

Konjekturen ist er äußerst sparsam, was zu bedauern ist. Nur von Polaras Konjekturen hat er manche akzeptiert, und er hat auch selbst deren eine gute Zahl produziert. Da er noch den Neapolitanus genauer als Polara ausgewertet hat, ist seine Ausgabe zweifelsohne die zur Zeit beste und wird so hoffentlich ein neues Interesse an dem Mann erwecken, zu dessen Auswertung nun eine zuverlässige Ausgabe zur Verfügung steht.

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JOHN MARINCOLA: *Authority and tradition in ancient historiography*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1997. ISBN 0-521-48019-1 (hb), 0-521-54578-1 (pb). XVI, 361 pp. GBP 60 (hb), GBP 30 (pb).

At an early stage, the Greeks decided that reading critical history was the best way to learn statecraft (cf. Thucydides and Polybius). This idea led to a flourishing tradition of historiography that was then carried on by the Romans, Arabs and Medieval Europeans. At the same time, special studies of politics and statecraft are relatively rare. A similar decision was made in China and thus there is also a very important tradition of Chinese historiography. In India, things went differently; there are few works of history, but an old and important tradition of political science.

John Marincola's book deals with the methods and techniques of Greek and Roman historiography from Herodotus (with occasional background from epics) to Ammianus. Lost histories are included when there are pertinent fragments available. An emphasis is laid on the way the historians themselves understood and presented their work. In many respects, there were significant differences in motivation and method in the periods of the Greek city states, of the Hellenistic monarchies and of the Roman Empire. Another difference is found between the authors of contemporary history and of the past. The first chapter, "The call to history", analyses various answers to the question of why one has taken to writing history. Generally, the greatness and uniqueness of the subject matter as well as the particular ability of the author to deal with it are emphasised. There are personal factors involved; a Thucydides would hardly have written the history of an Alexander. "The historians' inquiry" deals with the methodological accounts and explanations. Discussion of the methods had an important place in major histories, starting with Herodotus and Thucydides. Generally, the autopsy was held important, but its defects were also known and analysed. "The historians' character" was also found important for their reliability; most of them laid particular emphasis on their impartiality and critical acumen, true or not. The fourth chapter, "The historians' deeds," deals with the role contemporary historians themselves had in the history they wrote. This is important in cases such as Xenophon, Polybius and Caesar. Discretion was necessary as criticism was harsh towards self-praise (Ctesias, Cato). "The 'lonely' historian: contrast and continuity" takes up the recurring topos of the historian being somehow unique in his quest for truth. This includes the polemic and criticism of one's predecessors. There are seven appendices dealing with some further points, a bibliography, Index locorum, Index of Greek words, and General index.

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