

The myths of Alexander and Achilles: wrapping up



What we've seen



Variety of verse and prose texts in Latin from C1st BC > C12th AD

Issues:

- how reliable as sources for Alexander's reign (can we ever get back to that); factors that impact this
- myth-making starting from during and soon after Alexander's reign. Nb link with Achilles
- how the different texts look back to Homer's portrayal of Achilles (e.g. *Her. 3*, *Achilleid*) (and how the lack of Homer in the Middle Ages had an impact)



What we've seen

- how the different texts can look back (e.g. Deidamia Achilli's use of Statius and Ovid; *Alexandreis*' use of Quintus Curtius Rufus and Claudian's panegyrics which use Achilles in education section)
- multiple (sometimes very different) texts can be in play
- don't forget e.g. art (e.g. mosaics/plate) and mythological handbooks (Cameron)
- importance of context (e.g. historical: crusades? Christian; political: principate)

What we've seen

- impact of genre/form of writing: e.g. pseudo-Ovidian 'Deidamia Achilli'; epic (stereotypically about men and power. Often but not always in support of empire. Historiography. Satire. Declamatory texts. Stoic philosophy.
- impact of text's interest in certain themes/agenda (praising/excusing ruler)

Both figures can be shown to have positive and/or negative qualities

Roles: e.g. Achilles: student, son, father, lover, husband, musician, friend, warrior, killer, healer, ghost... Alexander =?

Bibliography/texts



NB Latin texts (so not Plutarch)

Curtius: nb material covered in first week; Baynham; dissertations

Walter: Parsons, Lafferty, Velte etc. Depends on angle. Dating.

Fantuzzi useful on amorous Achilles

Achilleid: Heslin book; upbringing/education: Fantham, Barchiesi, Bernstein, Mendelsohn

Ovid *Heroides* e.g Boyd, Brady for Homer



Essay



Think about the title: what is your angle

Make clear your approach (and possibly define terms) in the intro

Plan: think about (clear/logical) structure, going back to terms of title

Be relevant

Analyse

Give detail: precise references; cite words etc

Use scholarship

