Brill's Companion to Apollonius Rhodius

Second, Revised Edition

Edited by
Theodore D. Papanghelis
Antonios Rengakos

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Francis Vian, Professor Emeritus at the University of Paris X, is the editor (in *Collection des Universités de France*) of Quintus Smyrnaeus, *Posthomerica* (3 vols, 1963–1969), Apollonius of Rhodes, *Argonautica* (with É. Delage, 3 vols, 1976–1981) and the *Orphic Argonautica* (1987). Since 1976 he has been working with others on the *Dionysiaca* of Nonnus of Panopolis (19 vols, 1976–2006). He is also the author of several works on Greek mythology, notably the *Guerre des Géants* (1952) and *Les Origines de Thèbes* (1963).

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

The long process of re-assessment of Apollonius' *Argonautica* may have started when readers with a soft spot for romance like Sainte-Beuve saw fit to celebrate the Jason-Medea love affair to the exclusion of almost everything else; yet long after Sainte-Beuve enthused over book 3 and wished the poem had ended before the enamoured princess went on to acquire a criminal record, one could still with good reason complain that the sole Hellenistic epic to come down to us unscathed was receiving less critical attention than it deserved. A quick glance at the literature which has been encrusting the *Argonautica* over the last three decades or so will confirm that, whatever desiderata and gaps there may still be, any such complaint would be more or less churlish today. Whether as beneficiary of the changed ways in which post-classical literary products are now being studied or as a composition whose intrinsic value has at last dawned upon readers, the *Argonautica* now looks like one of those Hellenistic growth industries; and when Apollonius is deemed unconventional enough to be credited (or discredited, as the case may be) with "deconstructionist" instincts, one may suspect that rehabilitation of his epic has come with a vengeance.

Some preconceptions had to be overcome before Apollonius could come into his own; one was that he cherished Homeric aspirations and endeavoured to write an orthodox epic but then, having failed to keep up Homeric standards (especially in terms of unity), fell flat on his face. That Aristotelian unity or depiction of straightforward epic heroism may not have been the poet's overriding concern is the kind of "modernist" idea which few scholars would reject out of hand today. But this is not necessarily the result of the majority of Apollonius' students having jumped on the bandwagon of avant-guarde hermeneutics. As in the case of other Hellenistic poets, informed re-evaluation of Apollonius' poetic aims owes a great deal to a realisation of which traditionally trained classical scholars should be capable par excellence, namely that, much like Callimachus and for much the same literary-historical, social and personal reasons, Apollonius operated as a scholar as well as a poet. And post-classical poets who are at the same time librarians or habitués of a great library are nothing if not self-conscious—self-conscious about their place in the literary tradition, about the way they

use poetic language and metre, about the norms and codes of their chosen genre, about the aesthetic and ideological implications of recounting what others, working under different circumstances and with different social and literary perspectives, had recounted before them.

All of these issues, and much else besides, have loomed large in recent and current research on Apollonius; and as a result, new critical perspectives on the *Argonautica* have been won, especially where sound scholarship and a wider theoretical awareness have combined to focus on the dynamics of the epic's new narrative modes, the manifold implications of its dense intertextuality with previous and contemporary literature and the crucial relation between its form and cultural background.

As it happens, Apollonius was the honorand of the fourth Groningen "Workshop on Hellenistic Poetry" held in 1998. The well-attended conference, whose papers are due to be published soon, confirmed that, along with Callimachus and Theocritus who were the subjects of the first two workshops in 1992 and 1994 respectively, Apollonius is increasingly popular with senior scholars and younger research students alike; that important aspects of his epic technique are currently being brought into sharper focus; and that, naturally, much remains to be done.

The principal aim of the present volume is to offer a survey of some of the major issues recently discussed and currently under examination among specialists on Apollonius. In such projects one quickly gives up the idea of exhaustiveness, both for intrinsic and practical reasons. We have, however, tried to be as comprehensive as possible in the sense that the papers collected here cover a wide range of research areas from the history of the *Argonautica* text, the poet's biography and trends in Apollonian bibliography, through individual aspects of poetic technique to questions of reception and *Nachleben*. Now that the book is finally completed, we are happily confirmed in our hope that readers of the volume will find both a fairly representative picture of the state of Apollonian scholarship and a stimulus to further exploration and elaboration.

In bringing this volume to publication we have incurred many debts. We wish to express our gratitude to Professors Hans-Christian Günther, Richard Hunter, E.J. Kenney, Mary Lefkowitz, George Parassoglou and to Assistant Professors T. Kouremenos and P. Kyriakou for their valuable help and advice on linguistic and editorial matters. It goes

without saying that any remaining defects, inaccuracies and obstinacies should be laid at the editors' door. Thanks are also due to the staff of Brill Academic Publishers for the care they have expended on the preparation of the book and for their polite and efficient cooperation, especially to Ms Marcella Mulder, Ms Loes Schouten and Mr Michiel Klein Swormink. Professor Annette Harder kindly allowed us to see the papers of the Groningen Workshop on Apollonius, still unpublished as these lines were being written. But the place of honour in our acknowledgements belongs to our Argonautic crew itself. It may not be presumptous to say that their rallying had something to do with the fact that, after all these centuries, the summons issued once again from Argo's original home. Although the editors may be thus romantically deluding themselves, they are profoundly grateful for the alacrity of the response.

Theodore D. Papanghelis and Antonios Rengakos
Thessaloniki, March 2001

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

One of our introductory remarks to the first edition of Brill's *Companion to Apollonius Rhodius* was about the poet's increasing popularity with both senior scholars and younger research students. Although this was hardly designed to claim novelty, the reception of the volume and the need, pressed upon the editors by reviewer and publisher alike, to cover some of the ground left partially or in whole out of sight in the first edition is a welcome confirmation of the special scholarly interest Apollonius' *Argonautica* enjoys these days.

Along with the revised versions of R.F. Glei's, A. Köhnken's, M. Lefkowitz's, D. Meyer's and A. Rengakos' chapters, the present edition offers four new contributions by M. Asper, M. Fantuzzi, E. Sistakou and S. Stephens, raising issues ranging from Apollonius' broader literary contexts to his *Ktiseis* poems. We are grateful both to the contributors for the new material we have been able to take on board and to the Publishers for encouraging us to undertake this second edition.

Theodore D. Papanghelis and Antonios Rengakos
Thessaloniki, July 2008

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OUTLINES OF APOLLONIAN SCHOLARSHIP 1955–1999

REINHOLD F. GLEI

Preliminary Remarks

In the last 10–15 years the stream of scholarly studies on Apollonius has swollen considerably: whereas in the period 1955–1965 the *Année Philologique* lists only a handful of entries per year, between 1985–1995 the number of studies exceeds a dozen per year and the rate is increasing. Scholars that row against this current feel as if they were sailing through the Clashing Rocks; they have barely struggled halfway through one wave and there rolls the next one tossing them backwards twice as far as they had progressed. One should then throw ballast overboard, muster courage and trust in divine assistance! Even if the attempt to pass through the clashing mountains of books succeeds, there is no hope of a pause and scholars find themselves in the grip of a debilitating ἀμηχανία. Enough of metaphors! For the above reasons a survey of recent scholarship is as much necessary as it is long overdue, and coinciding as it does with the end of the millennium it certainly offers an opportunity to take stock.

Starting from 1955, this survey continues the last *Forschungsbericht* of Apollonian studies since 1921 by Hans Herter (*Bursians Jahresbericht* Nr. 285 [1944–1955]) without, however, being comparable with it in either methodology or scope: the nature of this "Companion" and, especially, the limitations of this author will only allow an "outline", i.e. a preliminary overview of the trends that have informed Apollonian scholarship in the last 40–45 years. A focus on the areas that attract most attention is, therefore, necessary; less studied areas will be left out of consideration. Specialized studies on textual problems, the history of the text, metre and language, as well as studies on brief episodes or passages of the *Argonautica* and other works of Apollonius will not be discussed here. Not included either are studies on the influence of the *Argonautica*, especially the relation between Apollonius and Valerius Flaccus, for whereas scholarship on Valerius has in the meanwhile

advanced considerably, the reception of Apollonius by other authors has not yet been adequately studied. Some studies on this topic are fortunately included in this volume.

The volume of secondary literature and the partly subjective choices of the author have determined the scope of the outline of the following areas. It should also be apologetically noted that the attempt to spice up here and there a dry survey of secondary literature may have occasionally led to pointed judgments and turns of phrase that not all readers will find to their taste. I ask for forbearance.

1. *Editions, Commentaries, Translations*

In the history of the scholarship on Apollonius and the reception of his epic book 3 of the *Argonautica* has constantly been the focus of attention; editions and commentaries are no exception. The most recent edition with commentary (Hunter [1989a]) as well as the first one in the period under survey are of book 3: Ardizzoni (1958) leads off the dance, launching with book 3 a planned edition of the entire *Argonautica* (with Italian translation and some linguistic notes). Vian (1961) follows soon thereafter, again with an edition of book 3 which later developed into a complete edition of the *Argonautica*. Fränkel's magisterial new Oxford edition (1961) came out in the same year. Being the starting point for rather than the end product of reflection on the text, it has influenced all subsequent work on the text of Apollonius. With a fine feeling for textual problems, Fränkel produced a "dynamic" edition which has lost nothing of its brilliance nearly 40 years after it appeared. As the *OCT* edition allowed only a short *Praefatio*, an *Einleitung zur kritischen Ausgabe* (Fränkel [1964]), justifying in detail the constitution of the text, was soon published separately. There follow the edition of book 1 by Ardizzoni (1967), whose planned edition of the entire epic remained unfinished, and Livrea's edition (1973) of the previously neglected book 4. Vian's is the second important edition of the *Argonautica* in the period under survey: books 1 and 2 came out first (Vian [1974]), books 3 and 4 were published later (Vian [1980, 1981]). A decisive advance over Fränkel's edition lies in the greater number of sources for the constitution of the text (especially the many papyri); at the same time, many of Fränkel's *lumina ingenii* were lost sight of through a very conservative approach to the text. This is not the place to decide upon the methodological dispute between the "Anglo-Saxon" and the

"Continental" traditions; both approaches have their merits and as a consequence both editions are necessarily complementary. It is perhaps preferable to retain both rather than unify them in a "super-edition" and thereby rob them of their distinct characters.

The commentators of Apollonius also owe a substantial debt to Fränkel and Vian. Fränkel's *Noten* (1968) are a milestone—they are not a commentary in the usual sense of the term but an extremely rich collection of material concerning most of the issues raised by the interpretation of Apollonius, and they are still today an inexhaustible treasure-trove of incisive and stimulating, sometimes even strange, observations which can be profitably consulted with the help of a detailed index. The commentary in Vian's edition (1974–1981) is more traditional but unfortunately not very user-friendly, because of the usual division of a Budé edition into preliminary notes ("Notices"), footnotes and "Notes complémentaires". Among the commentaries on individual books there stand out Livrea (1973) on book 4 with almost excessively rich material, Hunter (1989a) on book 3 with shorter, readable explanations that concentrate on the essentials, and finally Campbell (1994) on the first 471 lines of book 3 with sometimes unnecessarily exhaustive details. Other helpful tools are Campbell's *Index Verborum* (1983b) and the Apollonius dictionary by Reich–Maehler (1991–1997)—of which only the first three fascicles have appeared so far.

Available also are modern translations of the complete *Argonautica* in the major languages of classical scholarship: besides the quite free English translation by Rieu (1959) there are now two accurate modern English translations by Hunter (1993b) and Green (1997a) which will remain the standard English translations for a long time; the same holds for the French translation by Delage–Vian (1974–1981). Pompella's accurate Italian translation (1968, 1970) is based on the old Oxford edition by Seaton (1900) whereas the more recent Italian translation by Paduano (1986) is based on the Budé text. Finally, there is at last a translation in contemporary German prose by Glei–Natzel-Glei (1996)—before, one had to make do with the old-fashioned verse translation by von Scheffer (1940).

In general, the most important goals of scholarship in this area may be considered already achieved. For the reasons given above, a new critical edition combining the approaches of Fränkel and Vian would make little sense. Desirable as it is in itself, a commentary on the entire *Argonautica* would certainly grow into an immense work (projecting from Campbell [1994], one reaches the exorbitant estimate of 5.250