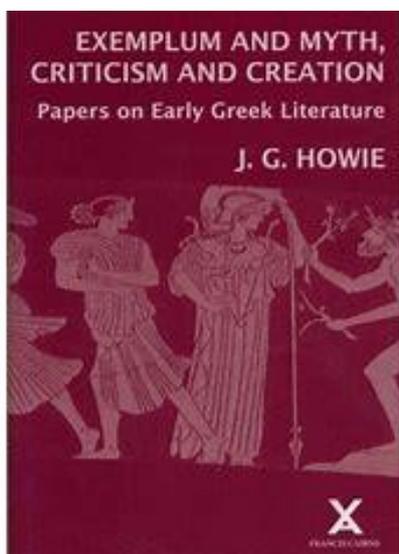


## J. Gordon Howie

1941-2017

James Gordon Howie (known as Gordon) was born in Ayr in 1941. After attending Ayr Academy, he proceeded to Glasgow University in 1959, graduating in 1963 with First Class Honours in Classics. He then received the Snell Exhibition to study at Balliol College, Oxford, where he read Classical Moderations, again gaining First Class Honours, before beginning work on *asyndeta* in Pindar under the supervision of W.S. Barrett. He joined the Department of Greek of the University of Edinburgh as a Lecturer in 1966 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1993. Following his retirement in 1997/8, he maintained a close association with the University of Edinburgh as an Honorary Fellow.



Gordon was a gifted teacher of Greek language and literature, remembered especially for his support of modern Greek teaching at Edinburgh, but also for introducing the beginners' course in ancient Greek, as well as for his passionate and learned Honours classes on Greek literary topics, especially lyric poetry. A keen student of German and cognate languages, he produced widely used and much-praised translations (in effect second editions) of Detlev Fehling's *Herodotus and his 'sources'* (1989) and Eveline Krummen's *Cult, myth, and occasion in Pindar's Victory Odes* (2014). His own essays on Greek literature, many of them classic works of scholarship, were published together as *Exemplum and myth, criticism and creation* in 2012.

- Douglas Cairns

Gordon was a fine colleague throughout my time in Edinburgh. When I arrived in 1971 he had already set up the Edinburgh programme in Beginners' Greek, in which I then shared. There was no 'dumbing down'. His teaching of grammar and syntax was rigorous; he did not countenance the inclusion of 'made-up' Greek; in the first year the students were introduced to five genres of Greek literature, including a book of Homer's *Iliad*. Over the years he and I frequently conversed about our shared academic interests, for example in Pindar and historiography. His enthusiasm was infectious and he was always generous in sharing his ideas.

- Keith Rutter

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