

*Erik Iversen: Egyptian and Hermetic Doctrine.* Opuscula Graecolatina 27. Museum Tusulanum Press, Copenhagen 1984. 71 p. Dcr. 180.—.

The egyptologist Erik Iversen has produced a contribution to the discussion of the Egyptian background of Greek thought, which I would not hesitate to call positively provocative. The main part of his argument focuses on proving that many of the basic cosmological and metaphysical ideas of the Hermetic texts have close parallels in ancient Egyptian teaching and, consequently, that the Hermetic Corpus really reflects Egyptian conceptions much more extensively than is usually believed today. The current belief, in spite of considerable uncertainty in details, is that Hermetic teaching was a product of Hellenistic syncretism where the Orphic, Pythagorean, etc., and notably the Platonistic and 'Gnostic' trends are to be emphasized alongside with the Egyptian ones; and it is also believed that the information given by Greek authors such as Plutarch and Iamblichus about Egyptian religious philosophy is coloured by the well-known tendency to deduce Greek thought from Oriental wisdom.

If Iversen is right, a new strange light falls not only on the Hermetic Corpus. The Egyptian foundations of such pillars of Greek thought as Plato's *Timaeus* would then be worth a serious reconsideration — because there seem to have existed secret Egyptian traditions (cf. *Tim.* 22a) about e.g. cosmic Intelligence as the ultimate ratio of the universe, a Demiurge considered as the son of the intelligible creator, a differentiation between the intelligible and the sensible world, man's unique position in the centre of All, soul as the principle of life, etc. And what is more serious still, we seem to be facing the task of disentangling possibly Egyptian influences from the supposedly well-known Iranian and Mesopotamian traits in Pre-Socratic thinking.

But is Iversen right? Has he perhaps given us an over-interpretation of such generally 'Oriental' ideas as the dualistic two-world model, the priority of god to man, the belief in man's intellectual capacity, etc.? How far can the early Egyptian evidence be pressed? These are questions that urgently demand a renewed debate between egyptologists and classical scholars.

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*Syntaxe et Latin.* Actes du II<sup>me</sup> Congrès International de Linguistique Latine, Aix-en-Provence, 28—31 Mars 1983. Edités par *Christian Touratier*. Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence 1985. 586 p. Fr. 235.—.

In 1981 the first colloquium on Latin linguistics was held at Amsterdam. Since then meetings have been arranged regularly every second year (in 1983 at Aix-en-Provence and in 1985 at Bologna). The colloquia have established for themselves an important place among scholars throughout the world who are interested in various aspects of Latin linguistics. They have also shown that Latin still has a central position in linguistic discussions and that Latinists have not been left behind in developing general linguistic theories.

The present volume consists of papers read at the Second Colloquium and subsequently

revised by the authors, to which the editor's introduction and comprehensive indexes have been added. The colloquium was devoted mainly to discussion of Latin syntax and cases. Despite the variety of themes the contributions are successfully grouped under three headings: "Fonctions syntaxiques", "Structures syntaxiques", and "Classes syntaxiques".

The articles tackle almost all central parts of syntax and handle details that are most typical of Latin and as such have always interested both Latinists and general linguists, for instance, the absence of the article, the development of clitics, the relative used as a connective, parts of speech and their definition on morpho-syntactic criteria, changes in the declination system, nominal constructions, specifically the ACI construction, the marking of cases and particularly the property Latin has of having subjectless sentences. Almost all major modern linguistic schools are represented: immediate constituent analysis, generative grammar, functional grammar, dependency grammar, valency theory, case grammar, and so on. Two of them are most prominent: Chomsky's model of Government and Binding (represented particularly by the Bologna Latinists) and functional grammar (by the Amsterdam linguists). The latter seems to have most followers among Latin linguists, probably because it comprises the best parts of both dependency grammar (valency theory) and case theory and it is also close to the immediate constituent analysis.

Part I comprises studies on the subject and on the marking of the nominative case (A. Bertocchi, M. Maraldi, P. de Carvalho) and on typology of case relations (Chr. Lehmann) and on the use of different cases (H. Fugier, J-P. Maurel, Chantal Kircher). Two of them that are important both theoretically and descriptively, though different in their theoretical settings deserve particular attention, Bertocchi's "Subject ellipsis and case agreement" and Lehmann's "Latin case relations in typological perspective". Based on Chomsky's Government and Binding theory Bertocchi treats Latin as an example of so-called pro-drop languages allowing overtly missing subjects. In Chomsky's model the property of not expressing the subject is explained by the null subject parameter that allows the affix-movement of the inflectional element of the verb to be operative at an earlier syntactic level too. Analysing Latin sentences like *frequentissimi venerunt* and *privatus esse non recuso*, in which subjects are missing and nominative cases are assigned to predicatives, Bertocchi finds good reasons to claim that Chomsky's model is not applicable to Latin without modifications. She suggests that government and nominative case-assignment should be separated from each other so that the nominative case can be assigned freely to any NP under the restriction that the NP must agree in person and number with the inflectional element of the verb. The separation of nominative case-assignment from the assignment of oblique cases is also motivated by reason of the fact that in syntactic configurations it operates from right to left while the assignment of other cases under the notion of government is operative from left to right. This means that agreement is prior to government and accordingly independent of it. One may note that Bertocchi's solution, which can be understood as a correction of Chomsky's model, does not greatly differ from Chomsky's suggestions. In fact Chomsky succeeds in saving government as the only condition for case-assignment by formulating a case-checking rule and by assuming certain indexing operations (similar to those assumed by Bertocchi). Lehmann constructs a typological perspective for the Latin case system starting from a universal characterization of case relations, which are conceived of as relations

expressed by grammatical means. Analysing cases in several languages Lehmann shows certain universal tendencies in development of case systems particularly in processes of grammaticalization. These tendencies can be used with success in explaining historical changes not only from Latin to Romance languages but also changes in the prehistoric state of Latin.

In Part II, which is the most extensive, the following themes are discussed: verbal valency and case-marking (H. Pinkster, M. Bolkestein, E. Vester, E. Heilig), subordination and nominal phrases (J. Denooz, M. Lavency, Ch. Elerick, R. Coleman, J. Herman, G. Calboli), syntax and style (J. Dangel, J—P. Chausserie-Laprée). Pinkster's "Latin cases and valency theory" and Bolkestein's "Discourse and case-marking" are excellent presentations of functional grammar with their exact categories and ample documentation. In addition, I want to single out for special mention the articles by Coleman and Calboli. Coleman's study of the origins and Latin development of the ACI is very exhaustive and certainly indispensable to anyone who will encounter this much-debated and problematic issue in the future. Calboli, "Relatif de liaison et absence d'article en latin", extends his well established thesis about the relationship of the absence of the article and the extensive use of the ACI in Latin to concern also the Latin "relatif de liaison". Lacking the usual means of referential connection Latin makes frequent use of the relative as a connective. The thesis is based not only on Latin data but also on the logic of the information structure of sentences.

Part III contains two contributions on the classification of parts of speech (M. Griffe, Chr. Touratier); five others concern both syntax and semantics: suffix functions (M. Fruyt), delocutive verbs (X. Mignot), verbal aspect (B. García-Hernández), concessive and restrictive adverbs (F. Letoublon), and negation (A. Orlandini). Touratier's "Les unités minimales de l'analyse syntaxique" can be said to represent most clearly structural functionalism or the structural approach to language. After defining the notions of the word, the morpheme and the syntagm, he distinguishes with Tesnière (cf. also Intr. p. 8) the linear and the structural order of the utterance. It is precisely the latter, the structural order, that determines the classification of the minimal units of the utterance according to syntactic criteria, i.e. according to the rules governing their combination in sentences.

In the narrow limits of this review I have been able to take up only a few details concerning the merits of the book. Almost all articles are of high quality containing fresh and interesting methodological aspects, giving well founded results and opening new perspectives. In all the book is indispensable to anyone who wishes to do effective research work in the syntax and development of the Latin language.

*Toivo Viljamaa*

*Walter Belardi, Palmira Cipriano, Paolo Di Giovine, Marco Mancini: Studi latini e romanzi in memoria di Antonino Pagliaro. Biblioteca di ricerche linguistiche e filologiche, 14. Dipartimento di studi glottoantropologici, Università "La Sapienza", Roma 1984. XII, 352 p. Lit. 60.000.*

This volume, dedicated to the memory of the great Maestro of Indo-European (esp.