example is *ptocho-mouso-kolakas*, 'begging-poet-flatterer' (p. 179), a hit, perhaps, at the Orphics. But no special or philosophical explanation is necessary for the coining of compounds in insulting remarks. Homer established this pattern in the *Iliad*, where Achilles ridicules Agamemnon with an avalanche of similar formations (*Il.* 1.122; 149; 159; 225; 231). It was taken up with relish by Aristophanes in the fifth century, and the fragments of Timon of Phlius (*SH* 792, 808, 831) show that it was still a popular tactic in the third century. Gorgias' compounding, then, more likely depends on his knowledge of the Greek literary heritage than on any linguistic theory.

C. also makes the 'festival venue' in which Gorgias performed carry more interpretive weight than it should: 'Gorgias' use of the festival venue complements his notion that every assertion is inherently agonistic, situated *vis-à-vis* competing viewpoints, never complete in itself, and always responding to and being responded to by people with alternative perspectives' (p. 196). But Gorgias had no choice about where to deliver his speeches. As a metic in Athens he could not speak in the law courts or the assembly, except the one time when he was appearing as an ambassador, and the competitions for rhetors at the great pan-Hellenic festivals offered the only opportunities for him to perform before large audiences. Like his competitors in these events who had no theoretical justification for their performances, he was there to further himself professionally.

C., like his Gorgias, hopes that his account will be judged 'true' because it is more persuasive than previous ones. Some will find it so, but in any event, it should certainly take its place in the history of the discussion.

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HERODOTUS VI

E. I. McQUEEN (ed.): *Herodotus Book VI*. Pp. xvi + 232. Bristol: Bristol Classical Press, 2000. Paper, £11.99. ISBN: 1-85399-586-X.

Book VI is one of the most appealing in Herodotus, yet the wait for a modern commentary for 'A'-level and undergraduate students has been a long one—Shuckburgh's Pitt Press volume [Sh.] first appeared in 1889 (though reprinted by Bristol Classical Press as recently as 1984). McQueen highlights (p. v) the need to take account of developments in scholarship on Greek history (approaching a century's worth even since How & Wells), and to provide the fuller guidance on Greek grammar and syntax required by today's students. Sh.'s text is retained, though the reproduction, corrected by hand, is sometimes messy and occasionally incorrect (read ἀπικόμενος at 39.2; broken nu at 68.3 and iota at 86γ2 [not 86χ as printed], a tailless rho at the foot of p.62); the addition of section numbers to which the commentary is keyed is a helpful feature, though markers there are sometimes misplaced or absent (e.g. 30.2, 43.3, 61.4, 63.3, 75.3, 76.2, 79.2, 83.2, 100.3, 109.3). McQ. is mostly content to explicate the text printed: the few textual notes (e.g. on 32, 40.1, 57.2 [but ἀνὰ *is* the reading in several MSS], 95.2, 128.1) seem generally sufficient, although one is surely needed at 128.1, and McQ. does not make clear why he retains the bracketing at 98.3.

As a historical commentary, the volume generally works very well: McQ.'s discussions are judicious, balanced, up-to-date, and supported by sensible selections of bibliography. If anything, his treatment of certain topics displays learning beyond the needs of his target audience (e.g. 69.5 on 'eight month child'). There are inevitably points on which one regrets the absence of comment: for example, though McQ. is

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good on factual aspects of Persian affairs, he neglects ideology, saying nothing on *βασιλέος οἶκον* (9.3), *δρηπέτῃσι* (11.2; cp. 44.1) or the giving of earth and water (48.2). Amongst other desiderata for this reader were the significance of Miletus (6), the mildness of Darius (20, 41.4, 119.1), early Athenian interest in the Propontis (36.1), private triremes (39.1, 41.1; cp. 89), the sense of 'democracy' at 43.3, Persian treatment of Greek temples (96), the sex of Cimon's horses (103.3, noted by Sh.), and possible procedure in the impeachments of Miltiades (104.2, 136).

The level of linguistic comment is good, though on this front the volume does not completely supersede Sh., and there are points where students will want to have both to hand, as well as W. W. Goodwin's *Greek Grammar*, to which McQ. cross-refers; the latter may also be useful in occasional cases where McQ.'s explanations are not clear (e.g. 82.2, 84.3, 100.1). Given that this is likely for a great many readers to be their first encounter with Ionic, it is a pity that there is no synopsis of the dialect's major characteristics; while particular instances of many features are explained, some (e.g. metathesis of aspirates, declension of *πόλις*) are not mentioned at all.

McQ.'s agenda in the Preface implicitly presumes as its objective the sound understanding of a historical source, and this is reflected in the commentary. Despite the inclusion of the likes of Evans, Gould, Lateiner, and Lang in the introductory bibliography, there is very little consideration of Herodotus as author, and aspects such as imagery (1.2, 109.5), progression markers and summary phrases (32, 119.4), indications of disagreement in sources (134.1; cp. 53.1 and 137.4 with Sh.) and of autopsy (47.1; cp. *μέχρι ἐμέο* at 119.4), multiple explanations (75.3, 84), and expressions of uncertainty (82.1) go unremarked.

Production is somewhat disappointing: there is a significant scatter of typos, and a fair number of slips and factual errors (e.g. 36.2: read 'mm' for 'km'; 73.2: Crius' *son* fought at Salamis; 77.3: *δόξαν* is acc. absol.; 84.3: Anacreon fl. *c.* 540, before Cleomenes; 89: *five* drachmas each; 95.2: take *κομιδὴν* with *ποιεύμενοι*; 97.2: read 'unfriendly', and *φρονέω* = 'have sense/piety' [so Sh., Powell *s.v.* 3]; 130.1: 'Hippocleides doesn't care' is paralleled at Hermippus fr.16KA; 140.2: Myrrhina tribute is 1.5 or 1.3000T). More serious, perhaps, is the lack of an index, for which cross-referencing, however thorough, is no substitute. If this is an economy, it is misplaced, as is the reproduction of Sh.'s two maps—surely modern substitutes could have been provided (and more of them)?

Writing a comprehensive commentary on a book of Herodotus today is a huge undertaking for one individual; criticisms notwithstanding, this one is welcome, and will be very useful—but may we hope for a second edition, enlarged and corrected, before too long?

University of Leeds ROGER BROCK

PLATO'S *ALCIBIADES*

N. DENYER (ed.): *Plato:* Alcibiades. Pp. xi + 254. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Paper, £15.95 (Cased, £45). ISBN: 0-521-63414-8 (0-521-63281-1 hbk).

Nicholas Denyer's superb new edition of the *Alcibiades* appears in the familar Cambridge 'green-and-yellow' series (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics). The

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