

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS, HERODOTUS AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

This book examines the *Argonautica* of Apollonius of Rhodes through one aspect of its relationship with other texts. The particular intertextual relationship examined is that with the *Histories* of Herodotus, focusing on the presence of the latter text in the former in terms of the poem's employment of characteristics and features of historiographical discourse, narrative structures, presentation and description of characters, aetiology and patterns of explanation, portrayal of ethnic groups, and depiction of kingship and tyranny; the relationship between particular passages in both texts is also explored. The consequences for the interpretation of the poem are profound: the *Argonautica* employs Herodotean historiography as a key intertext in order to manipulate and frustrate readers' generic expectations for an epic poem and to complicate the relationship between the contemporary Hellenistic Mediterranean (and its kingdoms) and the distant mythological Argonautic past.

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For Gloria Luz and Robert Donald

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Preface

This is a book about Hellenistic poetry. In particular it examines one Hellenistic poem, the *Argonautica* of Apollonius of Rhodes, through one aspect of A.R.'s relationship with other texts, the study of which relationship has been the focus of much of the flowering of Hellenistic literary studies in the last thirty years. Accordingly it employs the dominant mode of reading Hellenistic (and Latin) poetry, viz. the intertextual mode of reading. The particular intertextual relationship examined is that between the *Argonautica* and the *Histories* of Herodotus, focusing on the presence of the latter text in the former in terms of the poem's employment of characteristics and features of historiographical discourse, narrative structures, presentation and description of characters, aetiology and patterns of explanation, portrayal of ethnic groups, and depiction of kingship and tyranny; the relationship between particular passages in both texts is also explored. The use of historiography as part of the *Argonautica*'s articulation of its relationship to and difference from the Homeric epics is highlighted. The consequences for the interpretation of the poem are profound: the *Argonautica* employs Herodotean historiography as a key intertext in order to manipulate and frustrate readers' generic expectations for an epic poem and to complicate the relationship between the contemporary Hellenistic Mediterranean (and its kingdoms) and the distant mythological Argonautic past.

This book is not a reconstruction of Apollonius' 'sources', nor is it a comprehensive survey of his use of all historical texts (in prose or verse), though other historiographical texts (esp. Xenophon's *Anabasis*) will be discussed where relevant to the argument of the book. The book focuses on some fundamental aspects of Apollonius' engagement with historiographical discourse and the text of one particular historian, whose position in the development of the genre of historiography makes him the most important example of the genre from Apollonius' perspective.

I have a number of people to thank for their help in the writing of this book. It began to take shape during seven months' leave in Oxford, during which I was welcomed back to my old college, Queen's, to which I am very grateful, especially to Angus Bowie, who first made me think seriously about Herodotus. The wider Faculty of Classics also made me feel very welcome, and I thank in particular Felix Budelmann, Bruno Currie, Adrian Kelly and Matthew Robinson. I am also grateful to Jessica Priestley and Alan Griffiths for letting me read their work before publication, to Alison Sharrock and Emily Baragwanath for their many insightful comments on earlier drafts, and to Roy Gibson for his wise help and advice. Likewise I should thank the readers for the Press, who have immeasurably improved the book through many excellent suggestions: it would have been a lesser and very different book but for their input. I am particularly grateful to Michael Sharp, whose enthusiasm and commitment have been absolutely indispensable throughout the process of publication, and to the staff at Cambridge University Press who have overseen the production process so carefully and efficiently, especially my copy editor, Lesley Hay. Audiences in Leeds, Cambridge and Manchester heard versions of parts of the book and gave me much food for thought, for which I should also like to express my thanks. In Manchester I am grateful to my colleagues in the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology, especially for accommodating the periods of research leave during which I worked on the book; the work on Apollonius of my new colleague Tom Phillips, however, only came to my attention once this book had reached its final form. I am also very grateful to three Manchester PhD students of mine (two recent and one current), all working on Hellenistic poetry (in different ways): Tim Kenny, Kat Molesworth and Kat Mawford. I have learnt an enormous amount from reading their work.

This book is dedicated to my younger son and my mother (his favourite person; we both owe her a lifetime of thanks); I first began thinking about 'Clio and Calliope' when my wife Gioia was pregnant with Robert. It is impossible to express sufficient thanks (for everything) to Gioia.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations of Greek authors and texts follow Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Stuart Jones, H., Mackenzie, R. (eds.), *A Greek–English Lexicon* (9th edition, with a revised supplement, Oxford, 1996); abbreviations of Latin authors and texts follow Lewis, C. T., Short, C. (eds.), *A Latin Dictionary* (Oxford, 1879); abbreviations of journals follow *L'Année Philologique*. The following list may also be helpful.

AB	Austin, C., Bastianini, G. (eds.), <i>Posidippi Pellaei Quae Supersunt Omnia</i> (Milan, 2000)
Adler	Adler, A. (ed.), <i>Suidae lexicon</i> (Stuttgart, 1967–71)
BNJ	Worthington, I. (General Editor), <i>Brill's New Jacoby</i> , revised and enlarged version of <i>FGrH</i> , Brill Online, https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/brill-s-new-jacoby
CA	Powell, J. U. (ed.), <i>Collectanea Alexandrina</i> (Oxford, 1925)
DK	Diels, H., Kranz, W. (eds.), <i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> , 6th edition (Berlin, 1951)
<i>FGrH</i>	Jacoby, F. (ed.), <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> (Berlin, 1923–30, Leiden, 1940–58)
Harder	Harder 2012 (see Select Bibliography)
Hense	Hense, O., C. <i>Musonii Rufi Reliquiae</i> (Leipzig, 1905)
MP ³	Mertens, P., Pack, R. A., revised and updated version of Pack ² , online at http://cipl93.philo.ulg.ac.be/Cedopal/MP3/dbsearch_en.aspx
Pack ²	Pack, R. A., <i>The Greek and Latin Literary Texts from Graeco-Roman Egypt</i> , 2nd edition (Michigan, 1965)
Pf.	Pfeiffer 1949–53 (see Select Bibliography)
<i>PMGF</i>	Davies, M. (ed.), <i>Poetarum Melicorum Graecorum Fragmenta</i> (Oxford, 1991)

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<i>SH</i>	Lloyd-Jones, H., Parsons, P. (eds.), <i>Supplementum Hellenisticum</i> (Berlin and New York, 1983)
<i>SSH</i>	Lloyd-Jones, H., <i>Supplementum Supplementi Hellenistici</i> (Berlin and New York, 2005)