

volume with "Una forma di anticlassicismo pascoliano: l'ibridismo greco-latino nei *carmina*" by Patrizia Paradisi (303–348).

*Martti Leiwo*

BIRGIT AUERNHEIMER: *Die Sprachplanung der karolingischen Bildungsreform im Spiegel von Heiligenviten*. K.G. Saur, München – Leipzig 2003. ISBN 3-598-73013-6. 246 S. EUR 86.

Birgit Auernheimer's book *Die Sprachplanung der karolingischen Bildungsreform im Spiegel von Heiligenviten* exhibits a curious mixture of goals and methods: it examines how the Carolingian language reform manifests itself in the syntax of hagiographical texts. To study the syntax of early medieval texts is, as such, an admirable research plan, but when the author has, moreover, chosen to analyze the syntactical structures of these texts by means of dependency (or valency) grammar, her approach is definitely unique in modern research literature. Although this theoretical framework is no longer very popular, it is definitely quite appropriate for describing the ancient and early medieval theory of syntax which did not yet employ the notions of subject and predicate.

Thus, we can congratulate Auernheimer for choosing to study a poorly researched area and for approaching it in a novel way. She has also carried out her research in a sound and methodical manner although the technical nature of her analysis may put off readers who are unfamiliar with modern linguistics. However, the results of this research can be grasped without a close analysis of all the relevant diagrams (pp. 55–102). It must also be pointed out that the author has totally ignored the work of the two eminent scholars who have studied early medieval grammar on its own terms, namely Louis Holtz and Vivien Law (of the latter, only the book on Virgil Maro the Grammarian is mentioned).

Hagiographical texts offer interesting insights into the study of the consequences of the Carolingian language reform. These texts, which were used not only by the learned elite, were widely known before and after the Carolingian reform which permits us to see how they were reworked by the Carolingians. Authors such as Alcuin and Lupus of Ferrière even made the principles of their revision work explicit in the prefaces to their works. Among the texts studied, a prominent part is played by various *vitae* reworked by these two authors, but the most important text is the anonymous *Vita Corbiniani*.

Auernheimer's book can be warmly recommended for students of early medieval language and literary culture, and it can be hoped that its fresh approach will inspire further experimentation combining modern theoretical methods with historical, text-based studies.

*Anneli Luhtala*