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Review
Reviewed Work(s): Lucani opera by
Renatus Badalì

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Lucani opera, RENATUS BADALÌ recensuit (Scriptores Graeci et Latini consilio Academiae Lynceorum editi). Roma, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, 1992. LXX, 475 p. Pr. L 45.000.

After a long period of neglect, in recent years scholars have regained interest in the Roman poet Lucan. His epic *Bellum Civile* lends itself to various approaches. Its pathos and rhetoric encourage radical, modern interpretations (as by Jamie Masters and Charles Martindale), but also inspire thorough literary studies (as by Elaine Fantham). Lucan's conscious intertextuality and lively imagery of self-destruction seem attractive once again, especially to modern readers. By now, Lucan has almost been reinstated in the canon of first rate authors, a category to which he had belonged for so many centuries.

Given this 'come back', also testified to by many translations and commentaries, a reliable edition of the Latin text is, of course, a *conditio sine qua non*. Until recently, scholars had to consult the much praised text of Housman (1926). The Teubner edition made by D.R. Shackleton Bailey (1988) offered what is basically a revised text of Housman with a number of new conjectures by the editor. Now Renato Badalì has provided an entirely new text, based on critical examination of many important MSS.

In the case of Lucan, the MSS situation is rather complex. A huge number of MSS are extant, but no stemma can be constructed, owing to the high degree of contamination (for a survey, cf. the entry on Lucan by R.J. Tarrant, in: L.D. Reynolds [ed.], *Texts and transmission, a survey of the Latin classics*, Oxford 1983). Since there is no single 'best MS' to rely on, the editor has to consider all variants. This leaves him with the laborious task of collecting all readings in the MSS, and selecting the most likely solution in each case.

Collating more than 400 MSS of Lucan is more than a scholar's lifetime work, and indeed an impossible undertaking. Inevitably, Mr. Badalì had to restrict himself to the most important MSS and fragments: MVUPZQGNπABDEFHKLY. He also studied the extant collections of scholia. A first version of his text was published in 1988 in the Italian UTET-series, with a translation and a commentary. The present critical edition of 1992 may properly be called the crown on this work. The text of *Bellum Civile* has been completed with all the necessary material: a text of the fragments of Lucan and of the ancient *vitae*, a survey of literature, lists of

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variants and conspicuous errors in a number of MSS (in the line of H. Gotoff's research into 9th century MSS) and an index of names. Most importantly, there is an entirely new critical apparatus. All cases where Badalì's text differs from those of Hosius and Housman are duly indicated. On the whole, conjectures of scholars have been removed for a great deal: *ne tam impotenti coniectandi lubidini nimium tribuisse viderer obsequium* (p. XIX).

This caution had already shown itself in Badalì's review of Shackleton Bailey's Teubner edition (in: Boll.Class. 10,1989,148-93). Here, he discussed 160 of Shackleton Bailey's conjectures and choices of reading, accepting only a third of it and rejecting the rest as either too sophisticated or paleographically unlikely. Badalì's edition reflects his impressive scholarship even more clearly. As he rightly indicates, the Lucanean editor ultimately has to rely on his own judgement in choosing between possible readings. Of course, disagreement and discussion remain possible on many individual points. On the whole, however, Badalì's judgement is sound. Significantly, the number of newly added conjectures is very low indeed (e.g. 2,493 and 2,678). Names of older scholars such as Hosius and Housman figure prominently in the apparatus, but their authority is neither blindly accepted nor defiantly challenged. Variants are reported faithfully and with great precision, while on difficult points, the principle of adopting the *lectio difficilior* is firmly retained. To mention a few examples of Badalì's prudent approach: in 3,132 *exhaustae* is retained rather than *exutae*, the conjecture adopted by Housman and Shackleton Bailey; in 7,387 Badalì reads *quidquid non expleat aetas* instead of *quidquid nona explicat aetas* of Housman (with Housman's conjecture *nona*); in 2,26 *(oculosque in morte) minaces* is rightly preferred to the various suggestions made by scholars (Shackleton Bailey's *natantes* being the latest attempt); in 5,443 *iacentis (aquae)* of VZGM2 is chosen rather than *tacentis* of MPU, adopted by Hosius. By adopting this 'traditional' attitude, the learned scholar does full justice to the poet's revolutionary search of novelty of style and expression. This may seem a paradox well worthy of Lucan.

The present new text of Mr. Badalì is the result of many years of fruitful study of the MSS. It constitutes an important step forward in Lucanean scholarship, providing a solid basis for all studies on the *Bellum Civile* in the years to come. The splendid typography of the book, with its 'classical' font, will only increase its attractiveness, while underscoring its monumental character.

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