

This research project is closely related to the topic of my doctoral thesis, which I prepare in the Department of Ancient History at the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University, under the direction of dr hab. Slawomir Sprawski. Its aim is contextualization of references to Greek history in Latin erudite literature during the principate. By the erudite literature, I mean all the specialized treatises, "encyclopedias" and compendiums of knowledge, in the assumption written as non-historiographic works. The chronological span of work will include the period from the end of the First Century BC to the middle of the Third Century AD and therefore the specialist literature written since the rule of Augustus to the Crisis of the Third Century, crucial also for the development of this branch of Roman literature.

These fragments grouped by scholars in specialized collections are most often used without distinction between direct quotation, paraphrase or mere reference to someone's thoughts. Researcher benefiting from such a collection, usually is devoid of detailed knowledge about the nature of the work and the context in which the given sentence had originally appeared, which may lead to far-reaching misunderstandings. In the context of these ancient treasuries of quotations we are often talking about specialized treatises – grammatical, agricultural, medical or astronomical literature, thus covering topics remote from the interests of the majority of historians. Then, there are a number of linguistic problems. In the case of texts with a very poor tradition of manuscript already critical choice of a particular issue or text lesson can significantly affect its interpretation. This type of literature has so far been the subject of concern primarily of classical philologists, literary scholars and linguists. Critical editions and comments prepared to these authors (outside Pliny the Elder and Aulus Gellius) are scarce, as are translations into modern languages, which is significant also for their popularization. Meanwhile, behind the thick layer of inflected forms and technical terms can often be encountered valuable historical digressions, allusions and unusual attitude to historical facts, neutral for most of the researchers dealing with a lexical and stylistic layer of the text, understandable only in the context of the whole or a longer passage. As an example anecdotes about famous figures. Hardly can we ignore them due to poor source base, but they are often used by historians in isolation from their original occurrence, making it difficult to assess their credibility.

At the approach of the ancient Romans to the past, not to mention their approach to the Greek past, one used to look only through the prism of historiographical sources. Meanwhile it does not attach much importance how the same past was perceived outside the context of historiography, how the story was understood by people generally dealing with other areas of knowledge: grammarians, antiquarians, the authors of treatises on agriculture, rhetoric, and astronomy. In other words, I will not be interested in what we can learn from the individual author on Greek history as such, but how he himself, as a representative of Roman culture, who lived in different times and realities understood this past and what was his attitude to it.

The problem posed in that way generates a lot of secondary research questions that will be particular objectives of my work and therefore it will be interested me: what kind of knowledge about the history of Greece could have individual authors, from which sources they drew it, what range of knowledge did they demand from their readers, what was the credibility of the information provided in this type of literature, as their authors referred to the work of historiography or not, how they quoted or paraphrased the works of other authors dealing with issues of Greek history, as the contemporary literary currents (e.g. classicism, The Second Sophistic, frontonianism), the reality of the times in which they lived or the political situation could affect the shape of the information provided by them, and finally the fundamental question: what attitude the Latin authors of such literature had to Greek history and how this ratio has been changed over time. Of course, due to limited source database answers to these questions will often be assigned only to the individual works, which in itself will be also extremely valuable to use them as historical sources as well as in a discussion on the theme of the reception of history and culture of ancient Greece in Rome, which in many ways also affects its modern form.

To conduct the research outlined above, I was convinced by the results of my work on *The Birthday Book* of Censorinus during which I noticed the existence of a clear gap in the literature. Hitherto plenty of space was devoted to individual authors, however, the issue of their perception of Greek history, if any, was treated marginally. What is lacking are primarily studies dealing with this issue holistically.