

T1: Make any corrections you think are necessary

Diodoros begins his work with one of the most powerful statements in the history of historiography:

“The writers of universal history bring great good to all people, since they are willing through their own toil to help the common good”. As you can see, Diodoros does not refer to history in general!

No, you can tell he talks about universal history. I read that universal history was not a new phenomenon in the period. People think though that it had not yet reached its apogee.

T2: Make any corrections you think are necessary

You can say that Diodoros marks an important milestone in the evolution of the genre, since he’s the first writer of holistic universal history. I read he believes that he’s the first truly universal historian.

In the opening of the *Bibliothēke*, Diodoros relates his vision and his aim to you: a scope of historical inquiry so vast that his claim of being the first to attempt it seems fully justified.

T3: Make any corrections you think are necessary

Polybios’ is the first of the extant historians to claim that his work’s a universal history. You can tell that for Polybios, universal means the history of the recent past and his own time’s, albeit from a pan-Mediterranean perspective created by the unification of the region affected by Roman conquest. Diodoro’s perspective of a holistic universal history’d be, as Momigliano rightly noted, “alien” to Polybios.

T4: Make any corrections you think are necessary

More importantly, Polybios' has a definite aim; to explain the momentous and rapid rise of Rome.

Which as he rightly says was "unprecedented". You see his focus is on political events and their

connection's - since to Polybios there lays the key to achieving his aim. Thus: his history is an

account of causality and it's implications. In that; he follows the vision of another famous exile;

Thucydides the first pragmatic historian who also sought to explain another unprecedented event.

T5: Make any corrections you think are necessary

Diodoros' is not an idiot. He thinks different on what you'd say universal history is all about.

Diodoran universal history is the history of mankind and the main actors aren't what happens and

causality but you and me. The stage, temporal and spatial, is wider than Polybios, since for

Diodoros' it is the *oikoumene* that provides the spatial setting and all time the temporal. What

Diodoros is looking at is people rather than event's. That's clear as day in his vision of the purpose of

universal history; it's a teacher, what people need to do to be shiny; not merely an explanatory tool

for current political circumstances.