Philip II of Macedon: a consideration of books VII–IX of Justin’s epitome of Pompeius Trogus


**Abstract**

The aim of this dissertation is two-fold: firstly to examine the career and character of Philip II of Macedon as portrayed in Books VII - IX of Justin's epitome of the Historiae Philippicae of Pompeius Trogus, and to consider to what extent Justin-Trogus (a composite name for the author of the views in the text of Justin) furnishes accurate historical fact, and to what extent he paints a one-sided interpretation of the events, and secondly to identify as far as possible Justin's principles of selection and compression as evidenced in Books VII - IX. Apart from this account of Justin-Trogus, there is only one other continuous account of the reign of Philip II, namely that found in Diodorus Siculus XVI. A comparison between Justin-Trogus's material and that of Diodorus, together with evidence from other ancient sources and also modern scholars, has provided a large quantity of historical matter which has been used to compile a historical commentary. From an examination of some aspects covered by this commentary the following conclusions have been reached: The factual information in Books VII - IX seems to be as reliable as that given by Diodorus, but there is in Justin-Trogus' account some considerable rhetorical padding which must be treated with extreme caution by modern researchers of the reign of Philip II. Justin's principles of selection seem to have been dominated by an interest in the more anecdotal aspects of the Macedonian monarchy, the loss of Greek freedom and a lack of interest in military matters. His methods of compression are closely linked to the latter, and can be identified to some extent by examining the links between different topics.

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English translations of Justin used in this paper will be taken from Justin, Cornelius Nepos and Eutropius, tr. Rev. Watson, J. S. (London 1853). 8 e.g. Parvan, Getica, p. 51; Hammond (n. 6) 564; Wiesner, Joseph, Die Thraker, Studien zu einem versunkenen Volk des Balkanraumes (Stuttgart 1963) 137.Â 29 Schelov 44, with reference to two articles on the historical concepts of Pompeius Trogus by K. K. Zel’ìn. 30 As Shrimpton, G., Phoenix xxxi (1977) 137 observes, implicit in Theopompus' work is the presupposition â€œthat the absence of moral and political self-control leads to the loss of all hope of controlling one's destinyâ€”that Philip II of Macedon â€œa Macedonian silver tetradrachm coin minted during his reign. Although Diodorus says that Philip defeated the new tyrants, Buckler considers it more likely that Philip's appearance on the scene allowed the Aleuadae to negotiate a peace settlement with Phereas from a position of greater strength. [33] Philip seems to have come away from the expedition with new wives from both Larissa (Philinna) and Phereae (Nicesipolis, Jason's niece), which is suggestive of a negotiated settlement; certainly, as Buckler says, "Philip came away from Thessaly with a foot i