

CORRESPONDENCE

(i) ὀψιμαθοῦς παλινωδία

Dr Papaioïannou writes to tell me that in my review of his book on Lucian, *CR* (1978), 346–7, I misrepresented him as complaining of polemics against each other by Lucianists. He is perfectly correct and I apologize. I misunderstood his point on p. 262; in fact he was complaining of the misleading influence of those with preconceived ideas who indulged in ‘formalistic analyses’. The particular phrase which misled me was: ‘Ο. R. Helm και ὁ J. Bompaire ἐπηρέασαν κι ἐπηρέάζουν ἀκόμα πολλούς’. P. excluded me from his criticism, but I should now be included as I had the preconceived idea that ἐπηρέάζω had its classical meaning of λουιδορεῖν; I now realize that its modern meaning is ‘to exert a (harmful) influence on’. I must also withdraw my statement that P. almost writes as though Helm were still alive. I hope P. and readers of *CR* will forgive me and regard this as an amusing illustration of the way that Greek words can change their meaning over the centuries. *Mea maxima culpa*.

M. D. MACLEOD

(ii)

Dear Sir,

May I beg space in your columns to correct a serious misapprehension in H. K. J. Usher’s otherwise most diligent and painstaking review of *Reading Greek* in your last issue (vol. xxx, no. 1, 1980)? It must be made absolutely clear that, except for the language Surveys and Section G of the Reference Grammar in the *Grammar* volume, Dr Sidwell, Miss Corrie and I were responsible for the writing of everything in the course. Thus, with all the emphasis I can muster, Sir Kenneth Dover and Professor Handley are *not* responsible for the modern composition of the early stages of the text (p. 71); Dr Chadwick, Professor Morpurgo Davies and Dr Sommerstein are *not* responsible if the explanations of the grammar are ‘tantalizingly brief, even inadequate’ (p. 72); Messrs Balme, Griffin and Verity are *not* responsible for any ‘lack of co-ordination’ between the grammar and exercises (p. 73); and where Dr Usher writes ‘(members of) the committee’, please read ‘the Project Team’. As the Acknowledgements to *Reading Greek* (Text) p. xii make clear, the function of the Steering Committee and Advisory Panel, and of the sub-committees into which they were divided, was to give ‘guidance’ and ‘specific help... on certain aspects of the Course’; and this they did, with extraordinarily generous expenditure of time and effort on our behalf. Their function was not to proof-read the Course, nor to subject every last word in it to fine scrutiny: that, together with the writing, was our job. Consequently, the errors and weaknesses to which Dr Usher has so faithfully drawn our attention and the decisions of presentation and explanation to which he cannot subscribe are entirely our responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
(Dr) P. V. JONES

Our reviewer replies:

Sir,

Credit must certainly be given where credit is due. Despite the ἀπολογία on p. xiii of *Reading Greek* that ‘the final decisions about every aspect of the Course and any errors of omission and commission are the sole responsibility of the Team’, Sir Kenneth Dover’s words on p. ix that ‘The Project Team, the Steering Committee and the Advisory Panel have been compelled repeatedly to take decisions – sometimes against the judgement of a minority, but never without patient and friendly discussion – which will incur criticism’, combined with the wording on p. xii that the Course had been developed by a Team ‘under the guidance’ of a Steering Committee and Advisory Panel, led your reviewer to attribute a greater degree of responsibility to the scholars who comprised this committee and this panel than clearly has been the case. Had the wording been ‘with the advice of’ or ‘with suggestions from’ misattribution would have been unlikely.

As it is, I gladly take this opportunity to restore to Dr Jones, Dr Sidwell and Miss Corrie the credit that I had spread more widely.

Yours
H. J. K. USHER