Mit dieser Edition steht Smith noch klarer als primus inter pares in der Diogenes­
forschung da. Schön betont er jedoch, wie diese in hohem Maße eine Sache der
Zusammenarbeit sei (75). In der Tat hat er mit Akrifie und Selbstlosigkeit alles, was
andere Forscher in verschiedenen Ländern zum Text des Diogenes beigetragen haben, in
seinen Apparat (und bisweilen in seinen Text) hineingearbeitet. Nach Casanova bildet
dieses Werk somit als neue Kodifikation eine unumgängliche Grundlage: für Diogenes
beginnt eine neue Ära.

Rolf Westman

HOMER: The Odyssey. Books VI-VIII. Edited by A. F. Garvie. Cambridge Greek and
33840-9. GBP 14.95 (paperback).

Our cultural tradition has considered Books VI-VIII of the Odyssey as one of the
highlights of the poem. They deal with Odysseus’ encounter with Nausicaa as well as the
description of the Phaeacian society including the episode of the singer Demodocus. The
story of Odysseus and Nausicaa has fascinated many romantic minds, whereas
Demodocus has been (for good reason) considered significant as regards the manner in
which how the aoidoi used to sing epic poems in Mycenaean and Dark Age societies.

It is somewhat surprising that it is only now that the commentary by Stanford on
the whole epic (2nd ed. 1959) which is in many respects insufficient is being gradually
superseded. Garvie’s work is in fact the first commentary on Books VI-VIII issued on an
entirely English initiative since the one by Hainsworth was published first in Italy (1981)

The reading of this book suggests to me that Garvie’s intention has not been to
provide a scientific tool for specialists (as is the case with Hainsworth) but a useful ori­
entation for students. This solution is perhaps the one that best meets the actual need, and
one cannot but agree that it does so in a reliable manner. In the introductory part the Ho­
meric question, meter and textual tradition are briefly treated. Thirteen pages are dedica­
ted to issues concerning the land and the people of the mysterious Phaeacians. Garvie is
certainly right in opting for the view that they belong totally to the realm of fantasy.
However, I would not share his categorical denial of their pre-Homericity. It is rather
dangerous to speak of Homeric "inventions" with regard to the subject matter of the po­
ems which, after all, mainly operate with traditional mythology. According to the English
and American custom, the emphasis in the commentary itself is on questions of literary
technique and poetic artistry. Fortunately, also linguistic matters are given some space.
Unfortunately, less attention is paid to archaeology, religious questions and mythology.

Jaakko Aronen