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## Hultsch on the Tenses of Polybius *Die erzählenden Zeitformen bei Polybios, ein Beitrag zur Syntax der gemeingriechischen Sprache*, Hultsch von Friedrich. Leipzig, 1891—1893. S. Hirzel. 11 Mk.

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The Classical Review / Volume 9 / Issue 02 / March 1895, pp 127 - 128

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00201431, Published online: 27 October 2009

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### How to cite this article:

E. S. Shuckbuegh (1895). The Classical Review, 9, pp 127-128 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00201431

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ἐμακάριζον, sometimes words scarcely differing at all in meaning are joined by ἢ or by καὶ ...καί, οὔτε...οὔτε, μήτε...μήτε, as in v. 136 καὶ τὴν στρατείαν ποιεῖσθαι ταύτην καὶ πολεμεῖν καὶ κινδυνεύειν, sometimes again a word like καλός or μέγας is followed by one of narrower meaning, as in vi. 32 μαρτύρια μείζω καὶ σαφέστερα.

Hoess has made a complete collection of all such instances as occur in the Isocratean 'corpus,' giving separate lists of substantives, adjectives, adverbs, and verbs for each oration and epistle, and adding a table showing the total number of instances. There is of course room for much difference of opinion as to whether a particular word or phrase should be regarded as redundant, but Hoess has chosen his instances with care, availing himself of the investigations of H. Schmidt in his *Synonymik der griechischen Sprache*. The collection will therefore be of value to all students of Greek synonyms.

But Hoess has made a further use of his results. He regards the relative frequency of synonyms as a norm of style which may serve as a subsidiary aid in fixing the date of publication of certain orations and in deciding as to the genuineness of doubtful works. He therefore fixes the dates of the orations as exactly as possible, following in the main Dr. Blass's *Attische Beredsamkeit* ii.<sup>2</sup>, and then shows how far his statistics serve to confirm these dates. The table on p. 43 shows that Isocrates made but slight use of these synonyms in his earlier works, that he used them with greater frequency in his middle and best period, and that they are found most abundantly in his latest works.

An example or two will make Hoess's method of proceeding clear. The date of

the *Helena* (Or. x.) is, as is well known, a matter of dispute. While Blass (*l.c.* p. 122) regards it as one of the earliest works of Isocrates, Professor Jebb, whose careful discussion of this point is not referred to by Hoess, thinks it may probably be put about 370 B.C. (*Attic Orators* ii.<sup>1</sup> pp. 102 *sq.*), and Keil (*Anal. Isoc.* p. 8) dates it *circ.* 365 B.C. Now the synonym test points to a date not only later than the *Busiris* (before 380) but also later than the *Plataicus* (374-372). Hoess therefore dates it (p. 47) 'certe non ante a. 370,' though he had previously (p. 6) on other grounds said that it was written 'paulo ante ol. 100 (380).' Again, as to the date of the *Archidamus* (Or. vi.) opinions differ widely, Blass (*l.c.* p. 263) placing it after 356, while Professor Jebb refers it to 366, and Keil to 365 B.C. Hoess prefers the earlier date and sees a confirmation of it in the small number of synonyms as compared with the latest orations.

The question of the genuineness of the *Ad Demonicum* and of the *Letters* is discussed by Hoess at some length. He is convinced that the former is not the work of Isocrates, though he seems to have overlooked the *De Isocratis Demonicea* of Ponickau (noticed in the *Classical Review* iv. p. 422). On the other hand he considers that the question of the genuineness of the *Letters* needs a far more thorough investigation than it has yet received. The ninth letter he declares to be undoubtedly spurious (p. 7), but does not venture to give a decided opinion as to the others. And indeed, as all the letters are accepted by Blass as genuine and rejected by Keil as spurious, we may well agree with Hoess that 'adhuc sub iudice lis est.'

HENRY CLARKE.

## HULTSCH ON THE TENSES OF POLYBIUS.

*Die erzählenden Zeitformen bei Polybios, ein Beitrag zur Syntax der gemeingriechischen Sprache*, von FRIEDRICH HULTSCH. Leipzig, 1891-1893. S. Hirzel. 11 Mk.

THE learned editor of Polybius has set himself the task of illustrating that writer's use of the historic tenses, and with characteristic industry has collected some six thousand instances which he endeavours to reduce to their proper categories. He forcibly points out that the interest and value of the

language of Polybius consist in the fact that he heads the list of the writers of the common dialect (κοινή). The later writers of Greek in the imperial age attempted to recall the grace and elegance of the Attic of the best period, but only sacrificed vigour and life. Polybius, the practical statesman, sought the ground-work of his style in the living speech of his time, and was acceptable to his contemporaries in proportion as he was intelligible. It is easier, as Hultsch remarks, to note the differences in the language

of Polybius from the Attic than to form a comprehensive view of the principle underlying it; and it is this latter that he has attempted to do. He therefore goes to the root of the matter, adopting the logical division of G. Curtius between the time-period (*Zeitstufe*) and the time-mode (*Zeitart*) of a tense. By the former an action is indicated as past present or future, by the latter as accomplished, continuing, or beginning. And he lays it down as a preliminary formula that by the imperfect indicative an action is conceived as continuous, by the aorist as transient (*dauerlos*). But the use of the one or the other (though not uninfluenced by objective rules) depends mainly on the subjective judgment of the writer. Consequently verbs which in themselves involve an idea of duration will mostly be found in the imperfect,—as for instance, in military matters *ἀγειν*, *προάγειν* and other verbs of going, starting, and sending are often found in the imperfect where the aorist might have been expected; those that involve the idea of suddenness or brief duration will mostly be found in the aorist. After devoting three sections to a dissertation on the three kinds of imperfects—of duration, of development, of description—and their interconnexion, he treats the case of verbs of attempting and undertaking, such as *διδόναι* in the sense of ‘to offer,’ *πειθεῖν* of unsuccessful advice, *πειρᾶσθαι*, *ἐγχειρεῖν* and the like; and next shows by a comparative table of imperfects and aorists how the former predominates in connexion with adverbs or adverbial expressions. Similar lists are given of verbs of demanding and exhorting, as, *ἀξιοῦν*, *παραινεῖν*, *παρακαλεῖν* (p. 109, 110); and of sending or dispatching (p. 120—122); and of numerous others. Though the instances are all but exclusively taken from Polybius, these two hundred large pages (§§ i.—xxii.) contain really a most valuable treatise on the use of the aorist and imperfect applicable to Greek generally. The second part (§§ xxiii.—xxx., pp. 179) treats in a similar manner the interchange of the imperfect and aorist, starting with an exhaustive examination of the usages of the verbs, *γίνεσθαι*, *ἔχειν*, *λείπειν*, *μένειν*, *φεύγειν* and *βάλλειν*, with their compounds. In § 28 the use of the aorist to express continuance for a definite space followed by change of the action conceived, as in *ἐπέμεινε τρεῖς ἡμέρας* (21, 43, 9), *πολὸν μὲν χρόνον ἠγόρησαν* (1, 10, 3), is illustrated at some length, as well as the prevailing use of the aorist with certain adverbs, as *τέλος*.

Finally, Hultsch gives a list of verbs whose aorist and imperfect tenses have the same form in the third person singular, as *ἐγείρειν*, *κλίνειν*, *κρίνειν*, *κτείνειν*, *πραύνειν*, *διαφθείρειν* and others, the time-value of which therefore has to be settled by the context. In § 29 he further illustrates the variation of the use of the imperfect and aorist by examining in detail certain descriptive passages, such as for instance the account of the battle of Cannae (3, 113—116), which he speaks of as *ein stilistisches Meisterwerk*, and points out the delicate shades of meaning expressed by the respective uses of aorists and imperfects in the words: *ἐκίνει—παρενέβαλε—ἐξέταρτε—κατέσπρησε*. He gives moreover a long list of phrases in which the aorist and imperfect occur in clauses joined by *καί* or by the particles *μέν* and *δέ*, when a similar difference in the meaning is required. This is farther illustrated by contrasted clauses in § xxx.; and he then goes on in §§ xxxi. and xxxii. to discuss and illustrate the uses of the historic present and pluperfect. The historic present is naturally of much rarer occurrence in descriptive passages than the imperfect and aorist, the proportion in the first book being about one to sixty, and somewhat lower still in the following four books, and in the fragments less frequently by about a half than in the first five books. As to this Hultsch remarks that as Polybius occupied many years in the composition of his work, and consulted a large variety of authorities, some variation of style between the beginning and end of his history was to be expected. But neither in his use of the historic present nor in that of the pluperfect does he differ materially from the usage of his predecessors; and the most valuable part of the last section is the list of passages in which clauses are found joined by *καί*, *μέν...δέ*, *τε...τε* and other conjunctive or disjunctive words, containing respectively a pluperfect and imperfect. As the three parts of the treatise were printed originally in the transactions of the *philologisch-historischen Classe der Königl. Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, the pagination is not consecutive, but a fairly good index at the end of the third part helps to obviate any difficulty which might be caused by this. There can be no doubt that by his laborious, and it is to be feared unremunerative, work the author has earned the gratitude of students of Polybius and of Greek generally.

E. S. SHUCKBURGH.