

According to Herodotus (9. 33), Tisameneus, an Elean, was told by the Delphic oracle that he would win five great ἀγῶνες. He thereupon entered for the Olympic Games and managed to come second in the wrestling, but was otherwise unsuccessful. The Spartans, however, then realized that the oracle had referred οὐκ ἐς γυμνικοὺς ἀλλ' ἐς ἀρηίους ἀγῶνας, and persuaded Tisameneus to become their military commander. He did so, and they were duly successful in five battles.

If we now return to our passage with ἀγῶνες μάχης in mind, the appropriateness of ἀγῶνιοι θεοί is striking. The messenger

9. Admittedly, Hermes is next invoked, but that is specifically in his capacity as κῆρυξ, as in *Supp.* 220–21.

returning from Troy calls upon “the gods of battle,” by which he would presumably mean those who took a particular part in the Trojan War. He mentions two by name: Zeus and Apollo, perhaps the two most prominent in the battles related by Homer—and indeed he describes Apollo here as τόξοις ἰάπτων μηκέτ' εἰς ἡμᾶς βέλη (510).⁹ In the *Agamemnon*, then, the meaning, “the gods of battle,” fits the context better than its rivals and is, I suggest, free from the difficulties that other interpretations face.

NICHOLAS REED

LONDON

COMMUNICATION ON *L'ANNÉE PHILOLOGIQUE*

Volume XLIII (1972) of *L'Année philologique* was not published until September, 1974, with a delay of three months in projected time of publication beyond that of the preceding volume. It also had 110 additional pages. Growth of this magnitude is due principally to the steady increase in the number of journals covered and proliferation of *acta* of congresses and colloquia, of honorary collections and miscellanies; but it poses a serious problem for those responsible for the timely appearance of bibliography. The task of abstracting and indexing on cards original articles, books, and reviews requires more time, and the abundance of material so assembled has repercussions as well upon the time needed to compile the indexes. These, of course, can be undertaken only when the volume is in proof. Considering that a bibliography renders the greatest service to its users by appearing regularly, without delay, and in a single, easily manageable volume, the directors of the three offices of *L'Année philologique*, in Paris, Chapel Hill, and Heidelberg, have decided, with the approval of M. P. Wuilleumier, administrator of the Société internationale de Bibliographie classique, to take the following measures:

(1) In order to avoid prolonged repetition, occasionally in ten successive volumes, of the

title of a book which is reviewed again and again, notation of reviews which appear more than five years after the date of publication of the book will be discontinued. Exceptions will inevitably have to be made for certain long and important reviews. This step will be taken in Volume XLIV (1973), which will appear in 1975.

(2) As students of the Old and New Testament have at their disposal the excellent and exhaustive *Elenchus bibliographicus Biblicus* of Father P. Nober, *L'Année philologique* will reduce its coverage in this area to a single rubric, “Testamenta,” which will include editions of Greek and Latin texts, research tools, and studies relating to the language of the Testaments, including the Apocrypha. The rubric, “Publications relatives aux manuscrits de la Mer Morte,” will be discontinued, beginning with Volume XLV (1974), which will appear in 1976.

These measures were unanimously approved by the members of the Société internationale de Bibliographie classique, at their quinquennial meeting, held in Madrid, on September 1, 1974. The committee considers it worthwhile to draw the attention of the users of *L'Année philologique* and the editors of journals of classical studies to the consequences of these measures. It observes, furthermore, that very short notes are occasionally published, as if to fill out the bottom of a page, or that a number of such notes, of diverse nature, are often grouped

under the title *Varia*. Articles of these two types occupy, in a bibliography, a place disproportionate to their importance. It may be necessary in the future to make a selection among such notes and, in addition, to omit articles, in the *acta* of congresses, which may virtually repeat articles published fully elsewhere.

As the five indexes currently in *L'Année philologique* represent a demanding labor, requiring, in the case of three, considerable additional research, it is regrettable that many users of the bibliography seem unaware of their existence and do not appear to read the *Avant-propos* or the *Table des matières*. The recent revision of the archaeological rubrics, for instance, should justify a more general use of *L'Année philologique* by archaeologists.

Publications from the United States, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, and present and former members of the British Common-

wealth, should be sent to Professor William C. West, American Office, *L'Année philologique*, Murphey Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, U.S.A. Publications from the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, and Austria should be sent to Professor Viktor Poeschl, Zweigstelle der *Année philologique*, Seminar für klassische Philologie der Universität, Marstallhof 2, 69 Heidelberg, Bundesrepublik Deutschland. All other publications should continue to be sent to Juliette Ernst, Directrice de *L'Année philologique*, 11, avenue René-Coty, 75014 Paris. Such publications should not be sent to the Société d'édition Les Belles Lettres, which is responsible only for the distribution of *L'Année philologique*.

COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE
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