

### **Caesar's visit to Troy: Lucan *Bellum Civile* 9.950-1000.**

**Commentaries:** C. E. Haskins and W. E. Heitland (London 1887 on the whole poem); D. P. Kubiak (Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries, 2001, very slight); C. Wick (Munich 2004, in German and very full).

Compare Aeneas' visit to Buthrotum in *Aeneid* 3.294 ff. (esp. 349 ff.), and Aeneas' visit to the site of Rome in *Aeneid* 8.306 ff. What kinds of intertextuality operate between Lucan and Virgil, and to what effect?

The *Bellum Civile* is an important text in the reception of the *Aeneid*. Looking forward, how does Petrarch position himself in the reception of both the *Aeneid* and the *Bellum Civile* in the passages from Book 9 of the *Africa* below?

In terms of genre, the *BC* might claim to be a more 'Roman' epic than the *Aeneid*. How generically correct is the narrator's apostrophe to Caesar at 9.980-6?

In terms of political and cultural history, what marks the *BC* as imperial, and more specifically as Neronian, epic?

- Ahl, F. (1976) *Lucan: An Introduction*. Ithaca.  
Gagliardi, D. (1990) 'Cesare tra le rovine dell Troade (Lucan IX 950-986)', *Studi Italiani di Filologia Classica* 90: 91-8.  
Rossi, A. (2001) 'Remapping the past: Caesar's tale of Troy (Lucan *BC* 9.964-999)', *Phoenix* 55: 313-26.  
Schrijvers, P. H. (1990) *Crise poétique et poésie de crise. La réception de Lucain aux XIXe et XXe siècles, suivi d'une interprétation de la scène 'César à Troie'* (*La Pharsale*, 9, 950-999) (Konink. Nederl. Akad van Wetensch., Meded. Afd. Letterkunde, 53.1)  
Tesoriero, C. (2005) 'Trampling over Troy: Caesar, Virgil, Lucan', in Walde, C. (ed.) (2005) *Lucan im 21. Jahrhundert*. Leipzig: 202-15.  
Zwierlein, O. (1986) 'Lucans Caesar in Troja', *Hemes* 114: 460-78.

### **Reception-oriented discussions:**

- Martindale, C. (1993) *Redeeming the text. Latin poetry and the hermeneutics of reception*. Cambridge: 48-53  
Edwards, C. (1996) *Writing Rome. Textual approaches to the city*. Cambridge: 11-15, 64-6

Petrarch *Africa*: there is a recent annotated edition by R. Lenoir, *Pétrarque. L'Afrique* (Grenoble 2002). Online versions at:

<http://www.mqdq.it/mqdq/poetiditalia/contesto.jsp?ordinata=pf285366>

<http://www.bibliotecaitaliana.it>

Petrarch *Africa* 9.131-41 (Ennius in conversation with Scipio)

Tunc ille coactus  
Incipit - hic omnes tenuerunt murmure naute  
Et comites siluere ducis -: "Vestigia Fame  
Rara sequens, quantum licuit per secula retro  
Omnia pervigili studio vagus ipse cucurri  
Donec ad extremas animo rapiente tenebras  
Perventum primosque viros, quos Fama perenni  
Fessa via longe ignotos post terga reliquit.  
Hic quisquis merito fulgens fuit obvius, illum  
Amplexu tenuisse animi michi gloria summa est  
Inque locum cari semper coluisse parentis."

*Africa* 9.398-409 (Poetic journeys/triumphs ancient and modern)

Ipse coronatus lauro frondente per urbem  
Letus iit totam Tarpeia rupe reversus.  
Ennius ad dextram victoris, tempora fronde  
Substringens parili, studiorum almeque Poesis  
Egit honoratum sub tanto auctore triumphum.  
Post alii atque alii studio certante secuti.  
Ipse ego ter centum labentibus ordine lustris  
Dumosam tentare viam et vestigia rara  
Viribus imparibus fidens utcumque peregi,  
Frondibus atque loco simul et cognomine claro  
Heroum veterum tantos imitatus honores,  
Irrita ne Grai fierent presagia vatis.