

## **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**

