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Further Advanced Latin: Vergil Seminar 1

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Preconceptions in Rome

ut regnem mixtas inter conviva puellas
hoc ego, quo tibi nunc elevor, ingenio!
me iuvet hesternis positum languere corollis,
quem tetigit iactu certus ad ossa deus.
Actia Vergilium custodis litora Phoebi,
Caesaris et fortis dicere posse ratis,
qui nunc Aeneae Troiani suscitāt arma
iactaque Lavinis moenia litoribus.
cedite Romani scriptores, cedite Grai!
nescio quid maius nascitur Iliade.

(Prop. 2.34b.57-66)

..how I am king among
many girls at parties,
thanks to the wit that you
belittle in me. I'm glad to
wilt, laid out in
yesterday's garland, shot
to the bone by an inerrant
god. Phoebus' protection
of the Actian shore, and
Caesar's brave fleet –
Virgil's glad to tell of
these. He now calls up
the arms of Trojan Aeneas
and the walls he built on
the Lavinian shore. Make
way, you Roman writers,
and you Greek, make
way! Something greater
than the Iliad is being
born!

Considering Prop. 2.34

- To what does Propertius connect Vergil and the *Aeneid*?
- What parts of Vergil does Propertius focus on in the following?
- Does that give a full picture of Vergil's earlier works?

Donat. *Vit. Verg.* (Suet.)

"Aeneidos" vixdum coeptae tanta exstitit fama, ut Sextus Propertius non dubitaverit sic praedicare: "Cedite, Romani scriptores, cedite Grai: / Nescio quid maius nascitur Iliade." Augustus vero—nam forte expeditione Cantabrica aberat—supplicibus atque etiam minacibus per iocum litteris efflagitarat, ut "sibi de 'Aeneide,'" ut ipsius verba sunt, "vel prima carminis hupographe vel quodlibet kolon mitteretur." Cui tamen multo post perfectaue demum materia tres omnino libros recitavit, secundum, quartum et sextum, sed hunc notabili Octaviae adfectione, quae cum recitationi interesset, ad illos de filio suo versus, "tu Marcellus eris," defecisse fertur atque aegre focolata est. Recitavit et pluribus, sed neque frequenter et ea fere de quibus ambigebat, quo magis iudicium hominum experiretur.

Other questions

- Why does *Aen.* 4 open with 'at'?
- What is the impact of the embedded narrative of *Aen.* 2 and 3 on the reader's appreciation of characters in *Aen.* 4?
- How does Dido relate to the past – and how Aeneas?
- Do the final lines of 3 actually have an impact?
 sic pater Aeneas intentis omnibus unus *Aen.* 3.716
 fata renarrabat diuum cursusque docebat.
 conticuit tandem factoque hic fine quieuit.

Change of roles?

[...] dux femina facti.

Aen. 1.364

deuenere locos ubi nun ingentia cernes
moenia surgentemque nouae Karthaginis arcem

“uix septem conuulsae undis Euroque supersunt.
ipse ignotus, egens, Libyae deserta peragro,
Europa atque Asia pulsus.”

Aen. 1.383

non coeptae adsurgunt turre, non arma iuuentus
exercet portusue aut propugnacula bello
tuta parant: pendent opera interrupta minaeque
murorum ingentes aequataque machina caelo.

Aen. 4.86