

Koen DE TEMMERMAN & Evert VAN EMDE BOAS (Ed.), *Characterization in Ancient Greek Literature*. Leiden, Brill, 2017. 1 vol. relié, 15,5 x 23,5 cm, XVI-705 p. (MNEMOSYNE SUPPLEMENTS, 411. STUDIES IN ANCIENT GREEK NARRATIVE, 4). Prix : 154 €. ISBN 978-90-04-35630-6.

This book, from the series *Studies in Ancient Greek Narrative (SAGN)*, is a narratological examination of characters in a variety of ancient Greek narratives. The previous volumes of the series treated narrators, narrates, and narratives (*SAGN* 1), time (*SAGN* 2), and space (*SAGN* 3). Like its predecessors, *SAGN* 4 follows the format and overall aim of the series, the focus being on the formal devices within a text which authors employ to enchant or persuade their audiences (*SAGN* 4: ix ~ *SAGN* 1: xii). The volume has a clear narratological scope and applies the same methodological tools to a variety of texts stretching from the Archaic to the Imperial Period. The editors are experts in their respective fields (Koen De Temmerman, novel; van Emde Boas, drama) and have brought together an impressive team of twenty experts, who have also contributed to prior *SAGN* volumes. Together they co-sign the thirty-four contributions of the volume. As it is impossible to summarize 708 pages, I will offer below a brief summary and address some key issues. In a very useful Introduction, the editors lay out their concept of character and characterization. It needs to be noted that every reader should consult the Introduction and the Glossary before reading a particular chapter, since all the contributors make ample use of this theoretical groundwork. Contrarily to other narratological approaches in previous *SAGN* volumes, this book is more sensitive to questions of genre and has amplified the notion of ‘narrative’ so as to include narratives that are not usually examined within this scope, such as off-stage passages in drama (p. 5-6). The Introduction presents ancient (moral, typification vs. individuation, static and dynamic), and modern (actantic, semiotic, mimetic, cognitive) concepts of character. The discussion of the application of cognitive methodologies (p. 15-19) on ancient texts is particularly intriguing, as cognitive approaches is a blossoming field in Classics. The Introduction includes a discussion of the various techniques of characterization used throughout: *i.e.* name-giving and *antonomasia*; direct characterization; and indirect characterization which is further divided in metaphorical characterization (*synkrisis*, *parabolè*, *paradeigma*, intertextual allusions) and metonymical characterization (emotions, social/intellectual, action, *éthopoiia*, *gnômai*, focalization, appearance, setting). Part 1/Epic and Elegiac Poetry includes articles on Homer (de Jong); Hesiod (Koning); the Homeric Hymns (de Jong); Apollonius Rhodius (Klooster); Callimachus (Harder); and Theocritus (Klooster). Part 2/Historiography includes contributions on Herodotus (de Bakker); Thucydides and Xenophon (Rood); Polybius, Appian and Cassius Dio (Pitcher); Josephus (Van Henten and Huitink); and Pausanias (Pretzler). Part 3/Choral Lyric includes an article on Pindar and Bacchylides (Currie). Part 4/Drama includes studies on Aeschylus (Van Emde Boas); Sophocles (Lloyd); Euripides (Van Emde Boas); Aristophanes (A. Bowie), and Menander (Brown); Part 5/Oratory examines Lysias (De Bakker); Aeschines and Demosthenes (Worman). Part 6/Philosophy is on Plato (K. Morgan). Part 7/Biography contains articles on Xenophon (Huitink); Plutarch (Mossman); and Philostratus (Demoen). Part 8/Between Philosophy and Rhetoric includes two contributions on

Dio Chrysostom (Kasprzyk) and Lucian (Hodkinson). Part 9/The Novel studies Chariton, Xenophon Ephesius, and Achilles Tatius (De Temmerman); Longus and Heliodorus (J. Morgan). The volume has an Epilogue, a collective Bibliography at the end, and an Index of basic recurrent terms. The brief summary above shows that the structure of the volume is not always clear, as it is sorted thematically and not chronologically or by author: *e.g.* Herodotus comes after Theocritus; Xenophon is treated both as a historian and as a biographer, when a comparison might have been intriguing and while Josephus' history and autobiography are studied together. The selection of texts and authors is also indicative and, understandably of course, not illustrative of Greek narrative. On the one hand, the volume's time-frame, Archaic to Imperial times, is exclusive of narratives beyond the Second Sophistic: for example, the discussion of the novels could have lumped together these works that have been treated extensively in recent scholarship and could have made space for a discussion of late antique authors, such as Nonnus or Libanius. On the other hand, the selection of narratives includes largely conventional texts (epic, drama, historiography, biography – the novels in narratological studies are mainstream). Of particular significance, however, is the discussion of characters in Josephus (Van Henten & Huitink), which, despite the volume's focus on formal aspects of characterization, catches a glimpse of how the narrator's Jewish background influences the moral portrayal of his characters. Equally intriguing is the examination of Pausanias' *Periegesis*, a work that, erroneously as Pretzler convincingly shows, might not seem the best place to look for characters. Last but not least, while all authors meticulously allude to the volume's introduction and other relevant contributions in it, I found the discussions of several authors by one scholar particularly useful – *e.g.* the contributions by Rood, Pitcher, and De Temmerman – because they enable comparative assessments and give a better overview of characterization within a particular genre. Overall the breadth of the volume's contributions makes it a useful book for every student and scholar working on character and narratology in any field of Greek Literature as it offers a solid theoretical groundwork for further investigations in the field.

Anna LEFTERATOU

Jeremy MYNOTT, *Birds in the Ancient World: Winged Words*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018. 1 vol. relié, 23,4 x 15,6 cm, XXIII-451 p., 74 fig. couleur, 9 fig. n./b., 2 cartes n./b. Prix : 30 £. ISBN 978-0-19-871365-4.

Ce volume entend illustrer la place des oiseaux dans le monde gréco-romain en s'appuyant sur les textes antiques, qui constituent sa principale source. Au total, 120 auteurs sont utilisés, ce qui témoigne de l'ampleur du travail. L'ouvrage débute par une préface de J. Mynott et par les remerciements d'usage. S'ensuit une note à destination des lecteurs fournissant des indications quant à la structure du volume et à l'utilisation des références ; un paragraphe rappelle en particulier la prudence nécessaire liée à l'identification, d'ailleurs souvent impossible, des oiseaux évoqués dans les textes. À titre d'exemple, J. Mynott pose la question de l'identité de ce que les auteurs antiques nomment le rossignol, un taxon très fréquemment cité sachant qu'une douzaine d'espèces connues, au comportement et à la morphologie proches,