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Title: Introduction

Author: Anna Kucz

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Introduction

The present volume brings together eleven papers concerning various aspects of ancient literature and culture as well as Greek and Latin language. It is prefaced with an ode composed by Anna Szczepaniak on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of classical studies at the University of Silesia. In a paper dealing with Greek language Katarzyna Frąckiewicz examines the word δίδου, in recent scholarship considered as a poetical form of the present imperative both middle and passive. Katarzyna Lesiak takes on the relatively understudied phenomenon of sound instrumentation in Latin literature, illustrating her argument with examples taken from the masters of Roman epic: Lucretius, Virgil and Ovid. Aleksandra Musiał points to the parallels between the Mesopotamian Gilgamesh epic and the poetry of Homer. Damian Pierzak offers an interpretation of the myth of Apollo and Hyacinth in the light of some literary specimens of ancient Greek culture, most notably Antiphon's *Second Tetralogy*. Jan Kucharski deals with some narrative patterns – with particular attention given to the motif of liberation and deliverance – shaping the plots of revenge tragedies of the Athenian playwrights. In his paper concerning the heroization of Marcus Atilius Regulus in Roman literature Grzegorz Bartusik demonstrates how a specific concept of history can be understood as an “antistrophe” of philosophy. The next article by Bogdan Burliga gives an analysis of Plutarch's *Life of Anthony*, and argues that despite his harsh judgments on Anthony's vices Plutarch does not utterly condemn the man behind them. Artur Malina in his paper emphasizes the contrast drawn in the Gospel of Mark between the institutional authority wielded by the members of the Sanhedrin as opposed to the personal authority of Jesus. Monika Czarnuch presents the manner in which Clement of Alexandria, drawing both from the Holy Scripture and the classical authors, acknowledges the importance of classical philosophy on the road leading to Wisdom. Goya's *Saturn*, its significance to the Spanish culture

and its remarkably universal message are the subject of the paper by Joanna Aleksandrowicz, in which she also analyses two cases of films inspired by the famous fresco.

Anna Kucz