

NICHOLAS HORSFALL: *Virgilio: l'epopea in alambicco*. Forme, materiali e ideologie del mondo antico 31. Liguori Editore 1991. 160 pp. ITL 20.000.

Se lo Horsfall comincia dicendo che ci sono troppi libri su Virgilio, ha ragione, ma egli stesso non ha scritto un libro inutile. La lettura di questo attrattivo volumetto, scritto non senza umore (a cominciare dal titolo senz'altro poco chiaro per un non italiano), è veramente avvincente. L'a. tratta degli aspetti dell'uso virgiliano di fonti, sia in prosa che in versi, per quanto riguarda mitologia, storia, geografia ed etnografia, soprattutto nell'Eneide, ma anche nelle due altre principali opere virgiliane. In dieci capitoli tratta di cose diverse con acume, e sarebbe compito impossibile a cercare di caratterizzarne la sostanza nelle poche righe concesse dalla redazione di Arctos. Così ognuno legga il volumetto; lo farà certamente non senza grande profitto.

*Heikki Solin*

THEODORI PRODROMI *De Rodanthes et Dosicles amoribus libri IX*. Ed. Miroslav Marcovich. Teubner, Stuttgart-Leipzig 1992. x, 230 p. ISBN 3-8154-1703-1. DEM 148.

The reappearance of the Greek romance in the Byzantine 12th century after an interval of six centuries is interesting not only from the point of view of traditional literary history but of cultural history as well. The direct quotations and the common motifs intertwine it with the genre of the Second Sophistic. However, behind the form of the genre the byzantine reality may be seen clearly, to say nothing of the fact the byzantine romances were written, contrary their late antique models, in verse, except *Hysmine et Hysminias* by Eustathios Makrembolites.

One of them, *Rhodanthes et Dosicles* by Theodoros Prodrimos, a verse written erotic romance, has been given its first critical edition by M. Marcovich. The earlier one by R. Hercher (*Scriptores erotici graeci II*. Teubner 1859 (p. 287-434), was actually a reprint of the *editio princeps* by Gilbert Gaulminus (Paris 1625) based just on one manuscript.

We can now hope that the new modern edition of Prodrimos' novel and the clarifying of its manuscript tradition by Marcovich will increase the discussion on the function and value of the genre in its own time, not just as imitation of its model, and further the still open question of the reappearance of the genre in the 12th-century.

*Mika Hakkarainen*

MICHAELIS PSELLI *Philosophica minora* Vol. I. *Opuscula logica, physica, allegorica, aliae figurae*, edidit J.M. Duffy. Teubner, Stuttgart-Leipzig 1992. xlix, 308p. ISBN 3-8154-1955-7. DEM 148.

Under the title of *Philosophica Minora* J. M. Duffy has selected and categorized, together with J. O' Meara (the editor of the earlier volume II published in 1989), partly using the order of texts in two manuscript Par. Graec. 1182 and Ox. Bar. 131, four different units: *generalia et logica, physica et meteorologica, miscellanea et allegorica* and *incerta et spuria* from the extant writings of Michael Psellus.

Duffy underlines however, that the chosen texts cannot be easily typologized as philosophy, reminding us of the fact that the term philosophy in the Middle Ages differs from the modern conception of the term. The collection brings to mind the Byzantine educational sphere, *enkyklios paideia*, i.e. the main curriculum of grammar, rhetoric and dialectic (philosophy) and especially the Byzantine quadrivium (ἡ τῆς μαθηματικῆς τετρακτύς), arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy .

*Mika Hakkarainen*

MICHAELIS PSELLI *Poemata*. Ed. L.G. Westerink. Teubner, Stuttgart-Leipzig 1992. xlv, 550 p. ISBN 3-8154-1662-0. DEM 198.

L.G.Westerink has done an admirable work by editing and re-editing the verse texts of Michael Psellus, which are preserved in a rather heterogeneous manuscript tradition and partly published here and there during the last hundred years. The collection written in political verse (πολιτικὸς στίχος) consists of 1) *didactica maiora* (1-9) didactic poems (commentaries on psalms, on Canticum, on dogmatics, on church councils, on rhetoric, on grammatics, on laws and on medicine), which were originally composed by the order of the Emperor Constantine X Doukas (1059-1067) for his son's education. 2) *didactica minora* (10-15), very short and compact works on various themes. 3) *ad imperatores* (16-20), poems dedicated to emperors for different occasions: Psellus' own petition for the office of clerk to the Emperor Michael IV, lamentation on the occasion of the death of Scleraine, the mistress of Constantine VIII Monomachos and a poem for the coronation feast of Isaak I Komnenos. 4) *invectiva* (21-22) two defamatory writings both against two monks (Sabbaitae and Iacop). 5) *canones liturgice* (23-24) the first in the memory of Symeon Metafrastes and the second a paraphrasis of a canon of Cosmas of Maiouma. 6) epigrams (25-52) and finally 7) a comprehensive section of *spuria* (53-92) on various themes. The collection is a fine illustration of the socio-cultural milieu in which verse texts were composed.

*Mika Hakkarainen*

MICHAEL MAUSE: *Die Darstellung des Kaisers in der lateinischen Panegyrik*. Paligenesia 50. Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 1994. x, 317 S. ISBN 3-515-06629-2. DEM 124.

The sources of this study are mainly all those Latin panegyrics that are written in honour of the emperors. After the quite interesting introductory part that deals with the methodology of the study and the position of the panegyrics in the imperial ceremonies and their historical-social context, the author deals with the picture of the emperor in the panegyrics divided into chapters, according to the different aspects that are generally included in these types of poems. An excursus is devoted to the poems to Domitian by Statius, as an example of the first century panegyric poetry. The discussion is many-sided and gives the reader a good cross-section of the treatment of the central topoi in the imperial panegyrics, the study of which seems to have recently attracted an increased amount of interest.

*Pekka Tuomisto*