de novis libris iudicia

Schetter's six articles about Dracontius are especially interesting: he analyses the transformation of classical myths and themes in North Africa at the end of the fifth century. Dracontius seems to have been the last Latin poet who (though Christian) treated pagan mythical subjects in epic form (e.g. Medea, Orestes, the Trojan War). The article on Dracontius' Satisfactio gives a vivid picture of Dracontius' difficulties during the Vandal period, and the article of Dracontius' Romulea 9.18-30 surveys the conceptions of the astral ascent of the human soul in Latin literature.

Maijastina Kahlos


Uta-Maria Liertz


This book on the exordia of a number of Ciceronian speeches is, though not the first of its kind and not including detailed studies on all the speeches, certainly the one most thoroughly dealing with its subject and will no doubt be considered one of the major recent works in Ciceronian scholarship. The author is not only completely at ease with his subject material but has also a remarkable (in fact, almost incredible) command of the relevant secondary literature from the fifteenth century onwards, this including many unexpected items (note p. 343 n. 64) and a large number of 19th-century German Programme (e.g. that of H. Ernst, "Progr. Neu-Ruppin, 1885", cited on p. 149 n. 89), most of which do not seem to appear in the bibliography at the end of the book which is, it is true, very substantial indeed as such. (The author's extensive reading allows him to furnish exotic details such as the fact that, in the 1880's, someone could get the idea of writing 89 pages to show that pro Sex. Roscio is not worth being read in schools: p. 130 n. 17.) Unlike many modern scholars (especially those writing in English), the author in no way gives preference to works written in French, but keeps his bibliography remarkably international (observe also the list of modern authorities mentioned as models on p. 6). There are separate bibliographies on those speeches which are dealt with, but also