

of the moralising thrust of Simonides' poetry; in an account which highlights the fact of inscription, there might be place for some discussion of Simonides' concern with epigraphic commemoration as visible in fr. 531 P., and his awareness of the complex relationship between the spoken fame so prominent in Homeric song and the letter of the text that would be inscribed on stone.

This last discussion bears on one area that A.-H.'s study on occasion neglects. Missing from some (although far from all) of the readings is consideration of the central presence of the hexameter tradition, Homer and Hesiod both, in the archaic poets treated here and the Alexandrians' consequent use of the melic compositions not just as central reference points but as 'window texts' as well. Thus in the account of Hellenistic adaptations of Anacreon's ball-playing Eros, A.-H., perhaps not wishing to retread familiar ground, omits mention of Anacreon's reworking of the Nausicaa scene in *Odyssey* 6 and the reversals of the familiar scenario that he includes. Hesiod figures importantly in Ibycus' fr. 282 in ways unmentioned in the reading presented here, and so too the discussion of Theocritus' use of the verb *μεθύω*, read by A.-H. as a glance to Alcaeus, might be enriched by an acknowledgement that the Hellenistic poet is drawing on Homeric usage, which already couples boxing and the sensation of drunkenness in the figure of the beggarly Irus. But these are minor and perhaps ungracious quibbles. What remains outstanding in this book is A.-H.'s deep familiarity with not just one, but two dense and complex literary traditions, and his weaving together of often mere scraps of evidence into a compelling and always suggestive whole.

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ERATOSTHENES

ROLLER (D.W.) (ed., trans.) *Eratosthenes' Geography. Fragments Collected and Translated, with Commentary and Additional Material*. Pp. xvi + 304, maps. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2010. Cased, £34.95, US\$49.50. ISBN: 978-0-691-14267-8.

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Best known for his extraordinary accomplishment of calculating the circumference of the globe at 252,000 stades, Eratosthenes of Cyrene continues to elicit admiration. His contributions to geography were vast, and just as Herodotus may be considered the father of history, so too can Eratosthenes be considered the father of geography. R. offers a new edition of the 'fragments' of Eratosthenes' *Geographica*. The book includes introduction, translation, commentary, maps drawn by the Ancient World Mapping Center and gazetteer to accompany the text. I offer quotation marks around the term fragments because one familiar with the fragments of, say, the Presocratics in Diels-Kranz or the fragments of the Greek historians in Jacoby may be surprised to see that this edition claims to assemble fragments. R. himself (p. 36) points out that the term is problematic: there are in fact no fragments in the book in the sense of direct quotations; rather the book offers testimonia, paraphrase and summary by later authors of the original text of Eratosthenes. It has been over a hundred years since Eratosthenes has been edited and commented on, and no one will claim that R.'s work was unnecessary. Exhibiting great learning and skilful

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command of a broad range of scholarship, R. has done a fine job of introducing, translating and commenting on Eratosthenes.

The Introduction includes: a cursory overview of the history of geographic thought in Greece before the time of Eratosthenes; a colourful biography placing Eratosthenes within his vibrant intellectual milieu in Alexandria; a description of Eratosthenes' *Geographica*; and a section on reception. Eratosthenes' treatise (again note that terminology is problematic; it is not that fragments of a treatise are extant but rather that we get secondary knowledge of the *Geographica*) survives, as assembled by R., in 155 fragments, most of which come from Strabo. R. is very good at discussing Eratosthenes' sources and explaining the complexity of using Strabo as a source for reconstructing Eratosthenes' thought, since Strabo had his own agenda and much of Eratosthenes' work is crafted to suit Strabo's needs. The Introduction ends with an overview of modern scholarship and R.'s own place within the scholarly tradition.

After the Introduction, R. turns to the fragments. No Greek text is provided, only an English translation. Although this decision may have been at the behest of Princeton UP, it would have been helpful to have a bilingual edition of the fragments for scholarly use. After all, this specialised book will find few readers other than scholars, and we shall have to go elsewhere for the texts. The copious fragments offer great insight into Eratosthenes' work. I mention only a few things *en passant*: the numerous fragments that R. collects from the three books of the *Geographica* are far too many to do justice to here. For example, in Book 1 of the *Geographica*, Eratosthenes was particularly engaged with Homer as a source of geographic knowledge. In Book 2, Eratosthenes told the famous story of Syene (in Pliny's phrase, the place whence 'the world was grasped'), and from Syene we learn of Eratosthenes' conception of the world as a measurable sphere based on the study of shadows. In Book 3, Eratosthenes discusses the two annual sowing seasons in India thanks to its winter and summer rains. One can imagine the wonder that would have gripped the Greeks when thinking of this extremely fertile land.

In his commentary, R. judiciously addresses whatever interpretative problems the individual fragments raise. The individual commentaries, accordingly, cover considerable ground: from discussion of Strabo's and Eratosthenes' thoughts on Homer to astronomical and geographical calculations. The commentary generally does not address textual problems.

The book concludes with gazetteer, maps and appendices. The gazetteer includes some 400 toponyms, whose definitions are succinct and connected to the maps that follow. The maps are generally of high quality, though they are not without fault. For example, in map 1 (p. 250), 'The World according to Eratosthenes', the Peloponnese is drawn as an island. The three appendices cover: material related to Eratosthenes' *On the Measurement of the Earth*; testimonia for his life; and a salutary reminder of how little we know about the Greek stade or rather how variable the stade was at different times and at different places. The book also includes an index of passages cited and a general index.

Some quibbles. The book can occasionally be under-cited. R. can pass off as facts statements that should require caution. For example, he states (p. ix) that Eratosthenes was the first to coin the term *geôgraphia* without providing any compelling evidence for this assertion. One would not be surprised to learn that it had been used earlier, in the school of Aristotle for instance. Similarly, R. claims that Eratosthenes would have opened the *Geographica* with a defence of geography

as a discipline, although we have no evidence to validate this (p. 111). There are signs of hasty preparation. For example, R. offers Pindar as a witness to an argument but cites no passage from Pindar to support his assertion (p. 203). None the less, R. has produced a fine edition, and Princeton UP has done an admirable job of producing an attractive, relatively affordable text.

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PLUTARCH'S *ALCIBIADES*

VERDEGEM (S.) *Plutarch's Life of Alcibiades. Story, Text and Moralism*. Pp. 499. Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2010. Cased, €69.50. ISBN: 978-90-5867-760-0.

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This book was built on V.'s 2004 Leuven dissertation, a commentary on Plutarch's *Life of Alcibiades*. The detailed introduction is divided into three parts, as promised by the title: Moralism, Story and Text. The commentary is followed by a final chapter, 'Conclusions'. There is a very thorough bibliography, and indexes of passages in Plutarch and in other authors; there is no subject index.

V.'s book rests on two premises: (1) the narrative *text* and the underlying *story* are distinct entities and (2) readers of Plutarch's *Parallel Lives* must never forget his moral purpose, to provide examples for men to emulate. V. is particularly interested in using the *Alcibiades* as a test case in applying narrative theory to ancient texts. This emphasis on the work as a whole acts as a kind of subtext to the biography, in the same way that the emphasis on Plutarch's moral purpose is seen as an omnipresent background to *Alcibiades*. 'Moralism' comes first in the Introduction. V. discusses the moral purpose of the *Lives*, Plutarch's use of negative as well as positive examples, illustrative but non-didactic moralism and the importance of comparison. He then examines the basic facts and different portrayals of Alcibiades by historical, rhetorical and philosophical authors, particularly in the Socratic tradition. Next is 'Story', focussing on Plutarch's sources and method of work. 'Text' discusses Plutarch's narrative techniques, the parallel *Coriolanus*, and the relative chronology of the *Lives*.

The commentary is divided into ten chapters of varying lengths corresponding to different stages of Alcibiades' life, starting with 'The Proem' and ending with 'A Tragic Downfall'. Each is further divided into subcategories. For instance, Section 2, 'A Difficult Character (Alc. 2–9)', is subdivided thus: 1. On Character Changes and Innate Passions (Alc. 2.1); 2. Childhood Stories (Alc. 2.2–3.2); 3. How to Distinguish Flatterers from a Friend (Alc. 4–6); 4. Sayings and Doings of a Young Adult (Alc. 7–9); 5. Conclusions. With the exception of Sections 4 (A Thought-Provoking Transition; Alc. 16) and 6 (The Art of Adaptation; Alc. 23.4–5), each section ends with 'Conclusions'. These sections highlight particular aspects thrown into relief by the passages under scrutiny. For instance, at the end of Section 7, 'From Sparta to Samos (Alc. 23.6–26.9)', the Conclusions discuss Alcibiades' chameleon-like nature, Plutarch's treatment of Thucydides as a source, and the alteration by Plutarch of the order of events, having 'deliberately decided to bring up Peisander's mission to Athens (26.1) after the end of his account of