

REVIEW

of Carlo Martino Lucarini, the member of the dissertation council for the dissertation of Anastasia Vladimirovna Pavlova on the topic: "Critici minores: Greek Literary Criticism in the 4th century BC", submitted for the degree Candidate of philological sciences in a scientific speciality 5.9.7.

It was a pleasure to read Pavlova's dissertation about minor literary critics of the 4th century BC. To my knowledge, such a comprehensive overview of the literary criticism in the age of Plato and Aristoteles had not been written before.

At the very beginning Pavlova offers a list of published studies on the single authors. Pavlova is accurate in her bibliographical account and only few titles should be supplemented.

The matter is divided in four chapters and it is organised by themes and not by authors.

Chapter 1 is devoted to literary thought in Greece in the 4th century BC and its general characteristics.

Chapter 2 is devoted to the main approaches to interpretation of poetic texts in the 4th century BC.

Chapter 3 is devoted to the creation of historical and literary narrative in the writings of minor critics.

Chapter 4 is devoted to the theory of literature and to the judgments on literary works in the 4th century BC.

The figures on which Pavlova focuses are Antimachus of Colophon, Heraclides of Pontus, Chamaeleon of Heraclea, Duris of Samos, Praxiphanes of Mytilene, Philochorus of Athens, Antisthenes of Athens, Dicaearchus of Messana, Aristoxenus of Tarentum, Demetrius of Phalerum, Zoilus of Amphipolis.

The bulk of the discussed fragments deal with Homeric issues, but tragedians and other Greek poets also attracted the attention of minor critics of the 4th century BC. Two works are continuously referred to by Pavlova, scilicet Pfeiffer's and Sandy's homonymous works *History of classical scholarship*, and nobody will blame Pavlova for having chosen such judicious mentors.

The most important result of this enquiry is that the 4th century turns out to be the period in which the foundations of the philological and historical science (which will flourish in the Hellenistic period) are laid. As Pavlova correctly writes (p. 274): "The appeal of this period is due to the transitional nature between the end of the Sophists' era and the creation of institutionalized science in Hellenistic Alexandria".

I hope that Pavlova will continue her work adding systematically the Greek texts of the fragments she discusses: that would be an immense help for the readers and would raise the submitted thesis to a standard work on the field of the classical philology. On the other hand, I have observed with a certain disappointment that Pavlova usually quotes the texts of ancient critics from the collections of fragments: that should be absolutely changed and the Candidate should henceforth use the sources that transmit the fragments (scholia, lexica, grammarians etc.).

Apart from this remark, my assessment on the submitted work is entirely positive: Pavlova succeeded admirably to present a very clever and sound sketch of the literary activity in the 4th century B.C., which enables the reader to get a reliable and interesting picture of this period of Greek literary criticism.

Dissertation of Anastasia Vladimirovna Pavlova on the topic “Critici minores: Greek Literary Criticism in the 4th century BC” **meets** the basic requirements established by Order Nr. 11181/1 dd. 19.11.2021 “On the procedure for awarding academic degrees at St. Petersburg State University”. The applicant Anastasia Vladimirovna Pavlova **deserves** to be awarded the academic degree of **candidate** of philological sciences in a scientific speciality 5.9.7. No violations of paragraph 9 and 11 of the specified Order have been detected.

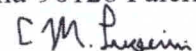
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