

ORESTIS KARAVAS, Κολλούθου Ελένης αρπαγή. Εισαγωγή, μετάφραση, σχόλια Ορέστης Καραβάς, Athens: Δαίδαλος – Βιβλιοθήκη Αρχαίων Συγγραφέων, 2015, pp. 159, ISBN 978-6188006058.

The book under review consists of an introduction, text and Modern Greek translation, and a commentary to Colluthus' *The Rape of Helen*. The translator and author of the accompanying texts, ORESTIS KARAVAS, is a specialist in Late Antique literature, with publications mainly, but not only, on Lucian and Colluthus. This book is his second annotated translation of a Late Antique text, preceded by a Modern Greek translation and commentary of Lucian's *Podagra* (Athens, 2008).

Chapter I of the Introduction (Ὁ Κόλλουθος καὶ ἡ ἐποχὴ του, pp. 9-14) offers an overview of recent developments in scholarship regarding Colluthus and his times. Considering the latter, it is particularly welcome that KARAVAS does justice to the richness and diversity of Late Antiquity by mentioning authors as different as Synesius, Nonnus of Panopolis, Gregory of Nazianzus, Romanos the Melodist or George of Pisidia, as well as the currents of the "Third Sophistic" and anchoretism. Chapter II (Μετρική, γλῶσσα, τεχνική, pp. 15-20) examines the metre, language and technique of the text, placing Colluthus' poem into the context of Late Antique literary production, especially post-classical hexameters. Chapter III (Ἐλένης ἀρπαγή: πηγές, p. 20-25) on the sources of *The Rape of Helen* tracks Helen's myth from the Homeric epics to the Late Antique poems and rhetoric exercises. Chapter IV (Νεότερες ἐκδόσεις καὶ μελέτες, pp. 25-32) summarises the research on Colluthus and his appraisal in modern scholarship and ends with a list of the variants KARAVAS adopts in deviation from CUARTERO I IBORRA's edition (Barcelona, 1992), which he otherwise follows. Finally, Chapter V (Χειρόγραφα καὶ παλαιᾶς ἐκδόσεις, pp. 32-33) offers an overview of the manuscript tradition and older editions. The introduction is followed by a bibliography (pp. 35-45).

The text and KARAVAS' Modern Greek translation are printed on facing pages (pp. 47-75). The text is printed without apparatuses, whose functions are relegated to the commentary and partly the introduction. The translation is in a kind of rhythmic prose: verses or half-verses, mainly political (i.e. the verse first recorded in the Middle Byzantine period that has become increasingly popular up to date) but also trochaic octasyllables (also popular since the Byzantine times), are easily recognised throughout the Modern Greek text. The translation shows an awareness of the interpretation challenges and the relevant scholarly discussions regarding Colluthus' text.

The commentary takes up almost half of the book (pp. 77-151). Language and style, interpretation, *similia*, possible sources and textual criticism are discussed verse-by-verse, usually with reference to the bibliography.

The book concludes with an Index locorum and an Index terminorum et nominum (pp. 153-159).

Overall, the book is readable also by non specialists (at least in part), but the abundant references to state-of-the-art scholarship make it particularly recommendable for students of Classics and Byzantine Studies.

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