

REVIEW

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CORNELIUS NEPOS

Yannick Spies, *Kornelbibliographie: Die gesamte Literatur von und über Cornelius Nepos bis zum Ende des Jahres 2015*. Kalliope. Studien zur griechischen und lateinischen Poesie 14. Heidelberg: Winter Verlag, 2017. Hardback, €35.00. ISBN 978-3-8253-6782-4.

This bibliography builds on the author’s earlier work, which fed into an *Arbeitsbibliographie* on Nepos compiled and published in 2015 by Dunsch and Prokoph.¹ Spies improves this by bringing the results up to date (adding material that appears in 2016), adding some 700 titles and reviews. Errors are corrected, and entries updated to render all publication data in the original language instead of translating the place of publication. Spies does not strive to render an exact ‘diplomatic’ copy of the original title information throughout, but aims for a middle-course that satisfies both the exactitude of the bibliographer and ease of use for the literary scholar. Accordingly, older works are listed according to greater diplomatic exactitude, newer ones more schematically. The thematic variety of the commentaries made a systematically organised bibliography impossible, and since an index of subjects naturally seemed impracticable, the author split the works into admittedly crude blocks, complicated by the fact that nearly every edition also contains something that could be classified as secondary literature, and the author, with reason, does not want to needlessly replicate entries for ancillary material added to volumes, such as vocabularies. These basic blocks are: (1) bibliographies and research surveys; (2) editions and translations with running commentary and chrestomathies; (3) independent word and stylistic studies, vocabularies, dictionaries, concordances etc.; (4) a delightful list of arrangements, modifications, stylistic exercises, forgeries and imitations, such as a ‘French’, ‘Austrian’, and even ‘American’ version of Nepos from the Napoleonic era (narrating the lives of the generals of the respective nationalities—a set of delectables perfectly ripe for a reception study); (5) works dedicated to the study of Nepos and his corpus (the most lengthy section); and finally (6) works dedicated to the teaching of Nepos in school.

¹ B. Dunsch and F. Prokoph, ‘Arbeitsbibliographie zu Cornelius Nepos’, in id., edd., *Geschichte und Gegenwart: Beiträge zu Cornelius Nepos aus Fachwissenschaft, Fachdidaktik und Unterrichtspraxis, mit einem Forschungsbericht und einer Arbeitsbibliographie herausgegeben von Boris Dunsch und Felix Prokoph* (*Philippika* 91; Wiesbaden, 2015) 331–449.

What makes Spies' volume so handy is the fact that the type of material contained in the editions (text, translation, notes, introduction, index, etc.) are clearly labelled in a column on the right of the entries for easy identification. Useful, too, is the indication in the same area that a work gives specific treatment to particular lives and passages. Any notices or reviews of works appear in petite font after the entries. When a work appears in more than one chapter, the cross-reference is clearly indicated in each instance.

Spies also appends a useful index in three parts: the first details the different translations of Nepos according to language, the second (*mirabile visul!*) is organised according to each chapter and passage in Nepos' text, listing each work in the bibliography that treats them. Finally, there is an alphabetical listing of every scholar who appears in the bibliography. At the very end there is an interesting graph detailing the volume of primary editions and secondary research from the invention of printing to the present day.

One gets a delightful overview not just of the texts, commentaries, and scholarship of Nepos (and their evolution) but also of the way in which this author was so instrumental in the teaching of Latin from a very early period. This picks up especially around the beginning of the modern period and the birth of the nation-state. The presence of numerous texts purporting to provide the national version of Nepos' lives for indigenous heroes (for example the 'Nepos' for French and Austrian generals of the Napoleonic era) only speaks to his familiarity and popularity at the time, and raises exciting questions with regard to his contribution to the formation of ideas, values, and social ideations that factored into the birth of modernity.

The work is well done and the book is well made. In terms of format, one small complaint might be the amount of space taken in Chapter 2 in rendering full bibliographical details of rare book catalogues under each particular book. Surely one might find a more space-effective way to abbreviate or cross-reference in these instances (e.g. the compilations of Ross and Dibdin). The author should, in addition, explain that the abbreviation GW refers to the *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*, a standard catalogue for incunabula editions.

Otherwise there are very few errors this reviewer could find. Some omissions are understandably unavoidable given the comprehensive goal of the work (which attempts to comprise all scholarship *about* and *concerning* Nepos, even in works not devoted *to* Nepos). Peter Schenk has detailed some omissions (mostly reviews) in his own review of this work (*BMCR* 2018.5.12). I might add just a few more, again, with no pretence whatsoever of providing completion, and with the understanding that the author could in no way have added what appeared after publication:

Clark, F. (2011) 'Authenticity, Antiquity and Authority: Dares Phrygius in Early Modern Europe', *JHI* 72: 183–207.

- Feeney, D. (2007) *Caesar's Calendar: Ancient Time and the Beginning of History* (Berkeley and Los Angeles).
- Hadley, R. A. (2001) 'A Possible Lost Source for the Career of Eumenes of Kardia', *Historia* 50: 3–33.
- Hägg, T. (2012) *The Art of Biography in Antiquity* (Cambridge).
- Hammond, N. G. L. (1968) 'The Campaign and the Battle of Marathon', *JHS* 88: 13–57.
- Lobur, J. A. (2013) 'The Power of Images and Images of Power', *Paideia* 68: 293–321.
- (forthcoming, 2019) 'Civil War and the Biographical Project of Cornelius Nepos', in C. H. Lange and F. J. Vervaeke, edd., *The Historiography of Late Republican Civil War (Historiography of Rome and its Empire series; Leiden)*.
- Sanders, L. (2008) *The Legend of Dion* (Toronto).
- Skufca, A. (2018) 'Tyrant and Anti-Tyrant: Archetypes and Exemplarity in Cornelius Nepos' Sicilian Lives', in F. Cairns and T. Luke, edd., *Ancient Biography: Identity through Lives (PLLS 17; Prenton)* 89–106.
- Stem, R. (2018) 'Exemplarity and Identity in Cornelius Nepos' *On Foreign Generals*', in F. Cairns and T. Luke, edd., *Ancient Biography: Identity through Lives (PLLS 17; Prenton)* 25–52.
- Tritle, L. A. (1988) *Phocion the Good* (London).

Scholars of Nepos will find this a delightful read that unfolds the history of Nepotan scholarship in a useful, comprehensive, and interconnected way.

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