



BRILL

Review

Reviewed Work(s): Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars* by Catherine Edwards

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Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*. A new translation by CATHERINE EDWARDS (Oxford World's Classics). Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2000. xli, 392 pp. Pr. £7.99.

Many of Suetonius' famous *Lives* are available in modern editions, but integral translations of the whole corpus are published relatively rarely. In Dutch we now have the excellent new translation by Daan den Hengst (published 1996). In English, the versions of Graves (Penguin) and Rolfe (Loeb) are widespread, but the time seemed definitely ripe for a new translation that can satisfy the needs of both classicists and a more general readership.

Both groups are served well by Catherine Edwards in her new Suetonius translation, that is based on the Teubner text by Ihm (1998). The translation itself makes excellent reading. The text is instructed with useful additional material (some 40 pages of introduction, some 60 pages of notes, a glossary and an index). In the introduction, E. makes a number of good points, notably that we should read Suetonius not primarily for historical facts, but for the diverse Roman images and judgements of emperors that are reflected in the lives.

My only doubt concerns the typographical presentation of the text. The translator has faithfully maintained the traditional paragraph numbers, but largely refraining from adding further subdivisions in paragraphs. This often results in pages of text that look rather massive and less well structured than might seem possible. But in the light of the virtues of this book, this minor weakness can easily be forgiven. The new translation will no doubt be of great use to all readers.

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