De novis libris iudicia

"TrGF, Vol. 5 as well. I hope (and believe) that SFP II will succeed in achieving its objectives which, I presume, are the same as those of SPF I:

"to increase accessibility to these fragmentary plays for specialist and non-specialist alike, and to encourage attention to some fascinating texts which are often of considerable importance to the critical appreciation of the poet" (SFP I, Preface, p. vii; SFP II, Preface, p. ix).

Vesa Vahtikari


Two editions of de finibus have appeared within a few years, the OCT text by L. D. Reynolds of 1998, and now this new BT text by C. Moreschini. Obviously reviewers will compare the two, and I shall not be an exception.

The edition of Reynolds strikes one as being most satisfactory. The ms. tradition of the de finibus is a bit complicated, as all mss. seem to include corrections made at some point by scribes. In the Praefatio, the facts leading to the establishment of the stemma on p. viii, with a division of the mss. into two families, are set out with admirable clarity (and in a very clear Latin). Reynolds shows, in my view pretty convincingly, that BE and AMOSRP (A being the Vaticanus Palatinus saec. XI) belong to two different families, A and MOSRP thus being representatives of the same family, BE of the other. (Obviously there is also much more.)

The Praefatio of Moreschini seems to me a bit less clear. In Reynolds, the abbreviations of the mss. which are discussed are set in bold and placed outside the text field, this resulting in more clarity. In Moreschini, the abbreviations of the mss. under discussion are mentioned only as parts of the main text and are not set in bold. But this is of minor importance. What is important is that Moreschini produces, on p. XIV, a stemma which also has two families of mss. but which differs fundamentally from that of Reynolds in that BE and A appear as representatives of the same class, MRP (OS being discarded) as those of the other. Now what one would like to have is obviously a demonstration of sorts of why M. thinks Reynolds' stemma is wrong, but, to tell the truth, I have not been able to locate a clear statement of this. (M. says that his exposition is an abridgment of his article in Studi F. Della Corte of 1987, but the most important points should be repeated here, and this article in any case precedes Reynolds' edition.) In fact, at the point where one would expect M. to discuss Reynolds' views, he refers (p. XIII) only to Reynolds' paper in IMU 35 (1992), not to the edition (mentioned only on the next page in a footnote), and the clearest statement presented here seems to be that Reynolds "haud multum novi attulit". On p. XIV, he goes on to say Reynolds' edition's merits are "magna", and that he was right in dividing the mss. "in duas tantum classes" (this being, for an unclear reason, put inside quotation marks); without being preceded by any description of Reynolds' stemma, the passage ends somewhat surprisingly with "sed hoc stemma nobis verius esse videtur" (M.'s stemma follows).

Therefore, the bottom line is that I was not able to locate a clear statement
regarding the stemma at the point where one would expect it to be presented (in point of fact, there were moments when I thought that this could mean that M.' Praefatio had been written before Reynolds' work was published, and that, for some reason, he did not have the time to discuss Reynolds' views at length). I also wondered about some other things, for instance, about A appearing in the "Conspectus codicum" (p. XVI) as the only representative of "Familia α", when in fact, according to M.'s own stemma, also B and E (= β, and here enumerated as representatives of "Familia β") are representatives of the same family α, this family thus being divided into A and β (= BE). I also missed the mention of Petrus Marsus in M.'s "Conspectus editionum" (so those who find this character being referred to on p. 10 on line 224, must turn to Reynolds' edition).

As for the edition itself, M.'s leaves a good general impression, for instance, as one does not find here misprints such as appear in the OCT text (e.g., 2.5 definito; 2.9 finis et). I am also in favour of indicating, if possible, ms. readings within the text (e.g., pot[u]erit at 1.69). It must be confessed that the question regarding the establishment of the stemma does not really very much affect the text, the question being rather whether one should accept this or that emendation etc. Comparing M.'s text with that of Reynolds, one finds that there are a few differences here and there. I was not able to identify many suggestions by M. himself, but note, e.g., the exclusion of voluptatum in varietatum [voluptatum] at 2.10 (quite attractive). There are also other places where one observes changes from the OCT text which seem attractive or at least acceptable; e.g., soleo ⟨dicere⟩ temere (Giusta; or possibly some other verb?) at 4.2, or ut eum tueretur (without the addition of ‹cum›) at 4.17. On the other hand, there are also details (but only details) I am not so sure of; e.g., in 2.11 the deletion of ille (inquit ille M.) is, I think, useful, and the same can be said of the addition of ‹tam› at 4.1 (tamen accurate M.). At 4.19, there are good reasons for the deletion of et (ut se et salvum M.).

In conclusion, I think that M. might have explained himself a bit more clearly about the stemma in the Praefatio (the introduction by M. of some new mss. into the discussion does not seem a compensation); otherwise this edition can be described as the result of careful scholarly work. No doubt it will find many users.

Olli Salomies


The appearance of this volume, the second edition of a book published in 1997 (reviewed, as one finds out on p. 513, in only three journals, none of them appearing outside Italy or Spain), will be welcomed not only by all Ciceronian students but also by all dealing, in one way or other, with the first century BC. Moreover, many of them will be able to acquire a copy, as this book has been priced in a way no doubt meant to attract the attention of potential byers.

As one learns from the title page, this edition is "aggiornata e corretta". The corrections have been inserted into the main text (p. 11), whereas the "aggiornamenti" (of the same structure as the main text) have been added at the end of the book (pp. 489