

The book covers a much more limited area than its size suggests; yet I believe it will turn out to be useful within its limits. Unfortunately it has no indexes.

H. Thesleff

*Marcel Simon: Le Christianisme et son contexte religieux.* Scripta varia I—II. Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 23. J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), Tübingen 1981. XX, 370 S. & CI, 371—852 S. DEM 245.

The present two volumes by the esteemed Strasbourg Professor Marcel Simon include 47 essays published between the years 1933 and 1979 in different journals. Most of the articles are concerned with the early Christian period, with particular regard to historical but also archaeological and methodological problems. Special emphasis is laid on the study of the contacts between various religious trends active in the first four centuries A.D. The relations of Christianity to Judaism as well as Paganism are illuminated from many angles of approach. It is a great pleasure for all interested in the history of early Christianity to have these important contributions collected in two handy volumes.

Mika Kajava

*La tradizione dell'enkrateia. Motivazioni ontologiche e protologiche* Atti del Colloquio Internazionale Milano, 20—23 aprile 1982, pubblicati a cura di Ugo Bianchi. Edizioni dell'Ateneo, Roma 1985. XXXI, 800 p. ITL 100.000.

The papers collected in this impressive volume are mainly concerned with 'enkratism' in Jewish, early Christian and Gnostic traditions. The term is here understood as implying certain kinds of ascetism, in particular sexual abstinence, with eschatological and metaphysical bearings. The theme no doubt is an important one, and many of the contributions are very learned and illuminating. The participants in this meeting were mostly Italian and French theologians and orientalists. Some readers will badly miss the approaches of the anthropologist, or the mythologist, or the feminist, or the psychologist. The ordinary classical scholar is surprised to find that *enkrateia* in Pythagoreanism, Cynicism, and Stoicism has received very little attention in the volume, and only the last paper (by D.M. Cosi) concentrates on any aspects of Neoplatonism without, however, taking account of the 'enkratist' background of the unio mystica doctrine. Plotinus' name is not mentioned even once on these 800 pages.

H. Thesleff

*Paolo Martino: Arbitrator.* Biblioteca di ricerche linguistiche e filologiche, 17. Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche e Dipartimento di Studi glottoantropologici dell'Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma 1986. 128 p.