

in the *Theaetetus*. In line with fashionable New Materialism, Maria Xanthou discusses the role that objects play in the *Histories*, as “hinges” for historical narrative or “anchors for . . . collective memory” (pp. 245, 250), looking in particular at the Lydian dedications at Delphi. (Why Delphi is compared to Switzerland in a footnote [p. 249] is mysterious.) And Chris Pelling compares Herodotus’s presentation of causes with that of medical writers and Thucydides (among others), moving beyond the position that different causes simply coexist in the *Histories* to look at places where he runs explanations against one another or contrasts real and ostensible motives. “Pick-and-mix is so much better than one-size-fits-all,” he judges in a characteristic Pellingism (p. 220). And that is perhaps an accurate motto for the contents of this uneven yet stimulating volume, which fruitfully extends discussion in a number of areas of Herodotean scholarship rather than presenting any powerful new direction.

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**Werner Albert Golder** (Editor). *Celsus und die antike Wissenschaft*. (Sammlung Tusculum.) 911 pp., bibl., notes, index. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018. €79.95 (cloth). ISBN 9783110441659.

Aulus Cornelius Celsus’s *On Medicine* (*De medicina* in the original Latin) presents a comprehensive synthesis of medical knowledge, in both its theoretical and its clinical aspects: dietetics, pathology, traumatology, dermatology, ophthalmology, therapy, pharmacology, chirurgy. The work comprises eight books prefaced by a long proem, its best-known part today, that traces the development of medicine among the Greeks and Romans from its earliest, Homeric beginnings down to the time of its author, who is commonly dated to the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberius (14–37 C.E.). The rhetorician Quintilian (ca. 35–95 C.E.) rather unfairly typifies Celsus as a “man of mediocre intellect,” known for his long manuals not only on medicine but also on agriculture and warfare (*Institutio oratoria* XII 11.24). The work on medicine is the only one that has been preserved save for a mere handful of testimonies and fragments from his other writings, which also included works on rhetoric, philosophy, and perhaps jurisprudence. The extant books show not the hand of a mechanistic compiler but a fair degree of authorial design, constituting a marvelous presentation of medicine in early imperial times and an invaluable source of information on medical scientists from the Hellenistic period like Erasistratus, Herophilus, and Asclepiades of Bithynia.

Werner Albert Golder presents a *Lesetext* based on Friedrich Marx’s 1915 Teubner edition of an ample selection of texts from the *De medicina* and testimonies about lost parts of the original encyclopedia and about Celsus, all with a facing German translation that is clear and accurate; a general introduction to Celsus and his sources; a brief chapter on his influence from medieval times onward; and a full bibliography and indexes. In addition, Golder includes a brief epilogue where he explains his motivation in preparing this volume, noting the neglect of Celsus’s work (with the exception of the historiographical proem) on the part of philologists and physicians alike: for the former, medical (and indeed any technical) literature lies outside their comfort zone, whereas the latter see Celsus as a mere compiler. I doubt whether the name of Celsus rings any bells for members of the medical profession today. At any rate, Golder (whose identity is painstakingly and, given the academic ideals of the Sammlung Tusculum, oddly suppressed in the book and on the relevant webpages of De Gruyter, but who—as a Google search reveals—is a medical man with a penchant for classical antiquity) argues that an anthology is the only way to restore Celsus to the attention he deserves

(p. 777). The principles of selection are never properly explained (except in the case of the proem), but the anthologist appears to have aimed above all at offering an ample and representative sample of texts that permits an impression of the original whole. The translated texts are preceded by summaries arranged according to theme, which tends to distract from them. It would perhaps have been better to let the texts speak more for themselves and aid the reader with more notes. The general introduction (pp. 9–44) is a missed opportunity to stimulate interest in Celsus. It throws the reader *in medias res*: after presenting a list of sources for what follows, it notes that the study of Celsus's work (Golder's "*opus Celsi*") is hampered by the loss of most of his sources. If raising interest in Celsus is the aim, why not tell the reader that thanks to his efforts we are still able to learn about many earlier doctors whose work is lost? This point is followed, rather abruptly, by observations about the earlier Roman authors Cato and Varro, who, like Celsus, had written on medicine and other arts and sciences; next comes an overview of the structure of the encyclopedia of Celsus; this is followed by a sketch of the medical profession at the time of the Emperor Tiberius (note that the reader has not yet been told that Celsus's activity is usually dated to that period), before the contents of the extant books are summarized (followed in due course by sections on Celsus's own principal sources). Golder fails to present Celsus in an accessible, attractive way calculated to recover him from oblivion and neglect. It is unclear what exactly Golder had in mind: a guide to Celsus's work (including the remains of the nonmedical books) for the specialist user, equipped with a table of contents and ample indexes? Or an introduction to Celsus's work showing its interest and relevance both for historical scholarship and for the *Bildungsbürgertum*? As it is, the volume seems to waver between these two purposes. It will face competition from the edition of the complete text of *De medicina*, with German translation, by Thomas Lederer that appeared from the Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft (2016). Admittedly, Golder adds the evidence relating to the lost works. But these are meager remains indeed, so the title *Celsus und die antike Wissenschaft* really is a bit inappropriate. Nonetheless, Golder has made an important contribution to the study of Celsus.

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## Middle Ages and Renaissance

C. Philipp E. Nothaft. *Walcher of Malvern, De lunationibus and De Dracone: Study, Edition, Translation, and Commentary*. (De Diversis Artibus, 101 [N.S., 64].) xix + 346 pp., figs., tables, bibl., index. Turnhout: Brepols, 2017. €90 (cloth). ISBN 9782503568768.

More than one hundred years ago, Charles Homer Haskins identified Walcher of Malvern (d. 1135) as the first in a series of astronomers in England to adopt methods from Arabic science. His reputation as a notable figure established, Walcher appears in many subsequent studies of medieval astronomy. But it has fallen to Philipp Nothaft to undertake the task of editing Walcher's works: *De lunationibus* and *De Dracone*.

*De lunationibus* (1092–1108) was the first of the two works. Walcher sought to present a method for lunar computation that was at once original and yet rooted in the Latin tradition. His originality derived from his observation that this tradition had its limitations. *De Dracone*, the later work, reveals Walcher's embrace of methods from Arabic science, as mediated to him during a conversation with Petrus Alfonsi that took