

Three Eras, Two Men, One Value: *Fides* in Modern Performances of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*

Gregory Doran's 2006 Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) Production

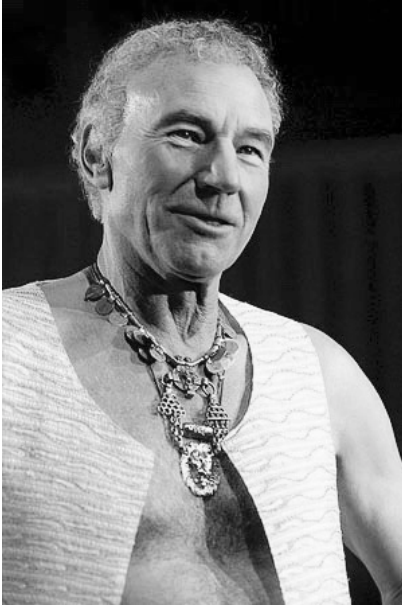


Fig. 1: 2006 Antony (Sir Patrick Stewart) (RSC)



Fig. 2: 2006 Octavian (John Hopkins) (RSC)

Passage 1: Plutarch on Antony's Lack of Self-Control at Actium

ἔνθα δὴ φανερόν αὐτὸν Ἀντώνιος ἐποίησεν ... ἑλκόμενος ὑπὸ τῆς γυναικὸς ὥσπερ συμπεφυκὼς καὶ συμμεταφερόμενος (*Life of Antony* §66).

Sir Thomas North's Sixteenth-Century Translation

"*Antonius* showed plainly, that ... he was so carried away with the vain love of this woman, as if he had been glued unto her, & that she could not have removed without moving of him also" (*Lives* 1001).

Passage 2: Vergil on Octavian's *Fides* to the Gods

*At Caesar, triplici invectus Romana triumpho
moenia, dis Italis votum immortale sacrabat* (*Aeneid* 8.714-15).

Presenter's Translation

But Caesar, brought inside the Roman walls with a triple triumph, consecrated his undying vow to the Italian gods.

Passage 3: Suetonius on Octavian's Neglect of Roman Virtue

Nec successum victoriae moderatus est, sed ... in splendidissimum quemque captivum non sine verborum contumelia saeviit; ut quidem uni suppliciter sepulturam precanti respondisse dicitur iam istam volucrum fore potestatem (*Life of the Divine Augustus* §13.2).

Presenter's Translation:

Nor was he moderate after his victory, but he raged against even the most illustrious of his captives with abusive language; so much that it is said he responded, "that will now be in the power of the birds," to a man who humbly begged him for burial.

Michael Boyd's 2010 RSC Production



Fig. 3: 2010 Antony (Darrell D'Silva) (RSC)



Fig. 4: 2010 Octavian (John Mackay) (RSC)

Passage 4: Tacitus on Decay of the Roman Republic

... ferocissimi per acies aut proscriptione cecidissent, ceteri nobilium, quanto quis servitio promptior, opibus et honoribus extollerentur ac novis ex rebus aucti, tuta et praesentia quam vetera et periculosa mallent (Annals §3).

Presenter's Translation

The most courageous Romans had fallen by the sword or by proscription, and the rest of the nobility – who were more ready for servility – were raised to wealth and honors, and so the rich preferred the safe and present things arising from the new ways over the old and dangerous things.

Passage 5: Tacitus on Octavian as Conniving Autocrat

... pellexit, insurgere paulatim, munia senatus, magistratum, legum in se trahere (Annals §3)

Presenter's Translation

He (Octavian) enticed everyone, raising himself little by little, so that he could draw the functions of the senate, the magistrates, and the law into his own power.

Presenter's slides, with more images, can be found at: <https://camws.org/2016-meeting-uploads>

Selected Bibliography

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