

Zitierhinweis

Rebrik, Victor: Rezension über: John M. Dillon, Salt and Olives. Morality and Custom in Ancient Greece, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2004, in: Journal of Ancient Civilizations, 19 (2004), S. 137, DOI: 10.21245/rec.ant.612486523



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not quite clear to me. But generally the book is well done and could be recommended to all students of this very important topic.

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J. DILLON, *Salt and Olives. Morality and Custom in Ancient Greece*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2004. ISBN 0-7486-1661-6. Pp. XVIII+217, hardbound. £19.95.

The book is confined to the study of the "popular morality" of the Athenians of the second half of the fifth century BCE and the whole extent of the fourth. The author moves outward from the central phenomenon of Athenian life, the *oikos*, comprising the family and extended family (Chapter 1), with a more sideways to take in threats or alternatives to the family, in the shape of courtesans and other ladies of irregular status (Chapter 2), returning then (Chapter 3) to the *oikos* with a chapter on problems of inheritance. After this he passes (Chapter 4) to the topic of friends and enemies, as essential feature of the Greek *polis*.

In the next three chapters the author turns to certain salient aspects of Athenian life which may seem particularly odd and even offensive to the modern people, that is to say, pederasty (Chapter 5), slavery (Chapter 6), and religious practice (Chapter 7). In each of these cases he tries to illustrate how the institution or practice in question really worked, and to assist modern minds to comprehend how, particularly in the case of slavery, relatively rational and humane people could behave in this way. Finally, in the eighth chapter, he discusses the role of oral discourse, and in particular the anecdote, in the formation of the Athenian self-image. The book has also useful bibliography and index. It certainly can be used by students, who study Greek culture.

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