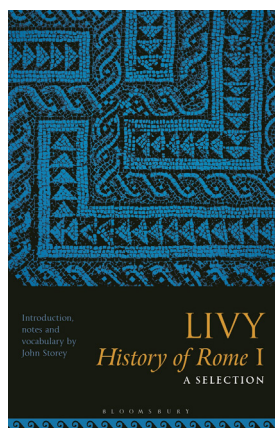


Livy, History of Rome I: A Selection

Storey (J.) Pp. viii + 95. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020. Paper, £12.99. ISBN: 978-1-350-06038-8.

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Storey's commentary is another of the OCR-endorsed editions for their prescribed texts, of which Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* Book I will be examined in 2023–24. After a number of cycles, a teacher may have several of these on their shelf; Storey's contribution joins them happily, containing everything necessary for a teacher to introduce the text and its context, or indeed for a student to conduct their own independent preparation.

Storey's introduction is comprehensive, with sections on Livy's life and times (pp.1–6), a detailed summary of the contents of Book I (pp.6–10), and a particular focus on the character of Tarquinius Superbus (pp.11–12). The family tree of the text's 'main players' (p.10) is a good idea, though could have been laid out more clearly to show which are the primary and secondary characters, and not consistently giving *praenomina* and *nomina* (and *cognomina* where relevant) is an unhelpful omission. The section on Livy's style (pp.12–13) is brief but beneficial. Attention is drawn specifically to long sentences and his employment of direct and indirect speech, both staples of Livy's style, while also among the most challenging features for a post-GCSE student to translate. At the end of the book, there is a comprehensive vocabulary list (pp.73–95).

Storey finishes his introduction with a bibliography. Most of the works recommended are general introductions to Livy, historiography, or certain periods of history, and therefore perhaps of less benefit to the student than to the teacher, who will be better equipped to extract the sections relevant to study of Book I. For historical context, Storey recommends books on the regal period, as well as on the age of Augustus. This is in line with the OCR A level specification ('Learners should be able to understand and appreciate, as appropriate, the social, cultural and historical contexts for the set texts, their authors and audiences.') That said, only two books are recommended for Early Rome, while Storey offers six for the Augustan period. Are we to make of this that OCR is seeking more comment and analysis with reference to Augustus and the Principate, rather than the regal period? If this is the case, then Storey's commentary which follows could be considered lacking, as it makes minimal reference to the specific parallels between the text and Livy's own times.

In the main, Storey's commentary is written appropriately for an A level audience, often referring readers on to Morwood's *Latin Grammar* (1999), which is readily available online. He also makes a

point of breaking down the specifics of Livy's style, consistently indicating where he is employing indirect speech, though it would be slightly more useful if Storey didn't refer to indirect speech/*oratio obliqua* interchangeably. Storey also points out almost all of the instances of historic presents, although these are less difficult to spot. Occasionally Storey does give comments which are straightforward, obvious even, such as glossing *stricto gladio* as 'Ablative Absolute, "with his sword drawn"' (p.52), or *inertium querellarum* as 'Genitive Plural – "useless complaints"' (p.62).

As ever, these Bloomsbury commentaries are intended to offer peace of mind to the teacher and student, armed with everything necessary for the A level specification. Storey is conscientious in glossing anything which could catch out an intermediate reader, but rarely ventures to offer interpretation beyond the power of a chiasmus or tricolon. Here the teacher will need to prepare their own resources, particularly with regard to the context of Augustan Rome. Nevertheless, with all other commentaries on Book I rare and/or outdated, this is worth buying.

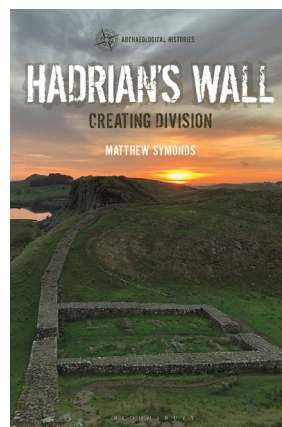
doi: 10.1017/S2058631022000435

Hadrian's Wall: Creating Division

Symonds (M.) Pp. xvi + 213, ill., maps. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. Paper, £19.99 (Cased, £65). ISBN: 9781-350105348

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Hadrian's Wall is arguably the most important symbol and relic of the Roman presence in Britain, and this new book by Matthew Symonds provides a thoroughly interesting and different perspective to the scholarship surrounding the impact that the Wall has had, not only during its use by the Romans, but in the subsequent centuries, all the way until the modern day.

As part of the Archaeological Histories series, with other books looking at Ur, Dura-Europos and Troy, there is no doubt that this book is not meant to serve solely as an archaeological examination of Hadrian's Wall. This has already been explored in much more detail in countless other volumes regarding Roman Britain, and those looking for a more straightforward and comprehensive history of Hadrian's Wall are better served elsewhere. However, Matthew Symonds is able to provide the reader with a much more general history of the Wall, linking it into the archaeology, and situating the Wall within the context of its wider surroundings. Not only is the Wall important as a standalone structure, but its interaction with the surrounding land and people cannot be

ignored, and Symonds adds further weight to the argument of the construction serving as a way to control the flow of people, rather than to prevent it entirely.

Furthermore, Symonds' discussion of the role of the Wall past the end of the Roman Empire continues exploring the idea of 'Creating Division', the part title of the book, which seems to be the overarching theme of the narrative. Parallels are drawn between conflict at the border of Hadrian's Wall and other, more modern, conflicts, providing the reader with the opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of hard borders at different points in history.

As a teaching resource, this book provides students and teachers alike with a useful and engaging overview of the importance and relevance of Hadrian's Wall. The writing style of the book is supremely accessible, and could be read and enjoyed without significant prior knowledge of Hadrian's Wall. More complex ideas are broken down effectively, with clarifications and explanations provided by the author where necessary. As a result, this makes the book a useful resource for those students and teachers who have studied Classics, as well as for those who are new to the subject and are looking for an introduction to the monument.

In a secondary school, and especially sixth form, classroom setting, this book provides ample opportunity for discussion, and its ability to discuss a Classical topic within a modern context will surely be of interest not only to Classics students, but those studying politics, history, sociology and related subjects. The almost journalistic language used by Symonds is engaging, and would lead students into discussions around source analysis and historical interpretations. Overall, this book would be an asset to any school library.

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Greco-Roman Medicine and What It Can Teach Us Today

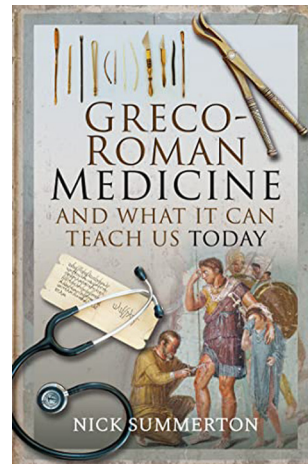
Summerton (N.), Pp. x + 197, b/w & colour pls.
Barnsley: Pen and Sword Books, 2021. Cased, £25.
ISBN: 9781526752871

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In this beautifully produced book, Summerton, a qualified medical doctor with many years of experience across different healthcare settings, turns his attention to medicine in the ancient world. His work investigates not just the ideas and practices of the ancient Greeks and Romans, but also the potential benefits these might have for today's modern practitioner or patient. An intriguing task, no doubt, and one of immediate relevance with the book published at the tail end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Summerton chooses to focus explicitly on Roman approaches to healthcare during the period of the *Pax Romana* ('the Roman peace') a roughly 200-year period from the Emperor Augustus'



accession in 27BC to the death of Marcus Aurelius in 180AD. Each main chapter in the book explores a particular aspect of medicine during this period, with a twofold approach: (i) outlining the Roman beliefs and practices using a variety of ancient evidence, and (ii) exploring the possible benefits of these findings for the modern world. The chosen chronological span is not restrictive, and there is considerable attention paid to the 'Greek impact' (p.2) on Roman medicine. The book also contains a wide range of extracts

from Ancient Greek and Roman writers – including several key passages from the Hippocratic corpus and Galen, which would be especially helpful for anyone preparing resources for GCSE History's Health and the People paper.

Summerton's interest in Roman Britain also shines through in the work, and there are some fascinating examples brought into the discussion which do not often make an appearance in the usual accounts of ancient medical history. Among my favourites – a list of collyrium stamps recovered from Roman Britain, recording location and the name on the stamp (p.39; Plates 11 & 12), a votive offering of a pair of eyes made in sheet-gold from Wroxeter (Plate 9), and the informative and well-illustrated account of the Temple of Nodens at Lydney (esp. p.106–109; Plates 28–31). The numerous colour plates support the discussions very well, and it is pleasing to see so many artefacts and sites from the length of Roman Britain featured here too. Summerton's ability to draw in local examples alongside discussions of more famous sites such as the sanctuary at Epidaurus ensures the book's appeal to anyone with an interest in Roman Britain – and provides plenty of inspiration for local excursions.

Throughout his discussions, Summerton often draws on his own personal experience as a doctor, which brings an innovative and engaging perspective to the work. He reflects on his findings in the context of 20th/21st century medical practice and ethics, considering a wide range of pertinent topics – effectiveness of regulatory systems, design of hospital environments, arguments on theory vs. experience, the use of psychological and physical therapies – which provide any reader with a valuable insight into ongoing modern debates, as well as a tempered approach on how to draw lessons from the ancient past.

Ancient medicine isn't always the most accessible of topics, and Summerton's book does a great deal to break down some of the more complex ideas for a modern reader while highlighting the intricacies of many of the Greco-Roman practices. As with any book, there are a few points which would have benefitted from a little more elaboration – for example, discussions of Seneca could have integrated the Stoic context more clearly from the start – and it would have been useful to see more consideration of social classes, gender, and status in discussions about access to and use of different healthcare options. Nonetheless, there is a vast amount of valuable information within this book, and it should certainly appeal to students working on any number of topics linked to the history of medicine, ancient religious practice, and Roman Britain.

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