Augustus' forum: 'The selection of details on the *elogia* guides their readers to the aspects of the past that Augustus wants to emphasise' (p. 184). There is a more general tendency ultimately to close questions of tone and meaning in Livy's text taken as a whole. This is most noticeable in C.'s emphasis on the optimism of Preface 10, on the fruitful and health-giving consequences of learning from *exempla*, and history in general, at the expense of the deeply pessimistic view of an apparently irrecoverable present-day decline in Preface 9. While it is certainly possible to read Preface 10 as an optimistic resolution of Preface 9, this reading is not inevitable. It would, in brief, have been good to see the complex reading of different possibilities of interpretation and meaning within the text carried over to assessment of the 'meaning' of the work as a whole, both in and of itself, and as a monument of its peculiar political, social, and cultural context.

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NEGLECTED BOOKS OF TACITUS

R. MARTIN (ed., trans.): *Tacitus:* Annals V & VI. Pp. xii + 211. Warminster: Aris & Phillips, 2001. Paper, £16.50 (Cased, £35.00). ISBN: 0-85668-722-7.

Book 6 of the *Annals* may well be the most depressing of the surviving text. A very large part of Tacitus' attention is devoted to the seemingly endless parade of deaths following the fall of Sejanus, interspersed with tidbits of other details and a long discussion of Rome's affairs in the East. Together with the small fragment of Book 5, it has been much ignored, no single volume devoted to them in English. The abbreviated teaching versions of Furneaux's edition offered only Books 1–4 and 13–16. There was a slender edition of Book 6 in Italian, edited by Cesare Questa (1965). Nothing else, as far as I know, has been available on the continent.

For English readers, happily, the gap has now been filled, and filled admirably. Those familiar with the format of Aris & Phillips texts will find no surprises: introduction, text and translation, and commentary. All is done with the learning and elegance which Professor Martin has for well more than half a century deployed.

The volume is physically attractive and very legible. Production has been almost impeccable, with very few typos and only two slips in the commentary which merit correction: 5.1.1 (p. 97), Drusus, father of Germanicus, was born in 38, not 35; and 6.51.2 (p. 191), the younger Julia is omitted from mention of the children of Augustus' daughter and Agrippa. The commentary is full and rich, with information and suggestion. Only rarely did I wish for more: 5.1.4 (p. 98), the note on *rerum potitus est* could have mentioned the appearance of the words in the *Res Gestae*; 5.4.3 merits brief comment; 6.8.4 (p. 123), discussion of *obsequium* should include reference to *Agr.* 42.4; 6.30.1, *omittendae delationis* calls for, at the minimum, a reference to E. C. Woodcock, *A New Latin Syntax* (London, 1959); 6.44.1 (p. 182), the alliteration could be extended to *paedorem.*

There are three items the absence of which from the bibliography surprised me: R. S. Rogers, 'The Emperor's Displeasure—*amicitiam renuntiare*', *TAPA* 90 (1959), 224–37; N. P. Miller, 'Tiberius Speaks. An Examination of the Utterances Ascribed to him in the Annals of Tacitus', *AJP* 89 (1968), 1–19; and R. Drews, 'The Lacuna in Tacitus' *Annales* Book Five in the Light of Christian Traditions', *AJAH* 9 (1984), 112–22. I

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would have welcomed a map of the East, for easier explication of the Parthian and Armenian narratives. *PIR* references would also have been very useful.

What we do have is a very rich feast; M. tackles just about every problem and peculiarity of Tacitus' language and illuminates many historical problems, both of fact and interpretation. To see how widely he has cast his net, I compared the number of lemmata in his treatment of eight choice chapters (5.1–2, 6.16–17, 6.22, 6.28, 6.48, 6.51) with those of E. Koestermann's *maximum opus* (1965) and H. Furneaux (1907^2). Martin and Furneaux are almost identical, Koestermann is more extensive, but his commentary appeared in a series of *Wissenschaftliche Kommentare.* Martin has given his readers, whatever their level of interest and knowledge, very good value indeed. Although his volume is not on the scale of the Cambridge commentary begun by F. R. D. Goodyear, to which he and A. J. Woodman contributed a volume on *Annals* 3, he has satisfied the need for a learned treatment of the final book of the Tiberian hexad. All Taciteans are in his debt.

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APULEIUS' *FLORIDA*

V. J. C. Hunink (ed.): *Apuleius of Madauros.* Florida. Pp. 258. Amsterdam: J. C. Gieben, 2001. Cased Hfl. 120. ISBN: 90-5063-218-1.

H. here extends his work as a commentator on Apuleius from his successful edition of the *Apology* (Amsterdam, 1997) to the minor rhetorical pieces known as the *Florida.* In doing so, he moves away from the negative view of these exuberant texts (exemplified by a quotation from E. Norden, *De Antike Kunstprosa* [Leipzig, 1909], pp. 600–1, quoted on p. 11) towards a more appreciative assessment that sees them as 'unique examples of Second Sophistic literature' (p. 11), in line with recent publications such as G. Sandy, *The Greek World of Apuleius* (Leiden, 1997) and S. J. Harrison, *Apuleius: Latin Sophist* (Oxford, 2000).

The introduction (pp. 11–24) is short, but nevertheless includes quite extensive discussion of the technical presentation of the commentary (pp. 19–24) at the expense of fuller treatment of critical issues. Here H. reveals an overriding interest in the 'literary aspects and elements of rhetorical strategy' (p. 21) in the *Florida*, which he holds to be 'possibly . . . a dominant factor in the collection' (p. 16). H. does not avoid analysis of the thematic links between individual pieces altogether, but he is reluctant to be drawn into constructing an overall scheme of their order as was attempted by F. Opeku, *A Commentary with Introduction on the Florida of Apuleius* (diss. London, 1974), pp. 14–27, and H. Elsom, *Apuleius and the Writing of Fiction in the Second Century A.D.* (diss. Cambridge, 1984), pp. 60–96—the latter not included in H.'s bibliography. Another area that might have been given more extensive treatment is the degree to which Apuleius' African audience was familiar with the material he uses. H. does not make entirely clear whether he thinks Apuleius needed to provide rather fuller glosses to his classical allusions than would have been required in addressing a Roman audience, for example (cf. p. 17 [general comments], p. 80 [on Antigenidas, *Flor.* 4.1], and p. 151 [on Homer's 'verba . . . volantia', *Flor.* 15.23]). However, the additional information supplied in the case of Alexander ('Alexandro ille, longe omnium excellentissimo regi', *Flor.* 4.1) is not so very different from Horace's 'gratus Alexandro, regi magno, fuit ille' (Ep. 2.1.232). Finally, H. does not always pursue important intertexts fully. Although he notes that K. Mras, 'Apuleius' *Florida* im Rahmen

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