

PUBLISHED VERSION

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[Alexander the Great. Selections from Arrian, Diodorus, Plutarch, and Quintus Curtius.](#)

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statue by an unknown artist, mentioned at *Mor.* 820B, O. provides two additional references from Pliny the Elder, where different artists are cited for a statue by the same name: Epigonus (*N.H.* 34.88) and Antidotus (an error here; the reference to Pliny is 35.130, not 34.55). The index supplies cross-references within the *Mor.*, which is especially helpful in cases where the same story recurs under variant characters' names (e.g. at *Mor.* 856F there is a reference to the rape of the daughters of Leuctrus, who is identical with Scedasus in *Mor.* 773B-774D); and where Plutarch cites another ancient author, O. has supplied the references to that author's work as well. It was only possible to spot-check, but the degree of accuracy in the references seemed high throughout the index, and I detected no typing errors.

O.'s *index omnium* is a most useful resource, which will provide researchers with informed access to Plutarch's rich quarry of anecdote and lore.

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ROMM (J.) (ed.) *Alexander the Great. Selections from Arrian, Diodorus, Plutarch, and Quintus Curtius.* Translated by P. Mensch and J. Romm. Pp. xxx + 193, maps. Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2005. Paper, £7.95 (Cased, £27.95). ISBN: 0-87220-727-7 (0-87220-728-5 hbk).

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This volume offers another selection of key excerpts from the extant sources on Alexander the Great, as James Romm aims 'to introduce readers to a complex individual, as well as to allow them to follow a series of compelling and consequential historical events' (p. viii). But although this readable and well-annotated account of the achievements of the iconic Macedonian does satisfy the second objective, neither the careful notes nor the choice of quotations manage to do justice to the complexity of their subject.

The body of the book outlines the main phases of Alexander's military career in chronological order: Alexander's youth in Macedonia, his early successes in Europe, the triumph over Darius, the central Asian campaigns, the invasion of India and the final return to Babylon. R.'s judicious comments accompany and supplement the extracts, which (with one exception) are translated by Pamela Mensch. The quality of the translations is excellent throughout.

But, unfortunately, the Editor's actual choice of passages proves more problematic. It offers little variety in its selection, providing instead essential extracts from Arrian. The use of other sources to supplement that account is limited to the chapter on Alexander's youth (Plutarch on the prince's upbringing, Diodorus on Chaeronea and both on the events leading up to the death of Philip II), and a single piece from Quintus Curtius on the death of Parmenion. Ultimately, R.'s digest fails to satisfy, offering neither a comprehensive introduction to the source material as a whole nor a thorough evaluation of Arrian alone. Even the treatment of the latter lacks a certain finish; R. notes, for example, that Arrian's assessment of Alexander can be 'confused and conflicted', but does not do enough to identify where and why these problems occur.

Overall, although there is much of worth in this little book, it is itself too 'confused and conflicted' to come fully recommended.

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CUEVA (E.P.) *The Myths of Fiction. Studies in the Canonical Greek Novels.* Pp. x + 154. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2004. Cased, US\$47.50. ISBN: 0-472-11427-1.

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In this book, Cueva investigates the role of myth in the five fully extant Greek novels. The book is largely a conglomeration of previously published articles, with a new introduction, a new chapter on Xenophon of Ephesus, and a conclusion. There are two appendices (a short essay on