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EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND
COMMENTARY

BY
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A. S. F. GOW

κουφὰ δόσις ἀνδρὶ σοφῶι
ἀντὶ μόχθων παντοδαπῶν

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PREFACE

The justification for a monograph on Rufinus will not be immediately apparent to all; the work being done, I ask myself what it may have been.

Some preliminary study of him was necessary a decade ago in order to make sure that he should not be included in 'The Garland of Philip'; I made sure of that, and by the way found myself attracted to him, partly because nobody else has ever been, and partly because he seemed to me a talented but inscrutable writer, hard to place within any historical context.

The only continuous commentary on his poems by a scholar is that of C. F. W. Jacobs, published without much passion in 1801. Since then the world has not much troubled itself about him or even cared to make his acquaintance. Five perfunctory lines suffice for him in Schmid-Stählin; Lesky has no room for him; Kühner-Gerth's single reference to him is misplaced; the writer of a column on him in Pauly-Wissowa in 1931 must have had his mind on other topics.

And yet Rufinus is a lively and amusing author, above the average of the Anthology's contributors in the Christian era. There is much originality in his themes; his style is colourful and generally pleasing; a few hideous blunders increase interest in him. He is not much like anybody else in the Anthology; and his date is so uncertain that half a millennium is required to cover the range of guesses.

He was, in short, a total blank in my (or anyone else's) knowledge of the poets of the Anthology; and that, I suppose, is why I have spent a couple of years in his company.

I am much indebted to Professor F. H. Sandbach and Dr R. D. Dawe, who read a tiresome typescript and corrected the proofs; they suggested a number of improvements, all thankfully received.

Tarset, Northumberland
October 1977

D.L.P.

ABBREVIATIONS

- A.P.* *Anthologia Palatina*
 Beckby H. Beckby, *Anthologia Graeca*, vol. 1, 2nd ed. Munich 1966
 Dübner J. F. Dübner, *Anthologia Palatina*, vol. 1, Paris 1864
HE A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page, *The Greek Anthology: Hellenistic Epigrams*, Cambridge 1965
 Hecker 1843 A. Hecker, *Commentatio Critica de Anthologia Graeca*, Leyden 1843
 Hecker 1852 A. Hecker, *Commentationis Criticae de Anthologia Graeca pars prior*, Leyden 1852
IEG M. L. West, *Iambi et Elegi Graeci*, vol. 1, Oxford 1971; vol. II, 1972
 Jacobs¹ C. F. W. Jacobs, *Anthologia Graeca*, 13 vols., Leipzig 1794–1814; text of Rufinus in vol. III 98–107, repeated from R. F. P. Brunck, *Analecta Veterum Poetarum Graecorum*, Strassburg 1772–6; commentary in vol. X 149–82
 Jacobs² *ibid.* vol. XIII 65–7 (*Addenda et Emendanda*)
 Jacobs³ C. F. W. Jacobs, *Delectus Epigrammatum Graecorum*, Gotha and Erfurt 1826
 Jacobs⁴ C. F. W. Jacobs, *Anthologia Graeca ad fidem cod. Pal. etc.*, Leipzig 1813–17
 Mackail J. W. Mackail, *Select Epigrams from the Greek Anthology*, 3rd ed. London 1911
 Paton W. R. Paton, *The Greek Anthology*, vol. 1, London (Loeb) 1926
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PG A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page, *The Greek Anthology: The Garland of Philip*, Cambridge 1968
RE Pauly–Wissowa, *Real-Encyclopädie* (1894–)

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- Stadtmüller H. Stadtmüller, *Anthologia Graeca*, vol. I, Leipzig
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- Waltz P. Waltz, *Anthologie Grecque*, vol. II, Paris (Budé)
1938