

WEEK TEN:
The Formidable Opponent – Hannibal II

Tuesday: Hannibal the Legend: Oaths and Omens

For Tuesday, we will explore some of the larger myths and legends surrounding Hannibal that developed in the various accounts of his campaigns. For starters, we will read three different versions of Hannibal's childhood oath. First, review the account in Nepos' *Life of Hannibal* (§2). Then, consider Polybius' version (3.11-12). Finally, read the opening to Livy's Third Decade, which includes an account of this oath, as well as a few other points of interest about the origins of the war. As you read, pay close attention to the language of the actual oath as well as the narrative frame in which the story is related.

Next, we will read a smattering of texts that describe the legends that accrued to Hannibal over time. Up first is the infamous dream of Hannibal that suggested that he had divine approval and assistance for his campaign against the Romans. Read Livy's version of the dream and some of the surrounding narrative. Then compare Coelius Antipater's account (Fragments PDF #2) and those of Valerius Maximus and Silius Italicus to Livy's take on the dream. Polybius, too, mentions accounts like these, but dismisses the possibility that such an event could have occurred (3.47.6-48.12).

Lastly, read the smattering of other fragments (#1, 3, 4) that describe a few various legends that are recounted about Hannibal. The Quadrigarius fragment recounts a pretty awesome (though likely totally fictitious) meeting between Scipio Africanus and Hannibal long after each had fallen from grace in their respective cities. Throughout the assignment I encourage you to take careful notes of the words used to describe Hannibal and his exploits. Since we are reading a smattering of short selections, being drawn from a number of texts (some of which we only have fragments of), it will be extremely easy to get lost if you do not attempt to organize and jot down your thoughts as you read.

Assignment:

- **Hannibal's Oath: Nepos, *Hannibal* 2** (= Rolfe trans. pp. 261-top of 263-*odd pages only*); **Polybius 3.11-12** (=Paton trans. pp. 29-33-*odd pages only*); **Livy *AUC* 21.1-2** (= Yardley trans. pp 3-4).
- **Omens, Dreams, Portents: Livy, *AUC* 21.21-23** (=Yardley trans. pp. 21-24); **Fragmentary Texts: #1 = Fabius Pictor F22 = Polybius 3.8.1-8; #2 = Coelius Antipater F8 = Cicero *de Div.* 1.49; #3 = Coelius Antipater F32 = Cicero *de Div.* 1.48; #4 = Claudius Quadrigarius F 66 = Livy 35.14.5-12; Valerius Maximus 1.7.ext1; Silius Italicus *Punica* 3.163-213; Polybius 3.47.6-48.12** (= Paton trans. pp. 125-29-*odd pages only*)

Reading Questions:

- How the various versions of Hannibal's oath compare? What sort of picture does this oath paint of Hannibal and the behavior that he would be expected to pursue after taking this oath?

- What does the narrative frame found in Nepos and Polybius do for their accounts of the oath?
- What do the collected myths, portents, dreams suggest about Hannibal's character and behavior? What sorts of activities does Hannibal pursue? What does Hannibal seem to respect or respond to in these legends?
- How do the accounts of Hannibal's dream compare? What messages does this dream send?
- What kind of enemy does Hannibal seem to become in these legends? How do the Romans try to make sense of Hannibal's success against them?
- How does Hannibal's alleged meeting with Scipio long after the war affect the portrayal of Hannibal that we have seen in our texts up to this point?

Thursday: Hannibal *ad Portas!*

For Thursday we will read about two of Hannibal's most famous victories during the Second Punic War: Lake Trasimene and Cannae. After Hannibal successfully crosses the Alps, he quickly defeats Rome in a couple of smaller battles in Northern Italy. He then heads south in the hopes of turning Rome's Italian allies to his side. To do this, Hannibal would need to defeat the main bodies of the Roman army in the field. The first of his massive victories comes at Lake Trasimene, where Hannibal traps the Roman army along the shores of the lake and takes advantage of a foggy day to surprise Flaminius and his troops. Thousands of Romans, including the Consul Flaminius, lost their lives in this battle.

Though the disaster at Lake Trasimene set Rome back considerably, the Romans were able to raise another army to defend the Italian peninsula. In the next year, however, Hannibal would inflict upon them the most crushing defeat in Roman history at Cannae. This loss prompts drastic measures to be taken by the Romans, as they fear (not for the last time!) that Hannibal is *ad portas!* ("at the gates"), a phrase that becomes a byword for potentially disastrous situations after the Battle of Cannae. Hannibal's tactics in these two battles are still studied in military schools today.

Assignment:

- **Trasimene, Cannae, and their Aftermath:** Livy *AUC* 22.1-11 (= Yardley trans. pp. 66-78), 22.41-61 (= Yardley trans. pp. 110-134); Livy 23.11-14 (= Yardley trans. pp. 146-150)

Reading Questions:

- What do the portents and disasters that lead up to the battles suggest about the encounters? How do the Romans respond to these omens?
- What leads to Hannibal's victories in each of these battle narratives? Who (or what?) deserves the credit or blame for Hannibal's victories and Rome's losses?
- How does Livy structure his narratives of these battles? How do the events before and after the encounters fit in with Livy's overall approach to these battles?
- How does each side respond to the outcomes of these battles? What do the debates that occur in both the Roman and Carthaginian senates suggest about the two sides' approaches to the war?
- What is the effect of Mago's presentation to the Carthaginian senate? What does his display of the citizenship rings suggest to the senators?

People, Terms, Events and Concepts, to know from Week Ten:

Hannibal	Juno Lacinia (Golden Column)	G. Terentius Varro
Antiochus	P. Cornelius Scipio "Africanus"	Mago, son of Hamilcar
Hannibal's Oath	Alexander K. of Macedon	"Carthaginian Trick"
Hamilcar	Alexander	Maharbal
Polybius	Pyrrhus	Vestals
Nepos	Lake Trasimene	L. Manlius Torquatus
Coelius Antipater	Cannae	The Prisoners' Offer
Valerius Maximus	Gaius Flaminius	Q. Fabius Pictor
Silius Italicus	Q. Fabius Maximus	Delphi (Delphic Oracle)
Hannibal's Dream	The Fabian Strategy	Mago's Message to Carthage
Juppiter	L. Aemilius Paulus	Roman Citizenship Rings
Silenus		Hanno