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58

THE ANNALS OF TACITUS
BOOK 4

THE ANNALS OF TACITUS

BOOK 4

EDITED WITH A COMMENTARY

BY

A. J. WOODMAN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-108-41147-9 — The Annals of Tacitus: Book 4
 A. J. Woodman
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108411479

DOI:10.1017/9781108303682

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First published 2018
 First paperback edition 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

NAMES: Tacitus, Cornelius, author. | Woodman, A. J. (Anthony John),
 1945– editor.

TITLE: The annals of Tacitus book 4 / edited with a commentary by A. J.
 Woodman.

OTHER TITLES: Annales. Liber 4 | Cambridge classical texts and commentaries ; 58.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2018. | Series:
 Cambridge classical texts and commentaries ; 58 | Includes
 bibliographical references and indexes.

IDENTIFIERS: LCGN 2017054704 | ISBN 9781108419611 (alk. paper)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Tacitus, Cornelius. Annales.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PA6705.A6 B4 2018 | DDC 937/.07–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017054704>

ISBN 978-1-108-41961-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-41147-9 Paperback

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TO TED COURTNEY

Basil L. Gildersleeve Professor of Classics 1993–2002
University of Virginia

Quo non praestantior alter

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PREFACE

This volume of commentary completes the sequence on *Annals* 1–6 which was begun by F. R. D. Goodyear forty-five years ago in 1972. Two decades previously, in 1952, Bessie Walker had published her important contribution to the study of Tacitus, which was followed six years later by Syme's incomparable volumes; E. Koestermann began publishing his big commentary on the whole of the *Annals* in 1963, and by 1967 an Oxford colleague of Syme's was asking whether another book on Tacitus was really needed. Yet, if Goodyear's commentary was thus a product of its time, it was also a product of its place. We hear a great deal these days about the current interest in imperial Latin literature, as if this interest were something new, but as long ago as the 1950s three Cambridge Latinists – E. J. Kenney, A. G. Lee and L. P. Wilkinson – were working on the 'silver age', as it used to be called. Goodyear's own first book (1965) was an edition of the *Aetna*, and in the second half of the decade he supervised doctoral work on Velleius Paterculus and the *Ciris*. Other imperial authors on whom work was being done at this time in Cambridge included Lucan, Persius, Statius, Valerius Flaccus and Valerius Maximus; and those of us who were lucky enough to belong to that generation will have affectionate memories of 'Argentea Proles', an informal group which was set up by Kenney so that research students, as we were then known, could comment on one another's work and exchange views. It is always disappointing when recognition fails to be accorded to those who deserve it.

Frank Goodyear published the second volume of his commentary on the *Annals* in 1981, and, as in the first, paid handsome tribute to Ronald Martin for reading and commenting on his work in draft. It so happened that in the previous year I had had the good fortune to join Ronald as a colleague, and in due course, given our shared interests in early imperial historiography, he and I conceived the notion of writing

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a collaborative commentary on Book 4 of the *Annals* for the ‘green-and-yellow’ series. Initially Goodyear wanted us to wait until his own commentary on that book had been written, but, when we assured him that our purpose was significantly different from his in the ‘orange’ series, he gave us his blessing and our volume duly appeared in 1989. Recently it was suggested to me that I should return to Book 4 for the ‘orange’ series, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity of looking again at this compelling narrative. It should be noted that I have generally not acknowledged the many occasions on which I have revised my views or now think that our earlier commentary was mistaken: this omission is not designed in any way to mislead readers but merely to save them the tedium of repeated confessions. The present book should be read on the assumption that its contents are more or less entirely new.

As always I am in the debt of my scholarly friends. In addition to frequent borrowings from their famous library, I have been in ongoing conversation with J. E. Lendon and E. A. Meyer, often conducted in the convivial context of the alcove table at our favourite downtown bistro. I have also sought and received advice from J. N. Adams, J. D. Dillery, F. K. Drogula, D. S. Levene, S. J. V. Malloch, K. S. Myers, J. Nelis-Clément, M. Peachin, H. Pinkster, N. K. Rutter, K. E. Shannon, B. D. Shaw, J. B. Solodow, P. Thonemann, R. S. O. Tomlin and V. Nutton. Special mention must be made of E. J. Champlin, who has kept me supplied not only with drafts of his published articles but also with valuable personal communications; his full-length study of Tiberius is eagerly awaited. As Editors of the ‘orange’ series S. P. Oakley and M. D. Reeve read my typescript with the greatest care and attention and made numerous comments and suggestions for which I am most grateful. Once again I prevailed upon S. Bartera, A. R. Birley, E. Courtney and R. Seager to read the whole of my commentary in draft, a task which they carried out with their customary acumen and good humour

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and for which I cannot express adequately the full extent of my gratitude and appreciation.

It is always an honour to be published by Cambridge University Press, and this is my fifth volume in the series Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries. When I started out, the Classics Editor at the Press was Pauline Hire (who delightfully arranged for my first volume to be published on the day of my wedding) and my typescripts were copy-edited by the legendary Susan Moore; the esteem in which they are held is rivalled only by that for their seamless successors, Michael Sharp and Muriel Hall, and I am greatly indebted to all of them for support and expertise stretching back more than four decades.

The book was written during my last two years at the University of Virginia, where I have had the privilege and pleasure of working in the Department of Classics since 2003. I shall always remain profoundly grateful to my wonderful colleagues for inviting me to succeed Ted Courtney as Gildersleeve Professor of Classics and thereby giving me the chance to prolong a career of teaching Latin which had seemed to be reaching an enforcedly premature conclusion.

Charlottesville
Spring 2017

A. J. W.

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References to the Cambridge commentaries on *Annals* 1–3 and 5–6, the *Agricola*, and Velleius are usually given in the forms 1.24.2n., *Agr.* 20.1n. and Vell. 97.1n. (or W. on Vell. 97.1) respectively.

As a general rule, works cited more than once are referred to by author's name and page-number; where an author is responsible for several works, these are distinguished either by an abbreviation or by a date. Full details will be found in (C) below.

(A) ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AA</i>	Syme, R. (1986). <i>The Augustan aristocracy</i> . Oxford
<i>AE</i>	<i>L'année épigraphique</i>
<i>AHC</i>	Kraus, C. S., Marincola, J. and Pelling, C. (edd.) (2010). <i>Ancient historiography and its contexts: studies in honour of A. J. Woodman</i> . Oxford
<i>Ann. 3</i> or <i>Ann. 5–6</i>	Woodman, A. J. and Martin, R. H. (1996), <i>The Annals of Tacitus: Book 3</i> or Woodman, A. J. (2017), <i>The Annals of Tacitus: Books 5 and 6</i> . Cambridge
<i>BA</i>	Talbert, R. J. A. (2000). <i>Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman world</i> . Princeton [references are given both to the Atlas and to the two-volume Directory]
<i>BNP</i>	Cancik, H. and Schneider, H. (2002–9). <i>Brill's New Pauly</i> . Vols. 1–15. Leiden/Boston
<i>CCT</i>	Woodman, A. J. (ed.) (2009). <i>The Cambridge companion to Tacitus</i> . Cambridge
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i>

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- CT* Pagán, V. E. (ed.) (2012). *A companion to Tacitus*. Malden/Oxford/Chichester
- EJ* Ehrenberg, V. and Jones, A. H. M. (1955). *Documents illustrating the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius*. 2nd edn. Oxford
- FRH* Cornell, T. J. (ed.) (2013). *The fragments of the Roman historians*. Oxford
- G.* Goodyear, F. R. D. (1972–81). *The Annals of Tacitus*. Vols. 1–2. Cambridge
- G–G* Gerber, A. and Greef, A. (1962). *Lexicon Taciteum*. Repr. Hildesheim
- H.* Heubner, H. (1963–82). *P. Cornelius Tacitus. Die Historien*. Vols. 1–5. Heidelberg
- IG* *Inscriptiones Graecae*
- ILS* *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*
- JCS* Gibson, A. G. G. (ed.) (2013). *The Julio-Claudian succession: reality and perception of the ‘Augustan model’*. Leiden/Boston
- K–S* Kühner, R. and Stegmann, C. (1971). *Ausführliche Grammatik der lateinischen Sprache*. Vol. 2 *Satzlehre*. Parts 1 and 2. 4th edn. Repr. Hanover
- LH* Woodman, A. J. (2015). *Lost histories. Selected fragments of Roman historical writers. Histos Suppl.* Vol. 2
- L–H–S* Leumann, M., Hofmann, J. B. and Szantyr, A. (1972). *Lateinische Grammatik*. Vol. 2 *Syntax und Stilistik*. Revised edn. Munich
- LTUR* Steinby, E. M. (ed.) (1993). *Lexicon topographicum urbis Romae*. Vols. 1–6. Rome
- MRR* Broughton, T. R. S. (1951–60). *The Magistrates of the Roman Republic*. Vols. 1 and 2 (with Supplement). New York

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- NLS Woodcock, E. C. (1959). *A new Latin syntax*. London
- N–R Nisbet, R. G. M. and Rudd, N. (2004). *A commentary on Horace. Odes Book III*. Oxford
- OLD *Oxford Latin dictionary*
- OLS Pinkster, H. (2015). *The Oxford Latin syntax*. Vol. 1. Oxford
- PH Woodman, A. J. (2012). *From poetry to history: selected papers*. Oxford
- PIR Groag, E., Stein, A., Petersen, L. et al. (1933–2015). *Prosopographia Imperii Romani*. 2nd edn. Vols. 1–8. Berlin
- RE *Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*
- RIC Sutherland, C. H. V. and Carson, R. A. G. (1984). *Roman imperial coinage*. Vol. 1 (revised edn). London
- RICH Woodman, A. J. (1988). *Rhetoric in classical historiography*. Portland
- RP Syme, R. (1979–91). *Roman Papers*. Vols. 1–7. Oxford
- SCPP *Senatus Consultum de Cn. Pisone Patre*
- TLL *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*
- Tac. Rev. Woodman, A. J. (1998). *Tacitus reviewed*. Oxford
- W. Woodman, A. J. [see also above]

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