

Seminar 2: The Shield of Aeneas and its Epic Predecessors

For the seminar this week, we will be concentrating on Aeneas' shield in Book 8 of the *Aeneid*, looking at it on its own but also in relation to its predecessors in the *Iliad*, *Shield of Heracles* and elsewhere in the *Aeneid* itself.

Primary Reading

- Shield of Achilles: Homer, *Iliad* 18.478-608
- Shield of Heracles: Pseudo-Hesiod, *Shield of Heracles* 141-320
[<http://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodShield.html>]
- Shield of Turnus: Vergil, *Aeneid* 7.783-92
- Shield of Aeneas: Vergil, *Aeneid* 8.617-731

Focus Reading

To focus your reading, and to prepare for the seminar, you should consider:

- What ecphrasis is and why it is used, particularly in epic contexts.
- How these ecphraseis contribute to the overall themes and ideas of their poems.
- How these ecphraseis help us better understand the shield-bearers and their roles in the poems.
- How these ecphraseis allude to earlier shield descriptions and the purpose of these allusions.
- How Turnus' and Aeneas' shields reflect their conflicting roles in the *Aeneid*.
- Why these ecphraseis are on shields.
- The internal and external reactions to these ecphraseis.

Secondary Reading

To help you in your analyses you should read:

- Faber, R. 'Vergil's 'Shield of Aeneas' (*Aeneid* 8.617-731) and the *Shield of Heracles*', *Mnemosyne* 53, 2000, 49-57. [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4433062>]
- Gale, M. R. 'The Shield of Turnus (*Aeneid* 7.783-92)', in *Greece and Rome* 44, 1997, 176-96. [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/643059>]
- Hardie, P. *Vergil's Aeneid: Cosmos and Imperium*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986, 336-76.
- Taplin, O. 'The Shield of Achilles within the *Iliad*', *Greece and Rome* 27, 1980, 1-21. [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/642772>]