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Ancient Greek Scholarship: A guide to finding, reading, and understanding scholia, commentaries, lexica, and grammatical treatises, from their beginnings to the Byzantine period. By Eleanor Dickey. (= *American Philological Association Classical Resources Series*. [unnumbered].) New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. Pp. xvii, 345. ISBN: 978-0-19-531293-5. £14.99 (PB).

Reviewed by Malcolm D. Hyman (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)

Dickey (henceforth D.) has received much praise, from linguists as well as classicists, for her monographs on Greek (1996) and Latin (2002) forms of address. Now she has published a handbook to ancient Greek scholarship, which manifests the erudition, precision, and uncommon good sense known to her earlier readers. This is not a history of Greek scholarship; for that Pfeiffer (1968) remains definitive. D. aims to provide an entrée into the thorny byways of ancient scholarship, starting with an introduction (chap. 1) that clearly presents major trends and sensibly gives focus to those works that happen to be extant. The next two chapters delve into specifics, surveying, respectively, the details of ancient scholia and commentaries on particular authors (chap. 2), and ancient scholars (principally grammarians and lexicographers) whose texts are preserved in their own right (chap. 3). These sections offer perspicacious surveys of prosopography and textual history together with thoughtful evaluations of modern (and sometimes not so modern) editions. The fourth chapter constitutes a sort of abridged grammar of scholarly Greek, with explanations of the semantic, lexical, and syntactic peculiarities of this language, together with ancillary information concerning the typographic conventions of modern editions, forms of reference, numerical notations, symbols occurring in the text, and abbreviations in the apparatus. The fifth chapter is a reader, which might be used either in class or for self-study; it presents 104 textual excerpts together with key (divided between the genres of lexicon, scholia, and grammar) plus 94 excerpts without key. In both cases D. provides helpful notes. Concluding the book are a “Glossary of Technical Terms” (chap. 6), two appendices (A: “Hints for Finding Works on Ancient Scholarship in Library Catalogs”, B: “Hints for Using Facsimiles”), an impressive annotated bibliography, and indices.

D. notes a “growing interest in ancient scholarship” (p. vii), a trend that is confirmed by my analysis of the more than 1,000 items in her bibliography. Figure 1 is

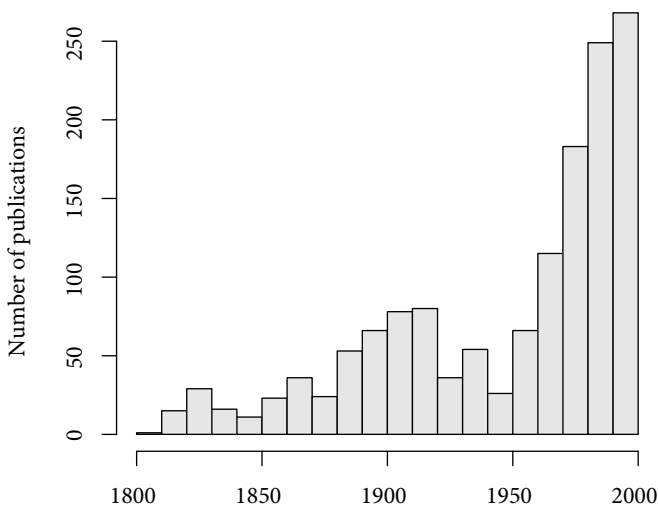


Figure 1: *Publications on ancient scholarship from 1800–2000*

a histogram of publications per year, representing all 19th- and 20th-century material D. cites. The plot shows two periods of marked growth in research on Greek scholarship. The former, covering the final two decades of the 19th century and the first two of the 20th, corresponds to the zenith of German *Altertumswissenschaft*; these are the years that saw the publication of the *Grammatici Graeci* (1867–1910), as well as studies and editions by the likes of Arthur Ludwich (1840–1920), Paul Maas (1880–1964), and Jacob Wackernagel (1853–1938). We find ourselves now in the latter, with interest in ancient scholarship — largely neglected in the era that followed World War I, and resurgent in the 1950s — having attained unprecedented levels in the past two decades. New life has been breathed into the subject by linguistically savvy historians of ancient grammar such as Jean Lallot, Dirk Schenkeveld, Ineke Sluiter, Pierre Swiggers, and Alfons Wouters.

Much as we can applaud the attention lavished recently on the history of the *techné grammatiké* and on the syntactic theory of Apollonius Dyscolus, it is important to remember that there is much else in ancient scholarship that is relevant to the history of the language sciences. Greek lexica are not only valuable for the study of the history of lexicography; they are useful sources in understanding grammatical terminology, they preserve data from which ancient grammarians worked, and they reflect principles of linguistic classification and categorization as well as other (implicit) ideas about language. Moreover, they may preserve knowledge from traditions that are no longer represented in the direct tradition of scholia (p. 29). Literary scholia can be crucial for understanding ancient grammatical doctrines, and they are invaluable sources for understanding such areas as ancient dialectology (cf. pp. 54, 64). These materials have in some cases been completely

ignored; as D. notes, many scholia to prose authors remain unpublished or only partially published (p. 43; cf. pp. 68, 70). Even when published, scholia (e.g., those to Herodotus) remain largely unexplored (p. 54). With characteristic understatement, D. describes a 1538 work as the “[l]atest edition of Theon’s commentary on books 5–13 [of Ptolemy’s *Almagest*]” (p. 294). Such a situation is by no means as uncommon as a non-classicist might suppose (see pp. 21–22). In surveying what has been done as well as what has not, D. advocates correcting omissions, but she raises a research question too: what rationale(s) determined the inclusion of particular materials in, or their exclusion from, the mainstream of research over the past several hundred years?

D. recognizes that her work will have “several very different types of reader with different needs and little sympathy for each other” (p. xi). Although D. does not explicitly identify historians of the language sciences among her readership, her handbook has much to recommend it to them. Comparativists are faced with the task of integrating the accomplishments of the Greeks into a wider historical framework (although it is unreasonable to expect D. to provide direct help here). Such a framework must include the Near East. D. mentions *en passant* Arabic commentaries on Aristotle (p. 51), the Arabic version of Pappus on Euclid (p. 60), as well as the Armenian and Syriac translations (5th–6th cent. C.E.) of the *Tech-né grammatiké* (p. 79). If classicists’ primary involvement with such sources is to mine them for possible variant readings of the Greek original, no fault accrues. But use of Arabic and Syriac sources must proceed with sensitivity to cultural, intellectual, and linguistic developments specific to the target language and tradition of the translation; see for instance Edzard & Köhnken (2006). Historians of *Sprachwissenschaft* will want to do more than just reconstruct the Greek text. Ancient Mesopotamia is also relevant. D. begins her first chapter by contrasting the Greeks, who came late to grammar, with “the Babylonians, who produced dictionaries of Sumerian in the second millennium BC” (p. 3). Yet the Sumerian-Akkadian dictionaries to which D. refers are not such a good parallel to the tradition of Greek scholarship written in Greek. More relevant are the (non-bilingual) lexical lists attested already in the third millennium (Veldhuis 1997: 12–14). Such texts were designed as “the tools to transmit [(proto-)cuneiform writing] to a future generation” (ibid., p. 1). Krebernik (2007) has further argued that lexical lists, as well as other aspects of writing, played a critical role in the genesis of linguistic awareness (*Sprachbewusstsein*) in the ancient Near East. Extended diachronic studies of a systematic nature remain under-represented in the history of the language sciences. In providing an accessible overview of the Greek material, D. has created a resource than can help Orientalists and others to synthesize their knowledge with that stemming from Greek antiquity.

D. has chosen not to write a history, but rather to represent knowledge about ancient scholarship through an alternate means. She focuses on what remains of Greek scholarship, how it is accessible, and how one can read it. The first two questions are addressed by two expository chapters (chaps. 2–3) that are closely coupled with an annotated bibliography. The final question is addressed by a practically oriented grammar (chap. 4) and lexicon (chap. 6) of scholarly Greek. I shall comment further on the survey chapters and bibliography and on the glossary.

D. does not shy from judgment, which is crucial to her objectives. She comments of one work that “the author’s evident grumpiness can make the book difficult to read” (p. 31), describes the only edition of a set of scholia as “most inadequate” (p. 33), and characterizes a publication as “full of errors” (p. 310). Nor is praise absent; D. qualifies other works as “superb” or “very useful” (p. 291). As a general rule D. indicates what she considers the best edition or study, but she also notes alternatives. Chapters 2 and 3 are well organized and cover a vast array of material, including recent papyrological publications, with economy. The bibliography is excellent; although it is not intended to be exhaustive, there are no serious oversights. One might of course suggest some additions — for example Allen (1981) on phonetic terminology, Belcher (2005) on Theocritus scholia, and Taylor (1987) on the historicity of the quarrel between analogists and anomalists — but quibbles should not distract us from the fact that D. has truly done an excellent job. The editing is also fine, and I have been able to find only one typographical error (“Late” for “Latte”, p. 295).

The “Glossary of Grammatical Terms” (chap. 6; 47 pages) fills a real need for initiates into Greek scholarship. D. does not attempt a systematic scholarly glossary of the technical terminology found in ancient scholarship (p. 219). Instead she provides a useful *vade mecum* for students. It is quite complete and accurate, and nowhere seriously misleading. A few supplements and comments are in order. D. glosses ἀκυρολογία as “incorrect phraseology”, but a better definition would be “semantically incorrect usage”. (Ps.-)Herodian (Nauck 1867: 295) places ἀκυρολογία on the same level as barbarism and solecism and defines the error as one that involves an improper word (ἀκύρω) instead of a correct one (Nauck 1867: 313). On this point see further Hyman (2003). For διάθεσις a useful reference in addition to those given by D. is Signes-Codoñer (2005). For ἑλληνισμός a better translation than “pure Greek” would be “correct Greek”; one may compare *latinitas* and *latine loqui* “to speak Latin correctly” (Adams 2003: 186); see further Versteegh (1987). A discussion of ἐπιπλοκή can be found in Palumbo Stracca (1979: 89–103); the reader ought also to be aware of the heroic study by Cole (1988). D. defines ἡμίφωνος as “continuant”; but this usage is inconsistent with that of most contemporary phoneticians, who consider the nasals [m n] etc. to be stops (Ladefoged 1971: 105). The class of nasals + liquids + fricatives is more accurately described as “consonantal

sonorants and continuants” (ibid., p. 111); the qualification ‘consonantal’ is needed to exclude vowels and also glides (although the latter are not represented in the Greek dialects under discussion), both of which are also sonorants. Fricatives such as [s] are true continuants. On λα(μ)βδακισμός the reader should consult Vickers (1997: xvii–xviii et passim), whose monograph makes fascinating use of the Aristophanic scholia. Under λεκτός the reader is done a disservice by not being informed that λεκτόν is a crucial part of Stoic technical vocabulary; see, e.g., Frede (1994). On παρυφιστάμενον, προσημαίνω, and συσημαίνω the reader should be referred to Lallot (2003). The most plausible explanation of the phonetic term ὑγρός “liquid” is given by Belardi (1985: 213–224) and by Allen (1981: 119).

This glossary will save D.’s anticipated audience much work. Still, we may hope that someone will produce a definitive lexicon of grammatical and scholarly Greek, complete with citations of the primary literature and cross-references to secondary studies. Such a lexicon would be especially beneficial in making the terminology of Greek grammarians and scholiasts comprehensible to specialists in other areas.

D. has chosen for her work a form that is able to represent much tacit knowledge, knowledge that has traditionally been acquired through arduous work with the ancient sources themselves. This book distills its author’s keen judgment as well as that of many legendary classicists. In capturing the knowledge represented by ancient commentaries, lexica, and grammars, D. has employed formats that in many respects mirror those of the works about which she is writing. Yet just as the ancient *hypomnemata* on papyrus were transformed into the marginalia of the medieval codex, so the scholarly handbooks, commentaries, monographs, articles, and reviews of the past two centuries will be transformed into new types of electronic publication.

We see this process already underway in a number of digital resources to which D. draws attention — such as the *Lessico dei grammatici greci antichi* and the *Suda On Line*.¹ It is a sign of the times that a work on ancient scholia contains tips on using the online *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* and *L’Année philologique*, searching electronic texts, and finding resources in web-based library catalogs (pp. ix–x, 129, 266–268). The online resources mentioned by D. illustrate the breathtaking potentials as well as the frustrating limitations of the electronic incunabula. Already one

1. And online publications in this area continue to appear. Of particular note is the publication now of high-resolution digital images of the important Venetus Marcianus 822 — which contains the *Iliad* together with scholia compiled from four important ancient scholarly works no longer extant (see p. 19) — in the context of the Homer Multitext Project of the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington (<http://chs.harvard.edu/>).

resource is no longer to be found at the URL cited by D. (p. 305).² Search queries yield inscrutable error messages; interfaces are clumsy and sluggish; and quality control is not always in evidence. But emerging institutions together with labor and ingenuity will in time overcome these problems. Perhaps most intriguing as a model is the Suda On Line, a resource that aims at providing translation of and commentary on the 30,000 entries of the Suda through a software platform for distributed collaborative scholarship, volunteer translators and editors, integration with online linguistic resources, and a hierarchical system of peer review.

New technologies will give rise to new possibilities for integrating knowledge from texts, commentaries, and lexica — ancient and modern. These technologies will ensure the transmission of knowledge to future generations and foster the growth of new knowledge. D's book is carefully written, scrupulously edited, and well-produced (with the exception of the Greek typography, which is deplorable). But we can expect that its successor will be a dynamic, electronic publication.

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2. The solution to the problem of fragile links is the creation of systems for unique permanent identifiers (PIDs) for online resources. Work on the creation of such systems is presently sponsored by institutions such as the International Organization for Standardization and the Internet Engineering Task Force.

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