
Greek and Roman Aesthetics continues the Cambridge series of Texts in the History of Philosophy. The series aims to provide (mainly) undergraduates with central philosophical texts in English, ranging from Aristotle to Nietzsche. Consequently, Greek and Roman Aesthetics is a collection of passages from the greats – Plato, Aristotle, Cicero and Augustine – supplemented by shorter passages from other authors. There is a brief introduction including a useful list of some, although by no means all, terms which are difficult to translate. All texts are presented in English only, with some footnotes on how a particular phrase is expressed in the original.

The texts themselves have been translated by Anne Sheppard (Greek) and Oleg V. Bychkov (Latin) into pleasant, easy-flowing English. Doubtless due to the target audience of the monograph, there are few notes on the language, and anyone with more than a passing interest in the topic but limited Greek and Latin is better off looking at the numerous translations and commentaries published on most of the passages. The footnotes explain both the background of each text as well as proper names and other references in the texts at a level useful for the student or those who are rusty on their Classics. Major issues with reconstructing the texts are similarly pointed out in the footnotes, although no specifics are delved into.

As a textbook, or perhaps rather a sourcebook, Greek and Roman Aesthetics is handy for building a lecture series around as well as providing students with up-to-date translations of the texts. Even the undergraduate would do well to remember, however, that the texts lack context – only select passages are included (although some, like Aristotle’s Poetics, are quoted at greater length), and in rare cases passages are abridged – as well as the fact the selection is by no means a comprehensive one.

Elina M. Salminen


There is an immense amount of written material on education, if taken in the wide sense, from the Greco-Roman world. The editors of Greek and Roman Education: A Sourcebook have thus undertaken a task of considerable difficulty.

The volume consists of ten chapters, the first six of which cover the Greek world from Homer to the Hellenistic period. Whereas chapters 7 through 9 focus on Republican and early Imperial Rome, the last chapter covers the period from the second century AD to the end of Antiquity. In all, the volume contains passages from almost one hundred different authors and thirty inscriptions or papyri. A small number of images illustrate the texts. Moreover, a useful short introduction (pp. XV–XX) guides the lay reader in how to read the different kinds of sources present in the volume. The texts are printed exclusively in English, but some Greek and Latin terms are included in transliteration.

The quality of the work is high: the sources are well chosen and the translations are accurate and fluent. All the translations are by the editors themselves, which is a decision that