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Silius Italicus’ Punica 8. 1-241:

a Commentary

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In memory of

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Abstract

This thesis is a detailed commentary on the eighth book of Silius Italicus’ epic poem the *Punica*, lines 1-241. The text that is discussed includes the encounter, engineered by Juno, between Hannibal and the Italian nymph, Anna Perenna. The commentary follows the model of the Cambridge ‘Green and Yellow’ series and the notes mainly deal with philological and literary issues, especially those arising from the dense inter-textuality of lines 50-201 which draw heavily on Ovid’s *Fasti* 3. 523-656 and the *Aeneid* 4.393-692.

The commentary proper is prefaced by an introduction that considers: (1) the nature of classical commentary as a genre; (2) the significance of the selected text in the context of the poem as a whole; (3) the disputed authenticity of 8.144-223 (the so-called *Aldine additamentum*). In this third part of the introduction the metrical, stylistic and linguistic differences that exist between the text of the *additamentum* and the rest of *Punica* 8 are explored and analysed, and consideration is given to the likelihood of its authorship by an Italian Humanist.

The text of the *Punica* used is the Teubner (1987) edition of Josef Delz.
Thesis Declaration

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint award of this degree.

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An early draft of the Commentary was presented to a Colloquium hosted by Sydney University. The feedback that I received from Robert Cowan, Frances Muecke, Paul Roche, Geoffrey Watson and Patricia Watson has much improved the text, but the responsibility for all errors and oversights, of course, remains my own.
ABBREVIATIONS

Primary references

Abbreviations for Latin writers follow the conventions of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, with the following exceptions:
- Catullus is written as Catul.
- Valerius Flaccus’ *Argonautica* is abbreviated V. Fl.

General reference works

Abbreviations of periodicals follow the conventions of *L’Année Philologique*.


Editions, Commentaries and Textual Critics

- **Aldine** Asulanus, F. (1523) *Silii Italici De bello Punico Secundo XVII libri nuper diligentissime castigati*. Venetiis in Aedibus Aldi.
- **Dausqueius** Cl. Dausqueius Sanctomarius (1615) in *C. Silii Italici viri consularis Punica, seu de Bello Punico Secundo Libros XVII*. Paris.

Heinsius  vid. Drakenborch.


Ruperti  vid. LeMaire.


**Giacomo Costanzi**

Constantius  Iacobi Constantii Fanensis *Collectaneorum Hecatostys. Impressa Fani ab Hieronymo Soncino pridie sesti Divi Paterniani, Sexto idus Iulias. MDVIII*

**Orthography**

All quotations from classical Latin texts are rendered in the orthography of 20th century scholarship. Quotations from earlier scholars retain the orthography of the editions consulted.