

August Boeckh, Ludolph Dissen and Tycho Mommsen: tracing asyndeton, steering influence

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The scope of the paper is to explore August Boeckh’s influence exerted on Ludolph Dissen during the preparation of their edition of Pindaric fragments. It is well known that Ludolph Dissen furnished his edition of 1830 with two appendices one of which bears the title “De Asyndeto apud Pindarum”. It is also known that he prepared this edition with maximum meticulousness and this trait allowed him to have an excellent overview of Pindar’s style. The impact of his observations stated in this appendix could be noted to large extent in Tycho Mommsen’s *editio maior* of 1864, but also in Gottfried Hermann’s ambivalent, almost negative, review of Dissen’s edition, which was fueled by Hermann’s rivalry against Boeckh.

Therefore, effort will be given on pinning down to what extent Boeckh accepted Dissen’s views on the use of asyndeton in Pindaric poetry. An attempt will also be made to trace Dissen’s influence on Tycho Mommsen’s *editio maior* and, in the light of the rivalry between Boeckh and Hermann, the extent to which Hermann accepted Dissen’s observations, will be examined.

Conclusively, an attempt is made to argue that German classical scholarship of the 19th century paved the way for modern Pindaric literary criticism not only on the basis of groundbreaking achievements, such as the edition of texts, but also through subtle observations which were the result of the editing procedure and the close reading of the text.

Preferred Panel: Open Topics

Duration: 20 minutes

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