

VERGIL AND THE AENEID

Vergil (P. Vergilius Maro): Life & Works

70 born near Mantua (Cisalpine Gaul)

Studies Epicureanism in Naples

42 family farm confiscated, then restored

?39/38 Eclogues

- Collection of ten poems
- Modelled on Gk. poet Theocritus (III BC)
- "Pastoral" mode: singing shepherds
- Setting: idyllic Arcadian countryside
- Political undertones
 - 1 & 9: land confiscations
 - 4: birth of 'messianic' child
- Leads to patronage by Maecenas

29 Georgics

- Poem on farming in 4 books
- Model: Hesiod, Works & Days (c. 750 BC)
- Conclusion: Orpheus myth

27-19 Aeneid

- Unfinished & published posthumously
- Incomplete lines & "scaffolding"
- inauthentic (?) Helen episode (Book II)

The Aeneid: Sources, Form

Sources

