightful summation of all the most enduring, important, enticing and enhancing aspects of Roman life and language.

doi: 10.1017/S2058631021000593

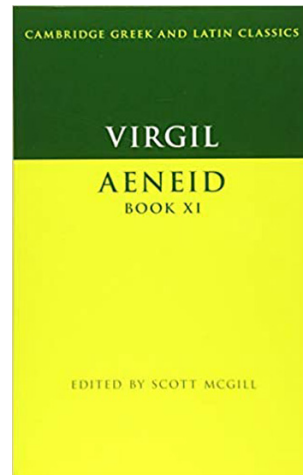
Virgil: *Aeneid* Book XI

McGill (S.) Pp. viii + 307. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. Paper, US\$29.99, £22.99. ISBN: 978-1-107-41678-9

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This commentary on *Aeneid* 11 is a triumph. It joins a learned company of recent(ish) 'Green & Yellows' on the oft-ignored second half



of the *Aeneid*, spearheaded by P.R. Hardie on *Aeneid* 9 (1994) and R. Tarrant on *Aeneid* 12 (2012), and successfully holds its own (I omit K.W. Gransden's 1976 commentary on *Aeneid* 8, which, though still useful, needs an overhaul). Even though the epic's 'Iliadic' second half is often ignored in favour of the 'Odyssean' first half's flight out of Troy, the love-tragedy at Carthage, or Aeneas' *katabasis*, these commentaries have done much to re-energise the socio-political and martial drama unfolding on Italic soil, and this new instalment on *Aeneid* 11 is no exception.

Its direct predecessor is Gransden's homonymous 1991 commentary in the same series; in the interim, N. Horsfall and L. Fratantuono published their tomes (respectively *Virgil, Aeneid 11: A Commentary*. Brill: Leiden & Boston, 2003; *A Commentary on Virgil, Aeneid XI*. Latomus: Brussels, 2009), while I. Gildenhard and J. Henderson published a selection for high-school use (*Virgil, Aeneid 11 (Pallas & Camilla)*: Cambridge, 2018; available in open access via <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/857>)

The Green & Yellows have evolved over the years, as has their readership, whence the need to update, revise, or replace older commentaries (cf. the brief sketch from series editor P. Easterling, 'A Note on Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics', in: C. Stray ed., *Classical Books: Scholarship and Publishing in Britain since 1800*. BICS Supplement 101 [London, 2007], 177–179). McGill wisely plots a middle course between the Scylla of Gransden's generally short notes focusing on matters of linguistics and style (perhaps too brief for modern students and too superficial for scholars) and the Charybdis of the totalising impulse of a larger commentary (elaborate discussions of *Realien*, literary and/or textual criticism, or the state-of-play of research). The result is a commentary that will engage (advanced) students and scholars alike.

The Introduction (pp. 1–35) is a brisk but comprehensive and highly readable tour de force which situates the events of *Aeneid* 11 (the funeral of Pallas, the grieving of Aeneas and Evander; the infighting of the Latin council with the weak leader Latinus, the demagogue Drances, and the incensed Turnus; the battle starring the Volscian queen Camilla) within the context of the entire poem, introducing the protagonists with their alliances and backgrounds, explaining the political stakes, and discussing significant structural patterns (notably links with *Aeneid* 5, but also the succession of Italic deaths – Mezentius, Camilla, Turnus – throughout books 10 to 12 and the symmetry between the deaths of Dido and Camilla). In line with the series format, this is followed by sections on metre and the constitution of the text (based on Conte's Teubner). This is followed by the text (37–65), commentary (67–281), ample bibliography (282–292), and both a subject index and index of Latin words (293–307). (Unfortunately, no *index locorum*: see below.)

McGill is particularly good at identifying different stylistic registers and discourses within *Aeneid* 11. For example, his notes on lines 313–314 explain the military and senatorial jargon in Latinus' speech at the Latin council which serves to cast Latinus as an ineffectual leader (he talks the talk, but fails to walk the walk), while presenting the council as a proto-Roman senate meeting in which policies both foreign and domestic are discussed. Horsfall likewise

notices the ‘archaic-military flavour’ of *certatum est* in 313, but not the senatorial tone of *sententia* in 314 (Gransden and Fratanuono *ad loc.* do not comment). Likewise, McGill neatly unpicks the emotional shifts and varying degrees of colloquialisms and more dignified language in Turnus’ speech at 376–444.

One of the features that sets McGill’s commentary apart is his willingness to point out the reception of *Aeneid* II in later poetry, especially Ovid, Lucan, and the Flavian trio Valerius Flaccus, Silius Italicus, and, above all, Statius. In doing so, he follows the commendable lead of R. Hunter’s *Theocritus: A Selection* (Cambridge, 1999), who generously provides parallels and allusions from Vergil’s *Eclogues*. But whereas this much-valued predecessor includes an *index locorum*, McGill’s book does not, which diminishes its use for intertextual inquiry (admittedly, nowadays much-facilitated by e.g. the *Tesserae*-project: <https://tesserae.caset.buffalo.edu/>).

The volume is well-edited, with a handful of insignificant typos and the occasional derailed sentence. Something strange seems to have happened to the typesetting of my review copy: the letters are unevenly spaced throughout, which sometimes rather hampers readability. Hopefully these infelicities can be ironed out, although they in no way detract from this exciting, wide-ranging, and thought-provoking volume. May such commentaries continue to appear for the rest of the epic.

doi: 10.1017/S2058631021000672

¹⁷⁰ (ad n. 9) has become garbled: ‘Once put the perm after constructed’ (?). Further: 86 (ad 72-7): ‘The point [...] is not that A[eneas] was sexually attracted to A. as he was to the queen [sc. Dido]’ > ‘attracted to Pallas’; 125 (ad 242): ‘such inf. appears’ > ‘appear’; 146 (ad 335): ‘occurs Frequently’ > ‘frequently’; 185 (*bis*: nn. 494, 496), for the references to A.R. book 6, read ‘3’; 234 (ad 705-6): ‘scoruful’ > ‘scornful’; 266 (ad 841): ‘exclamatory’ > ‘Exclamatory’.

Quare Id Faciam

Morgan (J.) Pp. cxxi. Independently published. 2020. Paper, £5.99. ISBN: 9798661251015

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Julian Morgan rightly styles himself as an *emeritus aenigmatifex* (although I would rather go along with Sidonius Apollinaris’ *aenigmatista*).

The book contains 100 puzzles with the preface, the clues and the rubrics for all the puzzles in Latin. In fact the only item in the whole book not in Latin is the ISBN number! Converting that to a Roman numeral might well be beyond the powers of even Mr Morgan!

The puzzles are nicely varied, ingenious and contain such

headings, *inter alia*, as *verba transversa*, *sagittae*, *novomnia* and *coniunctis quaerendis*. Some are suitable for that rainy Friday afternoon with Year 9 (e.g. *Quaerenda:Scriptores* – a wordsearch with the Roman authors’ names supplied) while others are more demanding in their knowledge of vocabulary and case endings. I particularly enjoyed number XXVII (*Clara Numerata*) where the answers (sorry, the *resolutiones*) are all structures or parts of structures likely to be known to GCSE students (e.g. *templum*, *amphitheatrum*, *thermae*).

The solutions to all the puzzles are given and the book seems an ideal resource for those unexpectedly given more leisure time by present (and future?) occurrences.

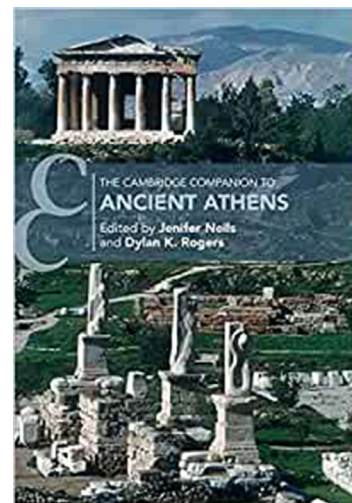
doi: 10.1017/S2058631021000490

The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Athens

Neils (J.), and Rogers (D.K.) (edd.). Pp. x+494, ills, maps. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. Paper, £29.99. ISBN: 978-1-108-72330-5.

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As expected of a Cambridge Companion, the scope of this volume is comprehensive and wide-ranging: it covers several hundred years, with a principal focus on the two centuries from Archaic to Hellenistic times. It comprises 34 essays by Classical scholars, and is arranged in five main sections: Urban Fabric, Inhabitants, Business and Commerce, Culture and Sport, and Politics. An additional section on Reception is concerned with Roman Athens, rediscovery and archaeology.

While it would be impossible within 500 pages to do justice to every aspect of a city of such significance as Athens, this book comes close to achieving that. Chapters include some niche titles, such as ‘Death and Disease’, ‘Sex and the City’, and ‘Armed Forces’. Many chapters take an interdisciplinary approach. For example, one on ‘Animals in Athenian Life’ draws on artefacts, vase painting, mythology and literature, offering a rich cross-section of genres which is not usually expected of an introductory volume of this nature. This makes the work an engaging and instructive read, although those seeking an introduction to Athenian civilisation, for example to guide sixth-form study, will need to take a selective approach. Many chapters cover an extensive timespan; for example, ‘Water and Waste Management’ traces