

*Herodot: Novellen.* Ausgewählt, übertragen und erklärt von *Bernhard Kytzler*. Mit 12 Radierungen und einer Vignette von *Harry Jürgens*. BSB B.G. Teubner Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig 1984. 88 S. M 38.

*Menander: Sentenzen.* Übertragen von *Siegfried Jäkel*. Mit 22 farbigen Tuschezeichnungen von *Rolf Münzner*. BSB B.G. Teubner Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig 1986. 120 S.

These two prettily bound and decorated books are evidently intended as small gifts to the reader who is interested in the literature of Antiquity – or who is not yet interested in it. In the booklet on Herodotus, some examples of Herodotus' gift of story telling are given – and these stories, which are often widely known in our literary tradition, like the story of Polycrates' ring or Croesus and Solon, stand up very well even when told in this way, out of their historical context. Some ethnographical material which does not belong to the same sort of tradition is included, like the description of the selling of the brides in Babylon, while some more typically narrative episodes are left out, such as the birth of Cyrus or the story of Xerxes and Masistes' wife. But the translator is naturally free to choose from the wealth of material. The size of the book is very awkward (height 29 cm, width 14 cm). Why is it not the same size as the Menander volume, as it is evidently a part of the same series? – The Menander volume offers about 500 lines from the *gnomai* traditionally linked with the name of Menander. They are given here in the form and order of a collection from the Middle Ages, which has the maxims arranged in groups according to their contents. This arrangement is undoubtedly more instructive to the modern reader than the alphabetical order used in most manuscripts. It is intriguing that such collections of maxims of ancient and modern wisdom are again very popular, and publications abound for the benefit of festival orators. The translation by the editor of Menander's *Sententiae* in the Teubner series is witty and elegant.

*Maarit Kaimio*

*Socraticorum reliquiae I-IV.* Collegit, disposuit, apparatibus notisque instruxit *Gabriele Giannantoni*. Edizioni dell'Ateneo, Roma 1983-1985. XV, 1-316 p. & 317-778 p. & 523 p. & 166 p. ITL 200.000.

The immensely rich contents of these four volumes make it impossible to provide a thorough evaluation in a brief review. Volumes I-II contain the testimonies, the very scarce fragments, and the doxography