with an astonishingly learned and diverting commentary, which will decisively influence all subsequent discussion, even if, in the nature of the case, not all her conclusions are equally plausible.[4] It is however a demanding, even daunting, read. The introduction surveys what is known of Atargatis from other, mainly archaeological, sources, but is rightly mainly devoted to the difficult, perhaps (as I am inclined to think) unresolvable, problems of authorship. The commentary repeatedly confirms the familiar point that much of the detail seems to be corroborated by our other sources, which implies a documentary intention at some level. But the elaborate double self-distancing, the pseudo-Herodotean Ionicism, and the professed 'Orientalism' ('I write as an Assyrian'), to say nothing of the exaggerations for effect, constructs a literary mask so effective that even Lightfoot's tentative acceptance of its attribution to Lucian seems too determinate. That also means that, despite Polanski's ingenious arguments, we cannot finally agree on the tone either. But none of this uncertainty diminishes the value of Lightfoot's contribution to the history of religions, and especially her convincing and subtle account of the genesis of the goddess and the character of the cult. And her remarks on 'Hellenization' (pp. 72–83) will become required reading.

RICHARD GORDON

[4] *Lucian, On the Syrian Goddess*. By Jane L. Lightfoot. Oxford U.P., 2003. Pp. xx + 606. Hardback.

Philology and Linguistics

Bilingualism in Ancient Society[1] is a collection of fifteen essays arising from a conference on bilingualism in the ancient world held at the University of Reading. Its scope is broad, covering a wide temporal span and a range of languages: seventeen besides Latin and Greek are listed in the introductory chapter. This gives a good overview of the ground covered by the different contributions and draws out some recurrent themes. The remainder of the book is organized into four sections, the first concentrating on methodological issues raised by the nature of the evidence for bilingualism in ancient society. The second section is concerned with Greek-Latin bilingualism, and draws on a range of different types of evidence: literary texts, including the writings of Cicero, the epigraphic legacy of the Jewish community at Venusia, and the inscriptions of the *negotiatores* of Delos. A recurrent theme is the motivations underlying particular language choices: Swain, for example, argues that Cicero's use of Greek is a conscious device designed to signal appropriation and subordination of the language, rather than unconscious intrusion. Adams suggests that the traders of Delos were deliberately trying to project a collective double identity in their use of bilingual inscriptions, and of morphological and syntactic interactions between the two languages. Biville explores the range of competence in Greek attained by individual Romans, reflected in the labels *semigraecus, graeculus*, and *graecus,* and the associated social implications. The rest of the book contains case studies of the interaction between Greek and other languages and, in a much smaller section, between Latin and other languages. A common interest is linguistic interference resulting from the contact situation. Several authors are keen to

[1] *Bilingualism in Ancient Society*. Language Contact and the Written Word. Edited by J. N. Adams, Mark Janse, and Simon Swain. Oxford U. P., 2002. Pp. x + 483. Hardback £65.

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distinguish between long-term influence, such as the mixing of Greek and Turkish in Cappadocia and the Phrygianized Greek discussed by Brixhe, and translation-specific effects, such as the hybrid Syriac developed for translation of Greek texts in the sixth to eighth centuries and Hebrew interference in the Greek of the Septuagint. There is also a concern, represented most strongly in the papers of Fewster and Taylor, to get behind the surface impression of language use conveyed by texts and epigraphy to determine its real extent, whether Greek-Egyptian bilingualism in Upper Egypt or apparent Greek mono-lingualism in antique north Syria. This book is of general interest: it is easily accessible to the non-linguist and explores an aspect of the ancient world that was ubiquitous, yet often goes un-remarked. It has much to offer the linguist too, not least through its authoritative demonstration of the kinds of insights that can be gleaned from exclusively written evidence.

Philomen Probert's *A New Short Guide to the Accentuation of Ancient Greek*[2] is a welcome successor to J. P. Postgate's *Short Guide to the Accentuation of Ancient Greek*, long out of print. It offers an ideal opportunity for those who feel that their ancient Greek is painfully deficient in this respect to remedy their ignorance. Indeed, it is this audience to which the book is specifically directed, not first-time learners of the language. An introductory chapter provides an overview of what is known about the accent of ancient Greek, both in terms of its phonetic nature and the origin of the written diacritics. The remainder of the book is devoted to a step-by-step explanation of the principles underlying the accentual system, interspersed with extensive exercises intended to help commit the information to memory (full answers are provided at the back). Basic background on vowel length and syllable weight appears first, and subsequent chapters are organized roughly by part of speech: verbs, nouns and adjectives (simplex and compound), and clitics. Finally, an appendix reviews evidence for accentual differences from the koiné in a range of dialects – Lesbian, Doric, Boeotian, Thessalian, Attic – and also in Homeric Greek. It is an eminently practical book, designed to be worked through, rather than consulted as a reference book. However, judicious use of smaller type for bibliographical references and detailed comments guide those who are pressed for time to the essential information. The explanations are very clear, and completion of the course rewards the reader with a respectable, if not exhaustive, grasp of the accentuation of Ancient Greek.

Several other publications of linguistic or philological interest have recently appeared, including Wyatt's monograph *The Greek Prothetic Vowel*,[3] first published in 1972 and now reprinted by Oxford University Press. It forms part of a wider attack by Wyatt on the validity of the laryngeal theory of Indo-European phonology, first proposed by Ferdinand de Saussure and now widely accepted in some form. This holds that the length and quality of some vowels in the daughter languages of Indo-European can be explained only by the reconstruction of a series of so-called 'laryngeal' sounds. Prothetic vowels are word-initial vowels that appear in Greek (and sometimes Armenian) but not in cognate words from other Indo-European languages, e.g. *ὄνομα*, Latin *nōmen*, Sanskrit *nāma* 'name'. Proponents of laryngeal theory have understood them to be reflexes of initial, pre-consonantal laryngeals, which were simply lost without trace in all other daughter languages. Wyatt's thesis, by

[2] *A New Short Guide to the Accentuation of Ancient Greek*. By Philomen Probert. Bristol Classical Press/Duckworth, London, 2003. Pp. xx + 215. Paperback £12.99.

[3] *The Greek Prothetic Vowel*. By William F. Wyatt, Jr. Oxford U. P., 2003 (first published 1972 for the American Philological Association). Pp. xvii + 124. Hardback £13.99.

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contrast, is that those examples that precede resonant sounds represent a regular phonological development within Greek. He works through numerous examples and finally formulates the proposed sound changes as a set of seven rules (each with up to five sub-clauses). Although Wyatt's proposals have generally failed to convince, they do have the merit of attempting a systematic explanation of the distribution of prothetic vowels. However, the wealth of technical philological detail means that it will inevitably be of narrow interest, and the bibliography is now somewhat outdated. *Semántica y Lingüística*[4] by Santana Henríquez, published by the university of Las Palmas on Gran Canaria, is a collection of essays applying the *Sprachinhaltforschung* method of semantic analysis to various Greek texts. He is concerned with the meaning of various prefixes, particularly as they were used in medical literature. Finally, *Stilistica Latina*[5] is a revised and updated Italian translation of the second part of Hofmann and Szantyr's 1972 *Lateinische Syntax und Stilistik*, itself based on the 1885 *Lateinische Grammatik* of Stolz and Schmalz. It is a detailed compendium of Latin stylistic techniques, including a valuable and extensive up-to-date bibliography.

ELINOR KEANE

[4] *Semántica y Lingüística*. Aplicaciones del Método de la *Sprachinhaltsforschung* al Griego antiguo. By Germán Santana Henríquez. Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 2000. Pp. 157. Paperback.

[5] *Stilistica Latina*. By Johann Baptist Hofmann & Anton Szantyr. Edited by Alfonso Traina with an Italian translation by Camillo Neri, notes by Renato Oniga, and indices by Bruna Pieri. Pàtron Editore, Bologna, 2002. Pp. xiv + 422. Paperback €46.

General

We start with a small book and a grand title. Richard's *Twelve Greeks and Romans who Changed the World* takes as its theme just that,[1] devoting a short chapter to each of Homer, Thales, Themistocles, Pericles, Plato, Alexander, Scipio Africanus, Julius Caesar, Cicero, Augustus, Paul, and Augustine, setting each in context, and attempting to identify the contribution made by each figure and his actions or thoughts to the history and direction of western civilization. The author carefully sets out his claims for the book in his preface: 'This book is not a monograph, a specialized work intended solely for academics', and it is true that its small size and huge range make it inevitable that most undergraduates onwards will find little here to satisfy them. There is, in any case, something strangely out-dated about the project to map out history (a) through the achievements of 'great men', (b) as a teleological sweep from the promising beginnings of great minds to the realized forms of western democratic life, and (c) as though 'western civilization' (the shift from the whole world of the title to the western part of it occurs on p. ix) developed in a self-contained capsule, barely touched by influences from outside. Thus we find chapters on, for example, 'Homer: Founder of Western Literature', 'Thales: Founder of Western Science', Plato: Founder of Western Philosophy' – offering a worryingly straightforward view of the past, and of the precise nature of the undoubted continuity between past and present. There is something, then,

[1] *Twelve Greeks and Romans who Changed the World*. By Carl J. Richard. Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham, 2003. Pp. x + 259. Paperback £17.95.

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