papyrological edition. The text given aims at being reliable and understandable for a beginner, without e.g. dots under letters where the word is certain, and with reasonably certain restorations given in the text (a little more is given than in the OCT edition of Sandbach 1972). On the page facing the text there is a translation which, as far as I can judge, is in fluent colloquial English. The notes are concerned more with explaining the social context of the play than with linguistic matters. In view of the student beginning Greek, there could have been a little more of the latter; however, I think a special merit of this book is that it probably does not scare away a student with no Greek who is interested in Menander’s play, but provides him in its introduction, translation and notes with a useful tool to understand Menander’s comedy.

Maarit Kaimio


Paavo Hohti


A Greek book, written in Rome and dedicated to L. Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus (cos. 58) by an Epicurean author personally acquainted with Cicero (fin. 2.119), ostentatiously dealing with Homer but containing possible (cf. however Dorandi 46f.) implications for
De novis libris iudicia

contemporary Roman politics: these circumstances combine to make Philodemus' De bono rege secundum Homerum a work of considerable interest. Potentially, one must add, because of the tantalizing fact that the Herculanean scroll preserving it (PHerc. 1507) consists mostly of fragments of isolated columns amounting to perhaps one-fourth of the whole book.

The chief merits of Dorandi's edition, which I hope to review more fully elsewhere, consist in his elaborate commentary (135–214) and of course in his meticulous re-examination of the papyrus itself with the aid of the binocular microscope – for years now a standard equipment of the Officina dei papiri Ercolanesi. He thus establishes new readings and also suggests some good supplements; I single out as excellent χιλ[ων]τατ col. XVIII 4–5 and δυσ[ομένο]σ col. XXI 9.

The technical presentation of the text and apparatuses ('parallel' and critical), apart from some typographical confusion on pages 92 and 102, is clear but not complete: A. Olivieri's fine Teubneriana of 1909 (whose division in columns D. has altered) remains in many ways indispensable. Dorandi's translation tries to do what can be done for a fragmentary text.

There is an unusually long errata list (1½ pages) which must, however, be supplemented. Apart from simple misprints there are wrong or missing spiritus signs and accents as well as a number of mistakes in vowel quantity. And in addition to the 32 listed corrections to the Index verborum, I have noted at least a dozen more, not all of them mechanical mistakes.

Dorandi has certainly worked with great interest on his subject. He has produced a serviceable annotated edition (if one uses it critically and has Olivieri at one's elbow), but he should have devoted more attention to his philological groundwork.

Rolf Westman


The text of Daphnis and Chloe has suffered more than many others over the centuries: this is seen in the many wilful discrepancies between our main manuscripts, which probably reflect the copyists' indifference towards the text of such a frivolous genre (cf. Reeve, Praefatio XI with note 7) – not to speak of the carelessness of Courier with his ink. The appearance of a new, critical and careful edition of this little pearl of ancient literature is therefore to be greeted with warm welcome. In his preface, Reeve traces the history of the text from the archetype down to recent discussion about the possibility of author's variants in Longus (which he vehemently denies), often with biting comments on his predecessors' work. It is not to be denied that in his edition we have by far the best basis for Longus' text and the most accurate critical apparatus available. A full index of words closes the edition.

Maarit Kaimio