

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

even for readers with little experience in the study of law or drama. The complexities of the topic are soon made evident, and S. appears thoroughly familiar with the many pitfalls. Her conclusions are cautious and thus mainly convincing. Although I am not competent to judge all the details, I might note that I found her interpretation of the term *vir bonus* (146–52) somewhat too narrow. The book includes 100 pages of appendices presenting evidence in a more technical manner.

S. points out that disputes, arbitration, and reconciliation are a central motif in New Comedy, and argues that many characters there exhibit a 'forensic disposition'. This mirrors the life in fourth-century Athens, displayed in the speeches of contemporary orators. People define their problems in legal terms and are prone to litigation, but still, in the end, tend to settle their disputes out of court. S. shows that most forensic features in the Greek or Latin plays find parallels in our sources for Athenian judicial life. As might be expected, it is much more difficult to define what could be 'Plautinisches im Plautus'. It is not only that our evidence for contemporary Roman law is negligible (hence the common temptation to use Plautus for this purpose). S. also rightly concedes that many phenomena might have been so similar in 4th-century Athens and mid-Republican Rome that from our distance we cannot tell the difference. Thus, with the lack of comparative material, her perspective is prudently kept more Athenian than Roman. I would recommend this for everyone interested in New Comedy, Greek litigation, or pre-classical Roman law.

*Antti Arjava*

*Hippokratische Medizin und antike Philosophie.* Verhandlungen des VIII Internationalen Hippokrates-Kolloquiums in Kloster Banz/Staffelsein vom 23 bis 28. September 1993. Hrsg. von *Renate Wittern* und *Pierre Pellegrin*. *Medizin der Antike* 1. Olms Weidmann, Hildesheim – Zürich – New York 1996. ISBN 3–487–10037–1. XII, 654 S. DEM 178.00.

In Zentrum des VIII. Internationalen Hippokrates-Kolloquiums, das im September 1993 im Kloster Banz stattfand, standen die Beziehungen der hippokratischen Medizin zur antiken Philosophie. Die 39 Beiträge der Kongreßteilnehmer in deutscher, englischer, französischer und italienischer Sprache wurden im vorliegenden Sammelband drei Themengebieten zugeordnet.

Der inhaltlichen Ausrichtung des Kolloquiums entsprechend ist der erste Teil des Bandes, in dem das Verhältnis der Medizin zur Philosophie sowie zur Rhetorik thematisiert wird, am umfangreichsten und macht mehr als die Hälfte des gesamten Buches aus. Die Aufsätze dieses Teiles behandeln in großer Bandbreite zum einen philosophische Ansätze innerhalb des *C(orpus) H(ippocraticum)*, indem Konzepte von Philosophen auf ihren Widerhall im *CH* hin untersucht und die methodischen Ansätze einzelner hippokratischer Schriften unter die Lupe genommen werden. So untersucht M. Fernanda Ferrini beispielsweise die aus der griechischen Philosophie bekannte Konzeption des Gleichen und des Gegenteils im *CH*. Zum anderen werden konkrete Ergebnisse zur antiken Medizin vorgestellt, die auf medizinische Nachrichten bei Philosophen und Rednern basieren. Besonders hervorzuheben ist in diesem Zusammenhang der Aufsatz von A. Thivel, der aufgrund eines Vergleiches zwischen Hippokrates und den Vorsokratikern eine Neueinteilung der antiken Zeugungstheorien vornimmt. Im zweiten Teil des Sammelbandes