

February 2000

Book Reviews-Indexes of Ancient Authors

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Recommended Citation

Leonhardt, Tom and Phillips, Darryl A. (2000) "Book Reviews-Indexes of Ancient Authors," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 12: Iss. 1, Article 23.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3421>

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Book Reviews — Indexes of Ancient Authors

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Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker. Indexes of Parts I, II, and III. Indexes of Ancient Authors, by **Pierre Bonnechère**. Leiden: Brill, 1999.

Vol. I. Introduction. Alphabetical List of Authors
Conserving Testimonia and Fragments. xviii + 186 pp.
\$73. ISBN: 90-04-11389-4.

Vol. II. Concordance Jacoby - Source. 424 pp.
\$109. ISBN: 90-04-11390-8.

Vol. III. Alphabetical List of Fragmentary Historians
with Alphabetical List of Source-Authors for Each.
426 pp. \$127. ISBN: 90-04-11391-6.
(3-volume set ISBN: 90-04-11392-4)

Reviewed by **Darryl A. Phillips** (Program in Classics,
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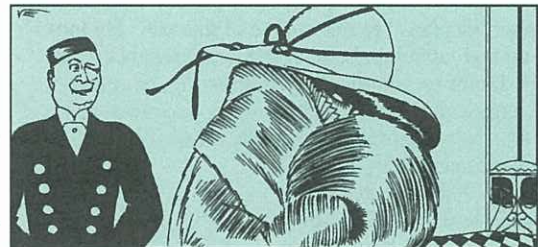
Only a fraction of the writings of the ancient world has survived to the modern day. Although many works are lost, some are not forgotten; references to hundreds of authors are found in extant sources. Felix Jacoby dedicated much of his career to collecting scattered citations of more than 870 ancient writers whose works have not survived intact. The result of his labor is a massive collection of more

than 12,000
fragments
and over
14,000 refer-

ences to ancient historians, published as *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker* (Berlin: Weidmann, 1923-58). Unfortunately the *Fragmente* themselves remain fragmentary. Before his death in 1959 Jacoby saw to near completion three parts of the work, (I) Genealogy and Mythography, (II) *Zeitgeschichte* (political-military history), and (III) *Horography and Ethnography*. His work has won universal praise and has become an indispensable reference tool for scholars studying Greco-Roman antiquity. An international team of scholars is now at work completing the remainder of Jacoby's project: (IV) *Biography, Literary History and Paradoxography*, and (V) *Historical Geography*. New fascicles are beginning to appear through Brill Academic Publishers. The continuation of the *Fragmente* should prove to be a most welcome addition.

Despite the unquestionable importance of Jacoby's collection, the volumes have frustrated historians and students for decades. The organizational principles employed by Jacoby were rather idiosyncratic and his notations and abbreviations are sometimes inconsistent and often obscure. Furthermore, Jacoby offered little guidance to readers of his work. Pierre Bonnechère was among many who "wasted numerous hours, while a student, hunting in the *Fragmente der griechischen Historiker* for a certain fragment" (Bonnechère, preface to Vol. 1). Bonnechère's frustration ultimately led to three years of

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work compiling comprehensive indexes to Jacoby's original collection, an effort that will save others similar experiences. The indexes are available in three volumes through Brill. Bonnechère's efforts deserve the highest praise and any library possessing Jacoby's *Fragmente* should immediately acquire these new volumes.

Three distinct indexes are included in Bonnechère's three-volume set. Volume I begins with an overview of the indexing project, an explanation of abbreviations (p. XXI), and lists of fragmentary historians collected by Jacoby. The bulk of this volume consists of *Indexes of Ancient Authors*, an alphabetical list of authors who preserve evidence of lost works. This volume will allow readers to locate quickly Jacoby's discussion of passages they encounter while reading ancient works. This index, like the others in the companion volumes, is divided into two sections, *Testimonia* and *Fragmenta*, following Jacoby's classification system (generally, *testimonia* are mere mentions of works, *fragmenta* are quotations). Volume II, *Concordance Jacoby - Source*, lists authors of fragments in numerical order based on Jacoby's numbering system (from historian #1, Hecataeus Milesius, to #856, Dionysophanes). For each author a list records every citation with full and precise references. Volume III, *Alphabetical List of Fragmentary Historians with Alphabetical List of Source-Authors for Each*, permits a quick check of the sources for authors of fragments. Throughout the three volumes, Bonnechère has expanded and clarified Jacoby's abbreviations. He also indicates texts that Jacoby included in *addenda* and *corrigenda*. This is particularly useful and should prevent scholars from overlooking information that was not included in Jacoby's primary discussion of an author.

One example may help to illustrate the usefulness of these indexes. At the end of his biography of Marcus Brutus, Plutarch reports that Porcia, Brutus' wife, is said to have committed suicide by swallowing hot coals after learning of the death of her husband. Plutarch specifically names "the philosopher Nicolaus" as one source of this tale. By looking up Plutarch in Index I, one learns that Nicolaus is Jacoby's fragmentary author 90, Nicolaus Damascenus, and this passage is fragmentum 99. The reader can now quickly locate the relevant section in Jacoby's work. An interested reader can learn more about Nicolaus by looking up author 90 in Index II or Nicolaus Damascenus in Index III. Both indexes summarize the extent of our citations of this author, pointing out that Plutarch once again refers to this author in his *Quaestiones Convivales* (8.4.1.723d) and identifying all appropriate sections in Jacoby's *Fragmente*. After consulting the indexes for just a moment, the reader can navigate Jacoby's volumes with great speed and confidence.

The primary goal of Bonnechère's indexes was to make the *Fragmente* more accessible, and this is admirably fulfilled. Bonnechère also hoped to facilitate the study of the "reception of ancient historians, now reduced to fragments, by other writers more fortunate" (Vol. I, p. VIII). Indeed, the indexes may prompt new explorations of the use of quotation in ancient writing, and will certainly reduce the labor involved in any such exploration. It is now a simple process to locate citations of lost works in extant writers. While this does not necessarily reveal the reading habits of ancient authors or tell us the contents of their libraries, it does move us one step closer.

Compiling an index is not glamorous, but Bonnechère can rest assured that his labor will not be thankless. He has produced a most valuable reference work.

Military Religion in Roman Britain

by Georgia L. Irby-Massie. Leiden: Brill, 1999.
xv + 385 pp. \$103. ISBN: 90-04-10848-3.

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The Roman military and Roman England have long been favorite topics for lay readers, undergraduate students, and mature scholars alike. Irby-Massie combines these two fields in a new monograph published as part of Brill's series *Supplements to Mnemosyne* (Vol. 199). The subject warrants interest as Roman soldiers were not just conquerors, but were also ambassadors bringing new cultures with them to Britain. Legionaries and auxiliary recruits came from all corners of the Roman Empire, from as far away as Spain and Syria. The customs of these soldiers gradually combined with local traditions resulting in a rich blend. Irby-Massie looks at religious practices, especially those documented by inscribed dedications, to understand this complex interaction.

Irby-Massie's study is divided into two parts, a narrative discussion of military religion in Roman Britain and an extensive catalog of inscriptions that document religious activity. The two sections are of different quality and value. In the first part she surveys the deities worshipped in Roman Britain, categorizing them as part of Roman State religion, Eastern cults, or Celtic religions. Throughout this section, it is unclear whom the author envisions as her audience. Often she seems to assume no prior knowledge, discussing the basics of each god to an extent that serious students and researchers are likely to find distracting. For example, in preparation for her discussion of Jupiter (p. 55ff), she rehearses the history of his worship beginning with the first temple to Jupiter built in Rome by king Tarquin in the 6th century B.C. This background information, common knowledge among scholars, is not necessary to explain Jupiter to a general audience, and such detail is only tangentially related to the cult of Jupiter in Britain six centuries later. At the same time the author quotes lengthy passages in Latin without offering translations, making much of her work inaccessible to all but the expert. More troubling problems appear as Irby-Massie becomes too focused on Britain, and fails to consider larger trends throughout the Roman Empire. Thus she concludes that the large number of dedications to the emperor Septimius Severus found in Britain indicates that "the troops and officers in Britain felt obligated to demonstrate their loyalty to Severus after the civil wars of the 190's" (p. 203). This would be a reasonable conclusion were the trend limited to Britain alone. However, the Severan period has furnished an extraordinary number of inscriptions empire-wide. Changes in epigraphic habit and chances of survival are better explanations for the British dedications.

The strength of the book, and an aspect that may warrant its purchase, is the annotated catalog of inscriptions presented in the second part. The author has brought together epigraphic evidence for religious cults in Roman Britain from scattered sources that are available only at top research libraries (*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, and *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani*). Furthermore, she has incorporated other evidence published in the *Journal of Roman Studies and Britannia*. The result is a useful reference work for scholars researching a particular cult in Britain. It will reduce the time and frustration of any future study. The collection is easy to use with a table of contents summarizing the entries. References to Irby-Massie's catalog numbers are included in the general index to the book. Scholars will likely skip the first part of the book and use the evidence contained in the second section to draw their own conclusions. Catalogs and indices of this type are much needed in many areas of Classical Studies. Some researchers are certain to thank Irby-Massie for her contribution.

