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Review: Lucan: Civil War

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S. H. Braund (tr.). *Lucan: Civil War*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press/Clarendon Press, 1992. Pp. lvi, 335, plus 2 b/w maps. \$95.00. ISBN 0-19-814485-7.

This is the second major translation of Lucan to appear in the English-speaking world, following the publication in 1988 of P. F. Widdows' verse rendition by Indiana University Press. At the time this reviewer, like others, acclaimed Widdows' Lucan as excellent, but now here is Braund's version, also in verse and also of high quality. Comparison of Widdows and Braund is inevitable and indeed imperative, especially for the purchaser with an eye to economy who will have to decide whether to spend \$47.50 for Widdows or the astonishing sum of almost twice that much for Braund.

This translation like its predecessor comes with introduction, notes, and maps. The introduction is substantive and covers much the same ground as Widdows, such as Lucan's life, relationship with Nero, scope of the poem and so forth, but also contains a useful discussion of stoicism as well as a section on the role of women in the poem. Braund's notes are limited to the explanatory, while those of Widdows take account of useful recent scholarship on critical questions in Lucan. The volume itself, though attractive, is less congenial to eye and hand than that of Widdows. In the end, however, it is the quality of the translation that will be decisive. Both translations are accurate when it comes to conveying Lucan's meaning, though Braund's tone comes closer to capturing Lucan's rhetorical stridency. Where Widdows tends toward elegance and formality in his diction, Braund favors concision, starkness, and what might be called a "gutsier" quality.

The choice between the two is difficult. However, this is a welcome dilemma, given that before the appearance of Widdows' translation there was only the out-of-print Penguin edition of Robert Graves.

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JOHN F. MAKOWSKI

Mark Morford. *Stoics and Neostoics: Rubens and the Circle of Lipsius*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991. Pp. xviii, 246, plus 44 b/w photos. \$42.50. ISBN 0-691-04081-8.

Rubens' painting *The Four Philosophers* features the celebrated scholar of Tacitus and Seneca, Justus Lipsius (1547-1606); Rubens in self-portrait; and two young disciples of Lipsius, including the artist's recently deceased and beloved brother Philip. A discussion of this painting begins Morford's two-part study, first exploring Lipsius' systematic revival of Stoicism, and then arguing for Rubens' embodiment—and later modification—of Lipsian Stoicism in his life and art.

Morford surveys Lipsius' Stoically oriented mentor-disciple friendships, ordinarily with young men of means and status, who in their training found encouragement to engage later in public service. Out of his passion for