

Zitierhinweis

Yange, Wu: Rezension über: William S. Watt (ed.), Velleius Paterculus: Vellei Paterculi historiarum ad M. Vinicium consulem libri duo. Historiae ad M. Vinicium consulem, Stuttgart: Teubner, 1998, in: Journal of Ancient Civilizations, 13 (1998), S. 158, DOI: 10.21245/rec.ant.1879936772



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William Smith WATT, *Velleius Paterculus: Historiarum libri duo*. 2nd edition. Bibliotheca scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum. Stuttgart: B.G. Teubner, 1998. ISBN 3 8154 1873 9. Pp. 120. DM 49.

I wish to thank Dr. C. Ehrhardt for his assistance in preparing this review. The text of Velleius is notoriously corrupt; it depends on a single, lost manuscript, now represented by one faulty apograph and by the *editio princeps*, which has an attached appendix of variant readings. The manuscript (M) discovered by Beatus Rhenanus in Alsace in 1515 was already very corrupt, and is now lost. One copy of it (R), now lost too, made by an anonymous friend of Rhenanus, was also full of mistakes. In 1520, Rhenanus edited the *editio princeps* (P) and it was published by his friend Froben at Basle. It was made from R, adding numerous mistakes to the old ones. Rhenanus' secretary Buer, thoroughly compared M and P and then attached his collation as an appendix (B) to the *editio princeps*. In 1835, Orelli found in Basle another manuscript of Velleius' text (A) made by Bonifacius Amerbach. Whether it was derived from M or from R is still in dispute.

Stegmann von Pritzwald was the first editor of Velleius in the Teubner series in 1933 and his edition was reprinted in 1968. In 1988, there appeared in the "German Democratic" branch of Teubner at Leipzig a new edition by W.S. Watt. The edition under review of 1998 is a corrected reprint of the 1988 edition - "*Occasionem nactus non nulla in textu, plura in apparatu mutavi*" (*Praefatio*). Regrettably, the editor has not given a list of these changes, nor marked them in his text and apparatus, so that, failing a line by line collation, it is impossible to say how wide-ranging they are or whether they are improvements.

This text will probably be the standard text for a long time. It has already proved its value over the past ten years. Though it is a pity that Watt did not produce a fully revised new edition, instead of merely a corrected reprint, this reprint is welcome. It makes a better text of Velleius widely accessible, but it also shows clearly how little we know of what he actually wrote.

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