

*L. Delatte - S. Govaerts - J. Denooz: Index du Corpus Hermeticum.*  
 Lessico Intellettuale Europeo XIII. Edizioni dell'Ateneo &  
 Bizzarri, Roma 1977. XXI, 359 p. Lit. 15.000.

This computer-based Index is a product of the activities of the 'Laboratoire d'Analyse statistique des Langues anciennes' in Brussels. The technical principles followed seem sound, though the casual user may find the coding system somewhat complicated. Of particular interest is the inclusion of a frequency list (p. 209-266 for the Greek words, p. 351-359 for the Latin ones). Obviously, however, there are a great number of ancient texts for which this kind of Index is much more urgently needed; the reasons given by the editors (p. VII f.) for choosing the Corpus Hermeticum are far from satisfactory.

*H. Thesleff*

*Bonifatii (Vynfretth) Ars grammatica (Accedit Ars metrica).* Ediderunt  
*George John Gebauer - Bengt Löfstedt.* Corpus Christianorum,  
 Series Latina CXXXIII B. Typographi Brepols Editores Pontificii,  
 Turnholti 1980. VIII, 140 p. FB 1150.-.

The volume comprises those Latin writings of Boniface (published on an earlier occasion, but separately and in different places) which are related to each other: the ars grammatica, its dedicatory poem and epistle, and the ars metrica. Work on the edition has been carried out with great care and thoroughness.

The edited Latin pieces represent unimportant works by an important man ("the Apostle of Germany"). They excellently exemplify, however, the activities and duties of the English missionaries on the European Continent of the eighth century. The propagation of the papal faith involved the teaching of the language of the Church.

Boniface's Latin, which is of course also known from his epistles and poems published elsewhere, demonstrates the fact that there was indeed a great need for instruction in Latin grammar; it also shows that compilations like his *ars* were not sufficient to keep the teaching of Latin alive, and therefore that the grammatical reform which followed about three centuries later was necessary.

*Toivo Viljamaa*

*Minna Skafte Jensen: The Homeric Question and the Oral-formulaic Theory.* Opuscula Graecolatina, vol. 20. Museum Tusculanum Press, Copenhagen 1980. 226 p. Dkr. 48.10.

The cover of this book, showing Athena as depicted by the Andocides painter, symbolizes the argument of the author: the text of the Iliad and the Odyssey was born from an oral composition dictated to a scribe, the plan being originated and carried out by Pisistratus in the 6th century Athens to the greater glory of Athena and Athens. The first part of the book (Chapters I-VI) discusses the oral nature of Homeric tradition and composition, using for the purposes of comparison the material of oral composition collected in modern times - not only the Yugoslav singers studied by Parry and Lord, but also