

The Narrative of the Law and Philosophy in the *Noctes Atticae*

Aulus Gellius' *Noctes Atticae* is organized as a collection of articles, covering a broad range of topics, such as myth, grammar, etymology, etc. Traditional scholarship has tended to take the articles at face value, assuming that they were placed in no particular order and with little regard for the method of readership. More recently there has been a movement to frame the *Noctes Atticae* as a more organized body of work which invites the reader to reflect back on previous sections and look forward to later ones. In continuing with the more recent scholarship, this paper will lend support to the idea of a linear narrative by demonstrating Gellius' interplay with two themes, Law and Philosophy, throughout the text which work to create a network of essays that provide an added layer of complexity to the work.

Previous scholarship has met the idea of an interconnected narrative from various angles. Some have identified intratexts and groupings of essays, while others have discovered overarching themes that span across essays and the book as a whole. Despite the abundance of testimony providing for a narrative structure in *Attic Nights*, no one has approached the question by exploring two of its most important themes, Law and Philosophy. By tracing these two themes from their earliest appearances to their last ones, we find that the two follow each other through the end of the work, where they meet at a conversation between a legal expert and a philosopher, demonstrating strongly that *Noctes Atticae* is in fact organized in a deliberate manner.

Bibliography

DiGiulio, S. (2015). *Aulusellius, the Noctes Atticae, and the Literary Logic of Miscellany Under the High Roman Empire* (Doctoral Dissertation). Brown University (Beall, 2001)

- Anderson, G. (1994). Aulus Gellius: A Miscellanist and his World. *ANRW, II* (34), 1834-1862.
- — — — (2004). Aulus Gellius as a Storyteller. In L. Holford-Strevens, & A. D. Vardi, *The Worlds of Aulus Gellius* (pp. 105-117). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Beall, S. M. (2001). Homo Fandi Dulcissimus: The Role of Favorinus in the “Attic Nights” of Aulus Gellius. *AJPh*, 122(1), 87-106.
- Grafton, A. (318-342). Conflict and Harmony in the Collegium Gellianum. In L. Holford-Strevens, & A. D. Vardi, *The Worlds of Aulus Gellius* (p. 2004). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Gunderson, E. (2009). *Nox Philologiae : Aulus Gellius and the Fantasy of the Roman Library*. Madison, Wisconsin.: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Henry, M. M. (1994). On the Aims and Purposes of Aulus Gellius' Noctes Atticae. *ANRW*, 1918-1941.
- Holford-Strevens, L. (2003). *Aulus Gellius: An Antonine Scholar and his Achievement*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Howley, J. A. (2014). Why Read the Jurists ? : Aulus Gellius on Reading Across Disciplines. In P. J. Plessis, *New Frontiers: Law and Society in the Roman World* (pp. 9-30). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Morgan, T. (2004). Educational Values. In L. Holford-Strevens, & A. D. Vardi, *The World of Aulus Gellius* (pp. 187-205). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rust, Eleanor M. “*Ex Angulis Secretisque Librorumque: Reading, Writing, and Using Miscellaneous Knowledge in the Noctes Atticae.*” Ph.D. Thesis. University of Southern California, 2009
- Vessey, D. W. (1994). Aulus Gellius and the Cult of the Past. *ANRW, II* (34), 1863-1917.

