THEOCRITUS

A SELECTION

IDYLLS

1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13

EDITED BY

RICHARD HUNTER

Reader in Greek and Latin Literature in the University of Cambridge, and Fellow of Pembroke College
CONTENTS

Preface vii
Conventions and abbreviations viii

Introduction
1. Theocritus 1
2. Bucolic poetry 5
3. The locus amoenus 12
4. Metre 17
5. Language 21
6. Transmission 26

Sigla 29

THEOCRITUS: A SELECTION
I The song of Thyrsis (Idyll 1) 31
II The goatherd as komast (Idyll 3) 33
III The herdsman (Idyll 4) 39
IV The harvest-festival (Idyll 7) 41
V The reapers (Idyll 10) 43
VI The Cyclops (Idyll 11) 49
VII A bucolic exchange (Idyll 6) 51
VIII Hylas (Idyll 13) 54

Commentary 56
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vi</th>
<th>290</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indexes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Subjects</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Greek words</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Passages discussed</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREFACE

The need for a new commentary on Theocritus, and particularly one with a literary bias, is, I hope, self-evident. How far the present volume goes towards filling that need is a matter for others, but I should say that I do not think that I was ever so deluded as to aim to ‘replace Gow’, and (like Sir Kenneth Dover before me) I hope that both my debt to Gow’s monumental edition and our abiding dependence upon it are clear from every page of my own commentary. I regret, of course, that there are only eight poems in the present collection, but I would have regretted much more the inevitable silences which a larger corpus would impose, within the (admirable) parameters of Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Moreover, the longer I worked on this book, the more these eight poems seemed to hang together in ways that I had never suspected, and I hope that some sense of this emerges from the separate discussions.

Another regret is that there has been no space to pursue Nachleben at any length. I have, by means of the sign ‡, indicated where a verse of T. has been an important model for Virgil, but I am only too aware that such mechanical devices conceal more than they reveal. Doubtless I have missed some examples, but some apparent omissions may reflect a judgement about what constitutes ‘an important model’ rather than oversight or ignorance.

My debt to willing friends and critics is, as ever, very large. Pat Easterling, Marco Fantuzzi, Philip Hardie, Ted Kenney and Laura Rossi commented upon a draft typescript and saved me from much that I would not have wanted to see the light of day; where I have shamelessly adopted their suggestions, they will, I hope, recognise genuine gratitude. John Henderson helped me to believe that I understood something of Idyll 7 and Elegy 9; as always, Neil Wright listened patiently and refused to settle for easy answers. Susan Moore’s copy-editing taught me more than I care to confess.

An award under The British Academy Research Leave Scheme helped bring this project to completion.
CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1. Except where it is relevant to the argument, poems of the Theocritan corpus are all cited as though "genuine"; thus, 1.7, 23.7, not 1.7, [23]7.
2. Translations are my own, unless the translator is identified.
3. The works of Homer (Il., Od.), Apollonius (Arg.) and Virgil (Ed., Georg., Aen.) are cited by title only.
4. (i) Unless otherwise specified, references to Callimachus are to the edition of R. Pfeiffer (Oxford 1953–9).
   (ii) Ed = Bion, Epitaphios Adonis.
   EB = [Moschus], Epitaphios Bionis.
5. Abbreviations for periodicals usually follow the system of L’Annee Philologique.
6. In the spelling of Greek names, ease of recognition has been the principal aim. The names of authors are usually ‘latinised’, whereas other names may be transliterated.
7. The following editions of Theocritus are cited by author only:
   A. Fritzschhe, 2nd ed., Leipzig 1870
   U. von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff, Oxford 1905
   K. Latte, Isertohn 1948
   A. S. F. Gow, 2nd ed., Cambridge 1952
   K. J. Dover, London 1971
   C. Gallavotti, 3rd ed., Rome 1993
8. Modern works cited by author and date only are listed in the Bibliography.
9. Collections of texts and works of reference are abbreviated as follows:

   CA J. U. Powell (ed.), Collectanea Alexandrina (Oxford 1925)
   CGFPR C. F. L. Austin (ed.), Comitium Graecorum fragmenta in polyrytis reperta (Berlin / New York 1973)
CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Chantraine
P. Chantraine, Grammaire homérique (Paris 1948–53)

CPG
E. L. Leutsch and F. Schneidewin, Corpus poëmiorographorum Graecorum (Göttingen 1899–51)

Davies–Kathirithambey
M. Davies and J. Kathirithambey, Greek insects (London 1986)

Denniston
J. D. Denniston, The Greek particles (ed. 2, Oxford 1954)

FGHist

GG
Grammaticae Graecae recognovit et apparatu critico instructi (Leipzig 1867–1910)

Goodwin
W. W. Goodwin, Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb (ed. 2, London 1889)

GP
A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page (eds.), The Garland of Philip and some contemporary epigrams (Cambridge 1968)

HE
A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page (eds.), The Greek anthology: Hellenistic epigrams (Cambridge 1965)

K–B

K–G

KRS

Lampe
G. W. H. Lampe, A patristic Greek lexicon (Oxford 1961)

LGPN
P. M. Fraser and E. Matthews (eds.), A lexicon of Greek personal names (Oxford 1987– )

Long–Sedley
A. A. Long and D. N. Sedley, The Hellenistic philosophers (Cambridge 1987)

LSJ
CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

LfgE Lexikon des frühgriechischen Epos, eds. B. Snell et al. (Göttingen 1979–)

LMIC Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae (Zurich/Munich 1981–97)

Molinos T. Molinos Tejada, Los durísimos del Corpos Bacicollicorum (Amsterdam 1990)

Otto A. Otto, Die Sprichwörter und sprichwörtlichen Redewendungen der Römer (Leipzig 1890)


Polunin–Huxley O. Polunin and A. Huxley, Flowers of the Mediterranean (London 1965)

Presigke Fr. Preisigke, Winterbuch der griechischen Papyrusschriften (Berlin 1905–7)

RE Pauly’s Real-Enzyklopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft (Stuttgart 1893–)

Roscher W. H. Roscher (ed.), Ausführliches Lexikon der griechischen und römischen Mythologie (Leipzig 1884–1937)

Schwyzer E. Schwyzer, Griechische Grammatik (Munich 1939–53)

SEG Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum (Leiden 1924–)


SPG R. Forster, Scriptores physiognomonici Graeci et Latini (Leipzig 1893)


SVF J. von Arnim (ed.), Stoicorum veterum fragmenta (Leipzig 1905–24)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conventions and Abbreviations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thompson, Fishes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TrGF</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>