



Format: Hardcover
Price: \$130.00
ISBN: 9781487548810
Date: February 2024
Pages: 479

Marguerite Yourcenar's Hadrian

Writing the Life of a Roman Emperor

Keith Bradley

DESCRIPTION

Marguerite Yourcenar is best known as the author of the 1951 novel *Mémoires d'Hadrien*, her recreation of the life of the Roman emperor Hadrian. The work can be examined from the perspective of the issues raised by writing Roman imperial biography at large and the many ways in which *Mémoires* has a claim to historical authenticity.

In *Marguerite Yourcenar's Hadrian*, Keith Bradley explains how *Mémoires d'Hadrien* came to be written, gives details of Yourcenar's own biography, and describes some of the intricate historical problems that her novel's portrait of Hadrian presents. He draws on Yourcenar's correspondence, her interviews with journalists, and her literary corpus as a whole, emphasizing Yourcenar's profound knowledge of the ancient evidence on which her life of Hadrian is based and exploiting a wide range of contemporary Yourcenarian criticism.

The book pays special attention to the methods by which Yourcenar believed Hadrian's life history to be recoverable, compares examples of modern life-writing, and contrasts the procedures of conventional Roman biographers. Revealing how and why *Mémoires d'Hadrien* is as it is, *Marguerite Yourcenar's Hadrian* illustrates how imaginative literary recreation is often little different from historical speculation.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Keith Bradley is the Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Professor of Classics Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame and an adjunct professor in the Department of Greek and Roman Studies at the University of Victoria. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

To order this book visit <https://utorontopress.com/>

University of Toronto Press, 800 Bay Street, Mezzanine, Toronto, ON M5S 3A9
© 2022 University of Toronto Press. All Rights Reserved.