

Biographical Details of Norman W. DeWitt

Post by “Cassius” of July 31, 2023 at 10:27 AM

Since this is a biographical thread and perhaps more likely that someone in the future will come across this, I should note here that personally I don't find DeWitt's style either antiquated or opaque. I know some people do, however, so that's a warning that everyone should have, just like I warn people that the first chapter of "A Few Days In Athens" had a tendency to put me off from wanting to read more. DeWitt is definitely not breezy, but I don't find him any harder to follow than any number of other academic writers. He is certainly a lot easier to read than someone like Nietzsche, who also throws in lots of allusions that can make him extremely difficult to follow. So I think part of the issue is that DeWitt throws in so many references to other classical writers like Horace and others that it's hard for someone who is not already familiar with those sources to assess whether what he says is correct until you pursue the footnotes yourself.

But we aren't all going to agree on this and I just wanted to note mainly that different people have different responses to his writing style.