Herodotus in Context

Herodotus called his work an enquiry and wrote before ‘history’ was a separate discipline. Coming from Halicarnassus, at the crossroads between the Persian and Athenian spheres of influence, he combined the culture of Athens with that of the more pluralistic and less ethnocentric cities of east Greece. Alive to the implications of this cultural background for Herodotus’ thought, this study explores the much neglected contemporary connotations and context of the Histories, looking at them as part of the intellectual climate of his time. Concentrating on Herodotus’ ethnography, geography and accounts of natural wonders, and examining his methods of argument and persuasion, it sees the Histories, which appear virtually without antecedents, as a product of the late fifth-century world of the natural scientists, medical writers and sophists – a world of controversy and debate.

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*Ethnography, Science and the Art of Persuasion*

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Acknowledgements

Many friends and colleagues have helped, directly or indirectly, with this book. Various people read parts of it, or gave their reactions to versions in seminar form: I would like to express my warmest appreciation to Ineke Sluiter for her comments on the whole manuscript, to Michael Trapp and Lene Rubinstein for their enthusiasm and critical comments, and Geoffrey Lloyd who read part of the manuscript and offered astute criticism at an earlier stage. Of the many others who offered advice or encouragement, I should mention particularly Sally Humphreys, Ahuvia Kahane, Ann Hanson and Wesley Smith for their advice on medical matters, Richard Bett and Istvan Bodnar. The Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington D.C. gave me a fellowship for 1994/5, and this, with the generous support of the Directors Deborah Boedeker and Kurt Raaflaub, offered the calm and peace to complete the bulk of the work. Royal Holloway gave me a sabbatical to complete it. An invitation from L’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and the Centre Louis Gernet in Paris gave me the opportunity to try out the ideas at an advanced stage, and complete further work on the manuscript; in particular, I owe much to François Hartog, Catherine Darbo-Peschanski, Pauline Schmitt-Pantel and Andreas Wittenburg. I would also like to thank Pauline Hire, my copy-editor, Linda Woodward, and the anonymous referees for Cambridge University Press. Finally, I thank my family and Michael.
References and texts

In the notes I use the Harvard system of author and date with the sole exception of modern commentaries. For greater ease of reference, commentaries are referred to by the name of the scholar and a reference to the commentary in question: thus commentaries by Stein, for example, Asheri, A. Lloyd, etc. will be clearly signalled in the notes.

For works in the Hippocratic Corpus, the best modern texts, used here where available, are listed below. The only complete edition is the nineteenth-century edition of Littre, Hippocrate. W. H. S. Jones’ edition (1923–31), for the Loeb Classical Library, maintains a reference system similar to Littre’s, of line-numbering within each chapter. Where possible, I use more recent texts (Budé series and the Corpus Medicorum Graecorum (= CMG)); otherwise the Littre and Jones texts. Littre references (Littre volume + page + line) are signalled with a capital L after the reference. For the more recent texts, I use their system of subdividing chapters (either by line or other subdivision); the general division into chapters is usually similar to that found in the Loeb editions but subdivisions within chapters vary between editors. The following are the main modern texts used:

Airs, Waters, Places (= Airs)
Hippocrate, Airs, Eaux, Lieux, vol. ii.2, Budé series: text, translation and commentary by J. Jouanna (Paris 1996). (Note that there is also an edition of Airs by H. Diller, in the CMG series, Hippocratis De aere aquis locis, CMG i 1.2 (Berlin 1970).)

On the Art (= Art), also known as On the Art of Medicine

On Breaths (= Breaths)
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*Ancient Medicine* (= Anc. Med.)

*Epidemics I and III* (= Epid. I and III)

*On Generation|Nature of the Child|Diseases IV* (= Gen|Nat. Child|Dis. IV)

*On the Nature of Man* (= Nat. Man)

*Regimen* (= Regimen)
*Hippocrates, Du Régime*, text, translation and commentary, R. Joly with collaboration of S. Byl, *CMG* i. 2.4 (Berlin, 1984).

*Regimen in Acute Diseases* (= Acut.)

*On the Sacred Disease* (= Sacr. Dis.)

Note also:
*Diseases of Women I and II* (= Mul. I, Mul. II)
The Littré text is used.