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Review

Reviewed Work(s): Petronius, the Satyricon by P. G. Walsh; Apuleius, the Golden Ass by P. G. Walsh

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Petronius, The Satyricon, translated with introduction and explanatory notes by P.G. WALSH. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1996. 212 pp., cloth.

Apuleius, The Golden Ass, translated with introduction and explanatory notes by P.G. WALSH. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1994. 277 pp., cloth.

In recent years, the ancient novel has become a serious and popular object of study, as is for instance shown by the annual Groningen Colloquia on the Novel and the publication of the Petronian Society Newsletter. Of the two extant Roman novels by Petronius and Apuleius good translations are available. For Petronius' novel, there are the versions of Arrowsmith (1959) and Sullivan (1965), while Apuleius' novel has been newly translated as a whole by J.A. Hanson (*Loeb*, 1989) and in part, for the tale of Cupid and Psyche, by E.J. Kenney (1990).

Nonetheless, the new translations of the *Satyricon* and *Metamorphoses* by P.G. Walsh, a specialist of the ancient novel, are welcome. The two well-bound and well-printed books have much to recommend them. In each volume, the text is preceded by a useful introduction, which combines readability with scientific thoroughness, and is followed by ample explanatory notes (48 pages for Petronius, 29 pages for Apuleius) and an index. Of special interest is the introduction to the Petronius volume, which includes a brief survey of the novel's position in European literature. The translations are lively and fresh. They do not dissimulate peculiar aspects of the Latin originals, like colloquial style or sexual subject matters, but avoid encumbering the text itself with notes.

Mr. Walsh may be complimented with his achievement. His translations will serve not only scholars and students, but also the general reader interested in ancient novels.

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