

Reading suggestions for Virgil's *Aeneid*

General reading on the *Aeneid*

- Perkell, C. (1999) *Reading Virgil's Aeneid: An Interpretative Guide*. Oklahoma.
There is one chapter devoted to each book of the poem, but each chapter generally tackles a theme that has significance for the poem as a whole, and does so with fairly contemporary scholarship.
- Hardie, P. (1998) *Virgil*. Greece and Rome New Surveys in the Classics, Oxford, 53-114.
Philip Hardie is an exceptional scholar of Latin literature, and this is his most accessible writing on the poem. He manages to cram in a huge amount of information in a very short space.
- Mac Góráin, F. and Martindale, C. (eds.) (2019) *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*. 2nd edition. Cambridge, esp. Kennedy, D. 'Virgilian epic', pp. 216-225
When this volume first came out in 1997 it was refreshing as most chapters managed to be both introductory in style and yet cutting-edge in approach / content. This 2nd edition brings it bang up to date.
- Ross, D. O. (2007) *Virgil's Aeneid: A Reader's Guide*. Wiley-Blackwell.
A readable book that gives a good sense of the style of the poem, e.g. its reliance on visuals.
- Parry, A. 'The Two Voices of Virgil's *Aeneid*' *Arion* 2, no. 4 (1963), 66-80, also in Steele Commager, *Virgil, a collection of critical essays* (1966).
This is an old but classic article that is readable, subtle, and draws out nicely how Virgil's epic differs from Homeric epic. It focuses on the strain of sorrow and sacrifice that runs through the epic, arguing that there is nothing simplistically triumphalist about the poem.
- Putnam, M. C. J. (2011) *The Humanness of Heroes: Studies in the Conclusion of Virgil's Aeneid*. Amsterdam.
As with Philip Hardie, Michael Putnam is a veteran scholar writing here in his most accessible vein. The book demonstrates a wealth of exemplary close analysis.

The Augustan political and cultural world

- Galinsky, G. K. (1996) *Augustan Culture: An Interpretive Introduction*. Princeton.
This is a great introduction to the historical context of the poem. It's particularly useful on how Augustan material culture, e.g. the statue of Augustus from Prima Porta, works in tandem with Virgil's poetry. It argues that Virgil is overall a supporter of Augustus.
- Tarrant, R. J. (1997) 'Poetry and power: Virgil's poetry in contemporary context' in C. Martindale, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*, 169-187, esp. 177-end.
Less fully convinced of Virgil's support for Augustus, Tarrant talks of the epic's 'ambivalence' and includes some reflections on the ending of the poem.
- Augustus' *Res Gestae*, his own inscribed account of his reign, is recommended reading by OCR, and it's certainly very useful for getting a sense of what Augustus wanted to be remembered for. The Brunt and Moore edition recommended by OCR is fine, but I recommend a more modern edition: A. E. Cooley (2011), *Res Gestae Divi Augusti: Text, Translation, and Commentary*, Cambridge.

Women / sexuality in the *Aeneid* (topic links up with EH's talk and materials on the *Iliad*)

- Nugent, S. G. (1999) 'The women of the *Aeneid*: Vanishing bodies, lingering voices' in C. Perkell, ed. *Reading Vergil's Aeneid: An Interpretive Guide*, 251-270. Norman.
- Oliensis, E. (1997) 'Sons and lovers: Sexuality and gender in Virgil's poetry' in C. Martindale, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*, 294-311, esp. 303-end.
- I also have a short video on this topic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsbKzzt9cF8>*