

predominantly in French; scholars too will appreciate its accessible tabular charts (pp. 60–9, 172–3), and the author’s provision of a ‘stimulus for further discussion and exploration’ (p. 9). But in the end the book must straddle a tricky course between the censures of both traditionalist and revisionist camps; inevitably, I suspect, it will fall victim to the criticisms of both.

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WALBANK’S COLLECTED PAPERS

F. W. WALBANK: *Polybius, Rome and the Hellenistic World. Essays and Reflections*. Pp. xiii + 353. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. Cased, £45/US\$60. ISBN: 0-521-81208-9.

Frank Walbank is one of the great figures of twentieth-century ancient history. In a career that spans a remarkable seventy years or so he has been one of the leading interpreters of the Hellenistic world, from his early books on Aratus of Sicyon (1933) and Philip V of Macedon (1940), through his classic commentary on Polybius (1957–79), to his work on the second edition of the Cambridge Ancient History and beyond. This present volume collects together some of his more recent articles, mostly published over the past twenty-five years—an earlier selection appeared in 1985. Collections of previously published papers can sometimes seem rather unnecessary, but not in this case. Not only are the papers here of a uniformly high standard, but for the most part they made their first appearance in relatively inaccessible volumes; certainly few of them were easily available to a scholar working in Ireland. Polybius provides the unifying theme and the nineteen articles are introduced by a new and valuable survey of Polybian scholarship from c. 1975 to 2000. The chapters are unchanged from their original publication, but W. has added occasional notes in square brackets, mostly cross-references and later bibliography.

The first section brings together various historical and geographical papers, beginning with W.’s 1948 article, ‘The Geography of Polybius’, by far the oldest in the collection but one which has attracted much attention in recent years due to the upsurge of interest in ancient geographical writing. Egypt is to the fore in the three papers that follow, the first a general study of Polybius’ picture of Egypt, its people, and its rulers, then a very precise piece dating the surrender of Egyptian rebels at Sais in the 180s (in a supplementary note W. revises the date proposed in the original article), and finally an examination of the processions of Ptolemy II and Antiochus IV. Prominent among the extraordinary political changes that took place during Polybius’ life was not merely the rise of Rome but also the annihilation of the Macedonian kingdom. The next three chapters focus on Macedon: ‘Polybius and Macedon’ explores Polybius’ ambivalent attitude to Macedon, an attitude shaped and limited by his Achaean background; ‘Seapower and the Antigonids’ considers the persistent naval ambitions of the dynasty and the reactions they may have provoked in others, not least Ptolemy II at the time of the Chremonidean War; and ‘*Ἡ Τὸν Ὀλὼν Ἐπιίσις* and the Antigonids’ argues that for Polybius the Antigonids and the Argeads represented a single dynasty with a penchant for world conquest. Finally the section concludes with two chapters on the Achaeans, the first makes a strong case for the long-term importance of the cult of Zeus Homarios and Athena Homaria as a central feature of Achaean identity, while the other, reprinted from his third Polybius commentary,

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reviews the complex arguments for the organization of the assemblies of the Achaean League.

The five papers in the second section are historiographical. W. begins with a chapter on Timaeus showing how the Sicilian historian sought to capture the character of the Greek west as it faced the struggle between the two barbarian powers of Rome and Carthage. The next chapter focuses on Polybius and his treatment of the more distant past; interestingly, Polybius' knowledge of earlier Greek history is fairly superficial until he reaches the fourth century, with the rise of Philip's Macedon and the foundation of his own hometown Megalopolis. A recurring example throughout the collection is Demetrius of Phalerum's prediction that Macedon would fall just as Persia had before; this, suggests W., made a great impression on Polybius, who had seen in his own lifetime the fulfilment of this prophecy. Nonetheless, as W. shows in 'The Idea of Decline in Polybius', the historian was never able to come up with a satisfactory theory of decline. Both this and the next chapter, 'Polybius' Perception of the One and the Many', necessarily involve discussion of the constitutional chapters of Book 6, but in each case setting them within a broader context. The section concludes with a chapter on the relative rôles of practical utility, moral guidance, and pleasure in the works of Hellenistic historians; Polybius was unusual in prioritizing practical utility, but this did not mean that he neglected the latter two.

The next section, on Polybius and Rome, continues some of the themes raised in earlier essays. It opens with 'Supernatural Paraphernalia in Polybius' *Histories*', an examination of *tyche* in the *Histories* and in Demetrius of Phalerum's prediction. The Roman constitution is again addressed in 'A Greek Looks at Rome: Polybius VI Revisited', which explores the mix of Greek theory and personal observation that contribute to Book 6. Polybius' eventual accommodation with Rome has led him to face accusations of 'treason' in more recent times, the subject of two papers here. W. is sympathetic to the dilemma faced by men such as Polybius and Josephus; Gaetano de Sanctis, on the other hand, was decidedly hostile to Polybius, a hostility that W. traces to de Sanctis's own resistance to the Fascist government in Italy. The chapter on de Sanctis occurs in the final section on the transmission of Polybius. One other paper is included with this, a fascinating examination of the appearance of Sheeres's translation of Polybius with its accompanying essay by Dryden in the aftermath of the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

This is an impressive and stimulating collection by a historian who is an example to all, not merely for the quality of his research but for his generosity to his colleagues—again and again he notes scholars whose work has led him to re-think his own. Cambridge University Press has done all interested in Rome and the Hellenistic world a service by bringing these essays together in a single volume.

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THE IDEA OF ROME

F. GIORDANO (ed.): *L'idea di Roma nella cultura antica*. (Pubblicazioni dell'Università degli Studi di Salerno: Sezione Atti Convegni Miscellanee 58.) Pp. 422. Naples: Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, 2001. Paper, €26.86. ISBN: 88-8114-977-X.

From Melinno to Mussolini, writers and politicians have seen fit to endow the city of

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