

source. The use of Eutropius' *Breviarium* as a source, however, puzzles Kelly because Ammianus had no need to use his contemporary's work and especially because Ammianus held epitomes in low esteem. Kelly suggests that one of the reasons why Ammianus used Eutropius as his source is that he exploited the language of Eutropius to make Jovian's death seem bleaker and to give the impression that the Jovian's emperorship was shorter than the almost seven months mentioned by Eutropius.

Chapter six, "The exemplary historian", analyzes the frequent use of *exempla* in the *Res gestae*. Kelly argues that Ammianus did not only use the *exempla* from past times to illuminate the present but he also used the present as exemplary of the future (e.g., the reign of Julian is an example for successive emperors to follow). Kelly believes that the *exempla* are an important part of the *Res Gestae*. Chapter seven, "Julian's monument", explores the role of Julian in the *Res gestae* as the *exemplum* for Valentinian and Valens.

Kelly begins the "Epilogue" by citing Ammianus' farewell to his readers (31,16,9). Kelly sees it as an important programmatic statement and refers to this passage twelve times elsewhere in the book. Kelly asserts that this sphragis illustrates in miniature the diversity of allusion and its potential meaningfulness as he has shown in the previous chapters of the book. In the sphragis, Ammianus writes that he has written his history *...ut miles quondam et Graecus* (31,16,9). Kelly suggests that Ammianus wants to express with the word *Graecus* that he is a man of scholarship (opposite both to barbarism and to Christianity) and with the word *miles* he tells to his readers that he, as a former soldier, is also a man of action.

Kelly mentions in the introduction of his book the two most important studies of recent years: John Matthews' *The Roman Empire of Ammianus* (1989) and Timothy Barnes' *Ammianus Marcellinus and the Representation of Historical Reality* (1998). Matthews' approach treated Ammianus as a historian who wanted to describe his era truthfully. Barnes sees Ammianus more as a writer of fiction than as a historian. Kelly can be placed as an intermediary between these opposite views. Kelly has written an important book which questions many long-held views on Ammianus and his *Res gestae*. It will be a necessity for all who are seriously interested in Ammianus but it may not be suitable as an introduction to someone who has no prior familiarity with Ammianus Marcellinus.

*Heimo Vesala*

*A History of Ancient Greek. From the Beginnings to Late Antiquity.* Edited for the Centre for the Greek Language by A.-F. CHRISTIDIS, with the assistance of MARIA ARAPOULOU – MARIA CHRITI. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2007. ISBN 978-0-521-83307-3. XLI, 1617 pp. GBP 140, USD 250.

A History of Ancient Greek is a monumental work, a revised and expanded translation of the Greek Ιστορία της ελληνικής γλώσσας. Από τις αρχές έως την ύστερη αρχαιότητα, which appeared in 2001. The sheer quantity of scholars involved is impressive: 75 people have contributed, of whom 40 are Greek. "Revising and expanding" has in this case meant that four new contributions have been added – all important – bibliographies have been updated and some minor modifications made. The volume, originally edited by Anastasios-Fivos Christidis, has been dedicated to this editor who died in 2004, before the English translation appeared. There

are, in all, some 130 contributions, by "a distinguished international team of scholars", as the publisher rightly claims. The scope of the volume extends beyond the title in some respects: it contains a general introduction to the Language Phenomenon (Part I) and a discussion on the Fortunes of Ancient Greek after Antiquity (Part IX).

The volume consists of nine parts: (I) The Language Phenomenon; (II) The Greek Language: Language and History; (III) The Ancient Greek Dialects; (IV) Ancient Greek: Structure and Change; (V) Greek in Contact with Other Languages; (VI) Translation Practices in Antiquity; (VII) Language and Culture; (VIII) The Ancient Greeks and Language; and (IX) Fortunes of Ancient Greek after Antiquity. Furthermore, three sets of Appendices are included. In the space allowed by a journal, it would be impossible to comment on all the contributions, and I shall mainly provide comments of a more general nature.

First of all, it is praiseworthy that the volume makes a strong effort towards providing the history of Greek in its historical and social context. It is more comprehensive and cross-disciplinary than might be expected: many aspects of the societies which used Greek are also illustrated. Thus, the work brings to mind the Italian enterprise *I Greci: storia, cultura, arte, società* [ed. S. Settis, 1996–2002], an all-comprehensive history of the Greeks. On many occasions, the cross-disciplinarity really works: e.g., immediately after the presentation of the Linear B script (pp. 253–57), when the reader starts to wonder what happened to the society behind the Linear B phenomenon, there is a chapter on the archaeological evidence relative to the so-called "Dark Ages" (pp. 258–65). But when one compares the work to, e.g., *I Greci*, there are also notable differences. Because readability and high accessibility are emphasized in the work, there are no notes, just in-text references to primary or secondary sources. Thus, the work resembles an encyclopedia, but with a more logical organization.

The second, very important point is that the volume provides a modern view of a language that too often has been seen in a monolingual context (for obvious historical reasons). Parts V and VI are dedicated entirely to language contact, bilingualism and translation practices. Part V has contributions on the contacts between Greek and the Semitic languages (in general, and with Hebrew, Syriac and Arabic in particular), Thracian, Illyrian, Phrygian, Carian, Lycian, Lydian, Iranian, Etruscan, Latin, Egyptian and Coptic, the Celtic languages and Indian languages. Some of these are again discussed in Part VI.

There are some points of criticism that could be made here. First, due to the size of the volume, it is not very handy to use. As it seems that the age of the e-book is finally approaching, the publisher should prepare an electronic version (currently – in October 2009 – no such version is available). One of the drawbacks to the printed form is that a printed article might soon become out-of-date – but in this case, most of the contributions seem sufficiently general in order not to lose their value very soon. It must be pointed out, however, that some authors long predeceased the appearance of the translation. The chapters on Linear B script (pp. 253–7) and Mycenaean Greek (pp. 395–404) are both by the late John Chadwick, who died in 1998. However, much has happened in the field of Linear B studies since the mid-1990's, as can be seen from the second contribution's bibliography, and whoever compiled it omitted Ivo Hajnal's work altogether. Moreover, Part I seems superfluous and is intended for a Greek-speaking audience. It is also unclear why some contributions have been included in the Appendices. In my view, almost every one of them (except maybe the longish one on the language of the gods in Homer) should have been included in the main part of the book. At times, the work has been split into units which are too small. For example, it is not clear why Chadwick's chapters on

Linear B script and Mycenaean Greek are separated from each other. In fact, the information on when each contribution was finished should have been given.

The second point concerns the fact that the book is a translation: in many cases, the ancient Greek texts are given as "translated from Modern Greek" (e.g., pp. 425–6, 757). The reader is prompted to ask, why not directly from the ancient version? However, this concerns mostly short epigraphic texts, and it does not seem that such a procedure has caused erroneous translations. In some translations in Part VI, a literal translation is given, "in order to facilitate comparison with the Greek". But why not use, in such cases, the common presentation method of general linguistics, in which each word is translated and the morphology given in an abbreviated form? This method was already used by Geoffrey Horrocks in his *Greek. A History of the Language and Its Speakers* (1997).

In any field of humanities, where several interpretations of phenomena compete for acceptance, it can be useful to present the different theories in a handbook. In this case, there are two discussions on the introduction of the alphabet, by E. Voutiras (pp. 266–76) and C. Brixhe (pp. 277–87). The first one, an introduction to the matter, is followed by Brixhe's fascinating and methodologically more useful account, in which the view, represented by Voutiras that the earliest written documents are practically contemporary with the invention of the alphabet, is challenged. Again in Part III, on dialects, Brixhe's contribution (pp. 487–99) provides new insights.

What follows from the overall approach is that the volume is not a historical grammar, and it is understandable that phonology, morphology, syntax and information structure are not thoroughly covered. What one certainly misses is a contribution dedicated to constituent order, in which information structure would also be taken into account. I. Philippaki-Warbuton's and G. Horrocks' excellent surveys on the syntax of the classical and κοινή periods (pp. 590–8 and 618–31, respectively) contain some comments on this matter, but more would be needed; Helma Dik's work is not mentioned in the bibliographies.

Finally, I point out another example of two apparently contradictory views; in this case, the reader can become somewhat confused. On the phonology of classical Greek, the main contribution, by A. Malikouti-Drachman (pp. 524–44), is supplemented by E. B. Petrounias' "The pronunciation of Classical Greek" (pp. 556–70). The contents overlap to some extent because the two contributions have been written with different audiences in mind. If one wants to find out the phonetic value of the enigmatic Greek letter Z in the classical period, the following is given. According to Malikouti-Drachman, the phonetic value of the letter in classical Attic was [zd], and in the fourth century, [z] (p. 533). Petrounias' account is otherwise similar, but contains the additional information "it is possible that up until the beginning of the classical period there also occurred an affricate consonant [d͡z], written with the letter <ζ>: πεζός 'pedestrian'" (here Petrounias refers to Malikouti-Drachman!). According to Petrounias, this affricate then fell together with the cluster [zd]. There are, however, no affricates in the phonological system as presented by Malikouti-Drachman. In all, the reader looks forward to the "definitive" contribution on the letter of Zeus and Zorro.

The criticisms presented here do not detract from the fact that *A History of Ancient Greek* is a most valuable work for both students and scholars and provides a very interesting overview of Ancient Greek in its historical context.