TIMAEUS OF TAUROMENIUM AND HELLENISTIC HISTORIOGRAPHY

Timaeus of Tauromenium (350–260 BC) wrote the authoritative account of the Greeks in the western Mediterranean. Like that of almost all the Hellenistic historians, his work survives only in fragments. Beyond an up-to-date treatment of this important author, this book shows that both the nature of the evidence and modern assumptions about historical writing in the Hellenistic period have skewed our treatment and judgment of lost historians. For Timaeus, much of our evidence is preserved in the polemical context of Polybius’ Book 12. When we move outside that framework and examine the fragments of Timaeus in their proper context, we gain a greater appreciation for his method and his achievement, including his use of polemical invective and his composition of speeches. This examination of Timaeus also conveys a broader impression of the major lines of Hellenistic historiography.

CHRISTOPHER A. BARON is Assistant Professor at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, where he teaches the History of Ancient Greece, Age of Alexander, Classical Historiography, and Democracy and the Greeks, as well as reading courses in Greek prose authors.
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CHRISTOPHER A. BARON
To Jessica, ma camarade
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Acknowledgments

This book arose out of the dissertation I wrote as a member of the Graduate Group in Ancient History at the University of Pennsylvania, and thus I want to thank first the people involved in that project: my adviser, Jeremy McInerney; my readers, Michael Flower and Sheila Murnaghan; and Brent Shaw, who was present at the conception of the study and encouraged me to pursue it. Since 2006 I have rewritten almost all of that dissertation; its remnants can be found in Chapters 1–6 and 9. This would not have happened without Michael Flower’s valuable advice throughout the process, and he kindly read a draft of the final manuscript. Martin Bloomer and Liz Mazurek read earlier versions of Chapter 10. My other colleagues at Notre Dame have assisted me through comments and conversations, including Keith Bradley, David Hernandez, Brian Krostenko, Sabine MacCormack, Gundi Müller, Katy Schlegel, and Isabelle Torrance. The anonymous referees for Cambridge University Press provided invaluable and detailed feedback for which I am deeply grateful. Thanks also go to audiences at the Montreal meeting of the American Philological Association, the Cardiff Classical Association meeting, and the University of Pennsylvania who heard and responded to papers which form parts of the book. Others who have contributed by gladly sharing their knowledge of and enthusiasm for ancient historiography include Paul Christesen, Andy Gallia, Vanessa Gorman, Lisa Hau, Michael Ierardi, John Marincola, Alexander Meeus, William Pillot, Brian Sheridan, Nicholas Wiater, and Liv Yarrow. All errors and ill-conceived hypotheses remain my own.

I would not have completed this book without the material assistance of a number of people at Notre Dame. Dave Jenkins, Lou Jordan, and David Sullivan purchased anything I requested for the library; whatever remained appeared quickly thanks to the ILL staff. Susan Ohmer provided library workspace at a critical juncture. The University granted a semester’s paid leave during which the book reached its final form. Finally, the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, College of Arts and Letters very generously
Acknowledgments

supported the book’s completion with a Summer Stipend in 2008, an International Travel Grant in 2010, and a Small Research Grant toward publication costs. At Cambridge University Press, Michael Sharp agreed to consider the book and guided my partial manuscript to a successful outcome. Josephine Lane, Elizabeth Hanlon, and Jodie Hodgson have been welcome companions throughout the process, and Jan Chapman has made many key improvements with her thorough copy-editing.

My biggest debt of gratitude I owe to my immediate family: Hildegarde, who has helped more than she could know; and my wife and partner, Jessica. Her keen eye improved my writing; but more than that, without her unflagging support and encouragement, my life would be poorer in so many ways.
I cite the fragments of Timaeus by Jacoby’s Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker (vol. IIIB no. 566). Any testimonium (T) or fragment (F) without further designation belongs to Timaeus. Other historians whose fragments had appeared online as of February 2012 are cited by way of Brill’s New Jacoby, which, fortunately, retains Jacoby’s numbering system. Although I criticize his arrangement on several occasions, writing this book has convinced me that there is no way to organize the fragments without imposing a certain level of interpretation upon the evidence; as Jacoby himself wrote in 1909, every system has its drawbacks. One might imagine a more flexible format could be developed for an electronic presentation (with, in addition, hyperlinks to the cover-texts from which the fragments derive). At the moment, BNJ has simply transferred Jacoby’s arrangement to the computer screen. Without his commentary, section headings, marginal notations, and any explanation of his principles, this presents pitfalls for those unfamiliar with Jacoby’s original volumes. The benefit of the new project’s existing online, I hope, is that improvements can and will be implemented easily.

I have attempted to use the most up-to-date texts of the authors who preserve Timaeus’ fragments, noting the few occasions on which they differ from FGrHist and BNJ. For Polybius’ Book 12, I rely on the Budé text of Pédech (1961) rather than Jacoby. All translations from ancient and modern languages are my own unless otherwise noted. In the spelling of Greek names and book titles, I have followed my publisher’s preference for Latinized/Anglicized forms, with the exception of some place names. Ancient authors and their works are abbreviated as in OCD and LSJ. The following abbreviations are used in the text, notes, and references (any not listed match those employed by L’Année Philologique):

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IG Inscriptiones Graecae. Berlin, 1873–.

Jacoby, [vol.] Refers to Jacoby’s commentary or notes for the various volumes of Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker.

Kirchner, PA Prosopographia Attica, ed. J. Kirchner (2 vols.). Berlin, 1901–3.

Note on the text and abbreviations


PCG  Poetae Comici Graeci, ed. R. Kassel and C. Austin (8 vols.). Berlin, 1983–.


P Oxy.  Oxyrhynchus Papyri. London, 1898–.


SEG  Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum. Leiden, 1923–


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