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Book Reviews-Indexes of Ancient Authors

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**Book Reviews — Indexes of Ancient Authors**

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Vol. I. Introduction. Alphabetical List of Authors


Vol. III. Alphabetical List of Fragmentary Historians
with Alphabetical List of Source-Authors for Each.
(3-volume set ISBN: 90-04-11392-4)

Reviewed by **Darryl A. Phillips** (Program in Classics, College of Charleston) &lt;phillipsd@cofc.edu&gt;

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 references 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 continued on page 54
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 compiled 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 Fragmata, following Jacoby's classification system (generally, testimonia are mere mentions of works, fragmata 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 Sources-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 research work.