

*Libanius: Selected Works.* With an English translation, introduction and notes by A.F. Norman. Vol. II: Selected orations. The Loeb Classical Library No. 452. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass. - William Heinemann Ltd, London 1977. XIV, 542 p. £ 3.40.

The second volume of Libanius' Selected Works contains orations from the Theodosian age and they are, as the editor points out, arranged as far as possible in chronological order. With his selection A.F. Norman appropriately gives the selections published by P. Wolf and J. Festugière, the criterion of the selection being to give translations of the orations which are not easily accessible elsewhere. The grounds for a selection from the great body of Libanius' orations is always debatable and the editor is fully conscious of the individual character of his choice. Nevertheless, the philologist and historian of the Theodosian age should be grateful for the clear and reliable translations. The orations are preceded by useful introductions and short notes on manuscripts and bibliography. The general bibliography supplies the main up-to-date information of the editions, translations, sources, and modern literature on the orations included in the volume.

*Paavo Hohti*

*Cicero.* Vol. X: In Catilinam I-IV. Pro Murena. Pro Sulla. Pro Flacco. With an English translation by C. Macdonald. The Loeb Classical Library No. 324. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass. - William Heinemann Ltd, London 1977. XXXIX, 596 p. £ 3.40.

Apart from the text itself together with its relevant translation, this volume contains a general introduction, which deals with the years 60 to 50, a joint introduction to the Catiline speeches and separate introductions to the other three speeches. The work is designed to replace the 1937 L.E. Lord edition, which it does creditably. As far as the text is concerned, the work has nothing new to offer. For the most part it follows the Clark edition; there is no critical apparatus; and even the few textual remarks of a critical nature often seem redundant (for example, p. 40 and p. 64).

The real value of the work lies in its introductions - and, of course, in the new English rendering, an aspect the assessment of which does not properly belong here. As regards the speeches of the years 63-59, the general introduction to the 60's provides essential background information. At the same time it shows quite clearly (as the writer himself also points out) that our knowledge of the events of the 60's is in many respects not completely sound. The introduction to the Catiline speeches is extensive and is based on the most recent scholarly findings. This work contains a larger number of references to more recent literature than can be found in the earlier volumes of this series. Macdonald attempts to do justice to Catiline, mentioning, among other things, the stalwart support that the latter enjoyed in consular circles and Cicero's intention to defend Catiline in the mid 60's. On page 9, the writer states that it can be shown that many things were charged to Catiline's account that were in all probability quite false. Justifiably, Macdonald asks whether our sources do not give an exaggerated picture of the significance of the conspiracy.

This is a far-reaching question, since it is connected, in all classical research, with serious reservations as to the casual nature of our sources.

In his introduction to the Pro Murena speech, the writer describes, among other things, election machinations and the measures adopted to rid the system of its abuses in the Rome of Cicero's day and earlier. The introduction to the Pro Flacco speech, on the other hand, illustrates, for instance, the legislative measures taken to combat the extortion to which the inhabitants of the provinces were subjected in the century up to Cicero's time. In the introduction to the Pro Sulla speech, Macdonald looks for - and finds - reasons behind Cicero's defence of Sulla (who probably took part in Catiline's ventures), without endeavouring, however, to provide any completely final answer.

The speeches are all linked in one way or another with the Catiline episode and the fine introductions bestow upon the work a coherent and readable unity.

Raimo Tuomi

*P. Vergili Maronis Aeneidos liber sextus.* With a commentary by R.G. Austin. Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press 1977. X, 303 p. £ 5.00.

To R.G. Austin's commentaries on Books I, II and IV of Virgil's Aeneid has been added a new volume, his posthumous commentary on Book VI (the author completed his work a few days before his death in 1974). The present volume contains the text (Mynors' Oxford Classical Text with some modifications), a detailed running commentary, an appendix on the Avernus topography by Colin Hardie and three indices (*Nominum, Verborum, Rerum*). Metric, linguistic, stylistic comments and those relating to content are profound and appropriate. The rhythmic qualities of the metrum are carefully assessed (e.g. the relation of accent and ictus). Virgil's position in the development of the language of the Latin epic is taken into account throughout. In his stylistic notes the author prefers describing the case in question to rhetoric formulations (enallage etc.). He pays special attention to the topographical aspects (e.g. the Cave of the Sibyl in the light of the most recent excavations). The author also cites parallel places from Roman literature (the context provided where necessary): from Ennius (see esp. pp. 93-94), Ovid and the poets of the Silver Age. But the treatment of Homer is, in my opinion, inadequate; the author ignores G.N. Knauer's important book (*Die Aeneis und Homer*, 1964) and on the whole pays no attention to the structural influence of Homer (*Odyssee XI*). Servius and Ti. Donatus are adequately represented. Austin repeatedly refers to certain important works (Norden on Aeneid VI, Frazer on Apollod. Bibl., Ogilvie on Livy I-V, Nisbet-Hubbard on Horace I), but ignores others (Knauer, see above; Büchner, whose RE article should be regarded as a living study, not as an encyclopaedic contribution; Quinn, *Virgil's Aeneid*, 1968). Of the central Virgilian scholars Otis and Klingner are only consulted in passing.

*In summa:* In spite of some defects, particularly with regard to