This book is the fourth specimen of Enrico Livrea's reconstruction of later Greek epic (4th—6th c. A.D.); earlier he published Colluthus (1968), Dionysius' Bassarica and Gigantias (1973) and the so-called Blemyumachia (1978). This reconstruction work is to be welcomed in that it makes more accessible the disiecta membra of the learned epic poetry which flourished in the last centuries of Antiquity. In the edition of Pamprepius we have, indeed, access to all that can be said to be known about this poet's person and work: a preface with the relevant modern discussion, testimonies of Pamprepius' life, a critical edition of the text, and a commentary. All is based on a profound knowledge of Greek epic tradition and especially of the style and language of Nonnus of Panopolis, the main representative of the later epic.

The hexameter poems, an epyllion of high quality about works and hours (fr. 3; 198 verses), an incomplete poem in praise of the Athenian Theagenes (fr. 4), and two minor fragments (fr. 1 and 2), have survived for us in a Vienna papyrus. Livrea bases his edition not only on previous editions but also on a new reading of the papyrus. The deition is carried out with extreme care and thoroughness, so that a reviewer can hardly find anything to add. In 1 verso 12, Livrea, however, reproduces the old reading ἀλλὰ[..] θεον[, which does not fit the dactylic metre; most probably the last legible letters should be θειμ (θειμ, θειμόν?).

The identification of the fragmentary poems of the papyrus is crucial for the existence of this Teubner edition, and of course, for the existence of the poet Pamprepius. The poems are attributed to Pamprepius by the first editor Gerstinger (1928). Livrea accepts the attribution and adds further arguments for it (ZPE 25, 1977, 121—134). However, the attribution is not certain. Many question marks can be raised against it. Therefore, it is strange that the poems are published in Pamprepius' name without reservation, although Livrea himself accepts the view presented by McCail (JHS 98, 1978, 38—63) that at least fr. 1 cannot be attributed to Pamprepius.

Toivo Viljamaa


Ich erinnere mich noch, als ich Schimpfwörter in Plautus-Stücken erforschte, wie sehr die Lücken in dem Text mich sowohl irritierten als auch interessierten. Welch eine gute Idee, Plautus-Supplemente zu sammeln und zu bearbeiten, und welch eine Menge von Kenntnissen verschiedenster Art innerhalb eines und desselben