

In this delightful series *Klassiker*, 10 of the 14 published titles present Latin literature, eight of which are poems in Latin. Looking at the publisher's program, however, it is likely that Greek poets will remain a minority.

*Erkki Sironen*

TERESA MORGAN: *Literate education in the Hellenistic and Roman worlds*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1998. ISBN 0-521-58466-3. xvii, 364 p. GBP 40 (H/b).

In this book, Morgan studies the teaching of literacy, language, and literature in the ancient world from the conquests of Alexander to the end of the classical civilization. She argues that the rapid development of literate education into an integrated and universal system at the beginning of the Hellenistic age was due to the requirements of the new kingdoms. Their administration needed people educated in Greek. A common literate culture also acquired new symbolic value among the Greeks who lived scattered amidst alien nations. At the same time, education provided a means of assimilating non-Greeks into the ruling minority in a controlled way. In general, M. is not too optimistic about levels of literacy below the upper classes.

The main part of the work is concerned with the range of material which was taught and its potential usefulness to learners. M. compares the writings of Greek and Roman authors (such as Quintilian and Plutarch) with evidence from the papyri of Egypt to see how far the latter reflect the educational system described in the former. Her analysis of the schooltext papyri (drawing also on the recent work of R. Criore) suggests that the broad patterns of exercises and learning were roughly similar in theory and practice. Of course, in the world of the papyri, comparatively few students reached the more advanced level which the upper-class authors took for granted. M. might have discussed the statistical problems of the papyrological evidence even more carefully than she does. That would have helped to establish the significance of her more detailed conclusions on the geographical and chronological distribution of the various types of exercises. But even without it, her book is not devoid of useful observations.

*Antti Arjava*

ADELE C. SCAFURO: *The Forensic Stage. Settling Disputes in Graeco-Roman New Comedy*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1997. ISBN 0-521-44383-0. xxi, 512 p. GBP 60 (H/b).

Does Greek New Comedy reflect cultural, social, and legal realities in contemporary Athens? How far did Plautus and Terence modify their Greek originals? Can we use Roman Comedy as evidence for pre-classical Roman law, or do the Latin plays feature real or imaginary Greek law couched in Latin terminology? These are profound questions, intensively debated since Leo and Fraenkel, and of fundamental importance both for the history of Roman law and that of ancient drama. With admirable courage, skill, and good sense, Scafuro sets out to examine one major area in this vast field, the settling of disputes on the comic stage. Her book is clearly written and well argued: it should be easy to follow