



Volume 3: Kierkegaard and the Roman World

Edited by Jon Stewart, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Reception and Resources

May 2009
242 pages
978-0-7546-6554-0

234 x 156 mm
Hardback
£60.00



While Kierkegaard's use of the Greek authors, particularly Plato and Aristotle, has attracted considerable attention over the years, his use of the Roman authors has, by contrast, remained sadly neglected. This neglect is somewhat surprising given the fact that Kierkegaard was extremely well read in Latin from his early youth when he attended the Borgerdyd School in Copenhagen. Kierkegaard's interest in the Roman authors is perhaps best evidenced by his book collection. In his private library he had a long list of Latin titles and Danish translations of the standard Roman authors in any number of different genres. His extensive and frequent use of writers such as Cicero, Horace, Terence, Seneca, Suetonius and Ovid clearly warrants placing them in the select group of his major sources.

The chapters in this volume demonstrate that Kierkegaard made use of the Roman sources in a number of different ways. His readings from the Borgerdyd school seem to have stuck with him as an adult. He constantly refers to Roman authors, such as Livy, Nepos, and Suetonius for colourful stories and anecdotes. In addition, he avails himself of pregnant sayings or formulations from the Roman authors, when appropriate. But his use of these authors is not merely as a rhetorical source. He is also profoundly interested in the Roman philosophy of Cicero, Seneca and Marcus Aurelius. Similarly, just as he is fascinated by Tacitus' portrayal of the early Christians, so also he is amused by the humour of Terence and Apuleius. In short, the Roman authors serve to enrich any number of different aspects of Kierkegaard's authorship with respect to both content and form.

Contents

Preface; Apuleius: direct and possible indirect influences on the thought of Kierkegaard, Stacey E. Ake; Cicero: a handy Roman companion: Marcus Tullius Cicero's appearance in Kierkegaard's works, Thomas Eske Rasmussen; Horace: the art of poetry and the search for the good life, Thomas Miles; Livy: The History of Rome in Kierkegaard's works, Nataliya Vorobyova; Marcus Aurelius: Kierkegaard's use and abuse of the stoic emperor, Rick Anthony Furtak; Nepos: traces of Kierkegaard's use of an edifying Roman biographer, Jon Stewart; Ovid: of love and exile: Kierkegaard's appropriation of Ovid, Steven P. Sondrup; Sallust: Kierkegaard's scarce use of a great Roman historian, Niels W. Bruun; Seneca: *Disjecta Membra* in Kierkegaard's writings, Niels W. Bruun; Suetonius: exemplars of truth and madness: Kierkegaard's proverbial uses of Suetonius' *Lives*, Sebastian Høeg Gulmann; Tacitus: Christianity as *odium generis humani*, Jon Stewart; Terence: traces of Roman comedy in Kierkegaard's writings, Mikkel Larsen; Valerius Maximus: moral *Exempla* in Kierkegaard's writings, Nataliya Vorobyova; Virgil: from farms to empire: Kierkegaard's understanding of a Roman poet, Steven P. Sondrup; Indexes.

About the Editor

Jon Stewart is an Associate Research Professor in the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754665540

ASHGATE

To order this book please visit www.ashgate.com, or email orders@ashgate.com
A 10% discount applies to orders placed through www.ashgate.com