



reckoning) 126 years. Keeline, the author of the successful and engaging *The Reception of Cicero in the Early Roman Empire* (Cambridge 2018), may have well written a commentary that will last another century. In this review, I will pick out but a few of this magisterial commentary's many merits and speak to its power as a superb teaching document. However, I will also note the importance of a teacher's guidance for students when using it: unlike other entries in the *CGLC*, the commentary can run at a very high academic register for students.

First, a brief background. Cicero's *Pro Milone*, sometimes thought Cicero's 'perfect' speech owing to its neat-and-tidy ordering according to ancient rhetorical forms, finds Cicero defending Titus Annius Milo, a seedy Ciceronian ally, then praetor, accused of murder. The victim was Publius Clodius Pulcher, a powerful populist politician and Cicero's agitator and arch rival in the 50s BCE. The rhetorical perfection of the speech is pitched against the grim reality of Milo's deeply imperfect politics and character. Keeline keeps this in clear view. In fact, that Cicero's case involved defending a person clearly guilty of a capital crime—who nevertheless then became the subject of one of his finest rhetorical displays—is sometimes thought in part to explain its popularity.

The circumstances of its delivery, too, were extraordinary (even by the standards of the increasingly alarming political situation of the late Republic). Street violence and open intimidation had reached a fever pitch in the wake of Clodius' brutal murder on the Appian Way by Milo's band. Ancient sources tell of a rattled Cicero, trying his best to be heard over the constant jeers and heckling of the Clodian partisans assembled at the trial. Pompey himself watched over the proceedings. The result, despite Cicero's defence, was guilty, 38 votes to 13.

Despite the practical failure of the speech in securing acquittal for Milo, the *Pro Milone* has had a sparkling afterlife. Keeline gives ample citations for the effusive praise rendered unto it—not simply a good speech, the *Pro Milone* has been thought, perhaps, to embody the 'ideal speech' of the 'ideal orator'. Needless to say, the commentary tradition on it and academic attention paid to it are vast. Keeline's commentary is now the standard guide.

Keeline's brilliant introduction and extensive commentary succeed in nearly every respect imaginable for a historical-philological companion. For *Pro Milone*'s roughly 30 pages of Latin text, there are close to 300 pages of commentary, indices, maps, and works cited. The commentary is simply brimming with first-rate philological, historical, and rhetorical analysis.

These 300 pages do not include the 50-page introduction, which is a masterful piece of scholarship by any measure. Particularly helpful are Keeline's marvellous summary of the complicated, thorny political situation of the 50s BCE, a helpful historical timeline, and an exacting outline of the speech according to its rhetorical layout (*dispositio*).

For a commentary pitched at satisfying the needs of a traditional philologist, this reader greatly appreciated Keeline's discussion of the real challenges attendant with reading the *Pro Milone* (not simply analysing it philologically). Keeline cites with approval clear

and convincing research from Second Language Acquisition (SLA) that shows that real comprehension of a text usually does not occur until 95–97 percent of the text's vocabulary has been acquired. Once we understand the implications of this, it can radically change our perception of what reading classical languages would look like (and how we might get closer to the goal—even if, as Keeline has argued elsewhere, near-native reading proficiency is of course out of the question). While Keeline does not focus on this point, it is powerful to see SLA's inclusion in the pages of *CGLC*.

I end with one cautionary note for those teachers looking to include *Pro Milone* in their next undergraduate course and excited to pick up this (fabulous) piece of scholarship. In putting myself in the shoes of a younger reader, I found myself thinking that this commentary, at times, tends toward servicing the scholar more than the student. The introduction, for example, is exceedingly well-researched—and at times exceedingly exacting. An undergraduate reader may be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of citations and, frankly, its magisterial scope. The commentary, too, surveys the scholarly literature with nothing other than full command—but it is an open question as to how useful this command is for the typical upper-level Latin undergraduate. Accordingly, I here recommend that teachers be prepared to assign this commentary with an understanding that they may well need to further scaffold or grade the commentary for greater accessibility for every upper-level Latin student.

In sum: this is one of the finest commentaries to cross my desk. It will be of use for every student and scholar of Cicero's rhetoric, particularly the *Pro Milone*, of course, for generations.

doi: 10.1017/S2058631021000726

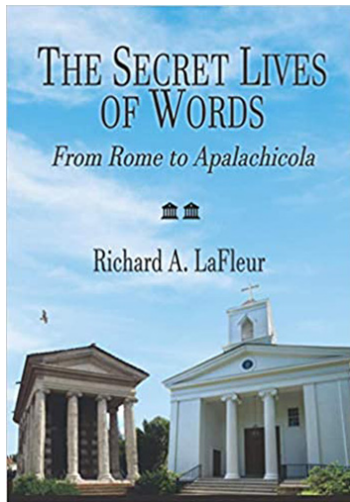
## The Secret Lives of Words From Rome to Apalachicola

LaFleur (R.A.) Pp.282. Independently published, 2020. Paper, £29.85. ISBN: 979-8574907993

Sarah Hindocha

Subject Leader for Latin at Tonbridge Grammar School, Kent, UK  
hindocha.sarah@gmail.com

Are there any Latin teachers who aren't also keen etymologists? There is immense joy and satisfaction to be found in learning about the journey of the English language and offering insights into individual words serves to both stretch our ablest students and develop the understanding of those who find Latin a challenge. LaFleur himself dedicates this book to 'all readers charmed by words' secret lives'. I have to agree that upon reading his compilation I was charmed, captivated, enthused and enlightened. Not only does LaFleur flesh out a fascinating exploration of many English words that any native or foreign speaker would find interesting (e.g. Chapter 34. *carpe diem, quid pro quo, et cetera*) but in other areas there is sufficient appeal to those classicists with a deeper thirst and more intellectual curiosity, i.e. Chapter 7. augury, inauguration, and Caesar Augustus.



If you're thinking that there are many other books like this out there, then I can reassure you this one is worth some attention. We all know you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but, the front of the book is disappointingly old-fashioned and easy to overlook, and certainly not something a teenage classicist would be drawn to on the shelf. Yet once inside, Chapter 1 on *Ben Hur*, *Harris Potter and the Classics* provides a strong initial hook using material many of us of any age or experience will be familiar with. For me, the more specialist content on the *Perseids*, *Demagoguery* (yes, you're right, Trump gets a mention here!) and *Saturnalia* provided more intellectual stimulation and convinced me that this is a book worth reading in full.

Each chapter is just a few pages long, making it an easy read which you can dip in and out of at whim, especially if a student (or teacher) has a short attention span or limited time. Accessibility is further enhanced as all derivations are CAPITALISED, even where the derivative forms just part of the word, allowing the secret lives of words to jump out from their hiding places. The modern references to Biden, Covid 19 and Wonder Woman are refreshing and keep the book relevant to us in the 21st year of the 21st century. Clearly aimed at a US audience, with topics such as Labor Day, George Washington and Thanksgiving, there is much to enjoy for us here in the UK too. As a teacher I can see myself extracting sections to use as starter activities or wider reading for my students. The colour pictures, unlike the cover, add to the appeal as a teaching aid and even more useful are the appendices which include a thorough list of Latin to English derivations, including a considerable number of words used on the WJEC and OCR GCSE vocabulary lists.

What started as a newspaper column for *The Apalachicola Times* in Florida, USA, has morphed into a delightful summation of all the most enduring, important, enticing and enhancing aspects of Roman life and language.

doi: 10.1017/S2058631021000593

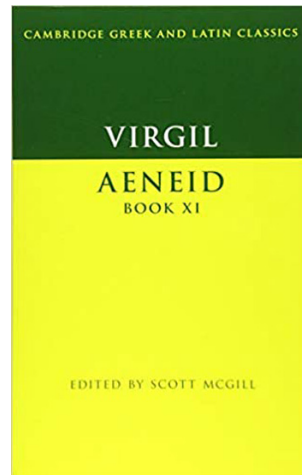
## Virgil: *Aeneid* Book XI

McGill (S.) Pp. viii + 307. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. Paper, US\$29.99, £22.99. ISBN: 978-1-107-41678-9

Gary Vos

The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK  
gvos@exseed.ed.ac.uk

This commentary on *Aeneid* 11 is a triumph. It joins a learned company of recent(ish) 'Green & Yellows' on the oft-ignored second half



of the *Aeneid*, spearheaded by P.R. Hardie on *Aeneid* 9 (1994) and R. Tarrant on *Aeneid* 12 (2012), and successfully holds its own (I omit K.W. Gransden's 1976 commentary on *Aeneid* 8, which, though still useful, needs an overhaul). Even though the epic's 'Iliadic' second half is often ignored in favour of the 'Odyssean' first half's flight out of Troy, the love-tragedy at Carthage, or Aeneas' *katabasis*, these commentaries have done much to re-energise the socio-political and martial drama unfolding on Italic soil, and this new instalment on *Aeneid* 11 is no exception.

Its direct predecessor is Gransden's homonymous 1991 commentary in the same series; in the interim, N. Horsfall and L. Fratantuono published their tomes (respectively *Virgil, Aeneid 11: A Commentary*. Brill: Leiden & Boston, 2003; *A Commentary on Virgil, Aeneid XI*. Latomus: Brussels, 2009), while I. Gildenhard and J. Henderson published a selection for high-school use (*Virgil, Aeneid 11 (Pallas & Camilla)*: Cambridge, 2018; available in open access via <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/857>)

The Green & Yellows have evolved over the years, as has their readership, whence the need to update, revise, or replace older commentaries (cf. the brief sketch from series editor P. Easterling, 'A Note on Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics', in: C. Stray ed., *Classical Books: Scholarship and Publishing in Britain since 1800*. BICS Supplement 101 [London, 2007], 177–179). McGill wisely plots a middle course between the Scylla of Gransden's generally short notes focusing on matters of linguistics and style (perhaps too brief for modern students and too superficial for scholars) and the Charybdis of the totalising impulse of a larger commentary (elaborate discussions of *Realien*, literary and/or textual criticism, or the state-of-play of research). The result is a commentary that will engage (advanced) students and scholars alike.

The Introduction (pp. 1–35) is a brisk but comprehensive and highly readable tour de force which situates the events of *Aeneid* 11 (the funeral of Pallas, the grieving of Aeneas and Evander; the infighting of the Latin council with the weak leader Latinus, the demagogue Drances, and the incensed Turnus; the battle starring the Volscian queen Camilla) within the context of the entire poem, introducing the protagonists with their alliances and backgrounds, explaining the political stakes, and discussing significant structural patterns (notably links with *Aeneid* 5, but also the succession of Italic deaths – Mezentius, Camilla, Turnus – throughout books 10 to 12 and the symmetry between the deaths of Dido and Camilla). In line with the series format, this is followed by sections on metre and the constitution of the text (based on Conte's Teubner). This is followed by the text (37–65), commentary (67–281), ample bibliography (282–292), and both a subject index and index of Latin words (293–307). (Unfortunately, no *index locorum*: see below.)

McGill is particularly good at identifying different stylistic registers and discourses within *Aeneid* 11. For example, his notes on lines 313–314 explain the military and senatorial jargon in Latinus' speech at the Latin council which serves to cast Latinus as an ineffectual leader (he talks the talk, but fails to walk the walk), while presenting the council as a proto-Roman senate meeting in which policies both foreign and domestic are discussed. Horsfall likewise