

TITUS MACCIUS PLAUTUS: *Den skrävlände soldaten. Miles gloriosus*. F. f. g. i svensk metrisk tolkning med inledning och anmärkningar av ALF ÖNNERFORS. Klassiker 15. Paul Åströms förlag, Jonsered 2001. ISSN 1104-3180. ISBN 91-7081-165-2. 180 s.

After Aristotle, Pseudo-Xenophon, and Soranus (see above), a further bilingual text in the series "Klassiker" deserves to be briefly announced. The translation of the Plautine comedy, which is based on Lindsay's Oxford text, is metrical and seems to be fluent. The choice of a metrical translation is the more appropriated as, unlike other Plautinian comedies, *Miles gloriosus* is written wholly in stichic verses, without polymetric songs. In this play, which belongs to the relatively early ones (perhaps 206-204/3 BC), the stupid, boastful officer called Pyrgopolinices (a name which speaks for itself) now becomes for the Scandinavian audience more familiar through the new translation.

Heikki Solin

GEORG GRAF V. GRIES: *"Hercle" ante Herculem natum? De Amphitruonis Plautinae discrepantiis quaestiuncula. Festschrift für Erwin Arnold zum 70. Geburtstag*. DZA Verlag, München 2003. ISBN 3-936300-08-9. 22 S. EUR 30.

Quid sibi velit Georg Schwertlob Korzeniowski, nomine scurrili modo latinizato, auctor huius scriptiunculae *Arcto* missae, mihi saltem non constat. Ut omittam eius titulum nomenque facetum, agitur de natura tragicomoediae, de Herculis partu et de eius in Amphitruone Plautina agendi ratione deque Iovis et Alcmenae amore, argumentatione partim satis obscura et parvo fructu. Eruditionem quandam monstrat apparatus (deest mentio operis *Lecturae Plautinae Sarsinates*, 1: *Amphitruo* [1998]), ubi auctor nominibus usus est doctorum ut Fabri (= Lefèvre) vel ephemeridum ut *Annalium Herbitopolitanorum* (= *WJbAW*), ad lectoris stomachum movendum. Huc accedit, quod latinitas variis mendis mehercle immunis non est.

Heikki Solin

EVANGELOS KARAKASIS: *Terence and the Language of Roman Comedy*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2005. ISBN 0-521-84298. XIV, 309 pp. GBP 45.

This book is, according to the author, about "the character differentiation by language in Terence and the relation of Terentian diction to the tradition of Roman comedy". The most important studies on Terentian language are those by Robert Maltby, on whose work this study is also based to a great degree. The author claims that Maltby's work suffers from methodological shortcomings as far as the representativeness and handling of the data are concerned, but also regarding the criteria according to which a specific phenomenon is attributed to, e.g., colloquial language.

Thus, the aim of the author is "to set the discussion on a safer methodological footing," by a comprehensive collection of examples. The relevant linguistic features, the use of which in the speech of different character types is studied, include colloquialisms, archaisms, senilis *μικρολογία* and elevated language. Each of these is checked for its

appearance in the following phases of Latin; these are EL (Early Latin, up to 87 BC), CL (Classical Latin, from Cicero to Livy, c. 87 BC-AD 17 "characterised by an effort at rationalisation and refinement in the use of language") and PC (Post-Classical Latin), from AD 17 to the 6th century AD, further subdivided into the Silver Period up to AD 200, and Late Latin from AD 200 to the 6th century AD.

The first problem in this approach is the highly outdated and schematic conception of language and Latin linguistic history in particular. It is taken for granted in this study that there is a direct relationship between early Latin and late Latin in that they both provide evidence for the spoken language as opposed to the intervening, artificial period of Classical Latin. This misconception about language variation and change is further evidenced by the use of the disturbing term "CL speech". Furthermore, such categorisations as 'colloquial' and 'archaic' are taken as self-evident. While the author is only interested in showing that certain features belong to the group of archaisms or colloquialisms, the essence of these "predetermined linguistic categories" (Karakasis' description) is not further discussed.

The author claims that this study offers an exhaustive account of Terence's linguistic choices – and indeed, a considerable part of the book's length is made up by listing the relevant features, grouped according to the linguistic level in which they appear. It is, of course, clear, as Karakasis points out several times (although in somewhat different terms), that what style is all about in the first place, is the accumulation of particular types of features, and this fact might be used to justify the enumerating approach adopted here. As a result of this, however, the style of this study as well as the nature of the conclusions is overly repetitive – and more importantly, although the author may have interesting observations on some particular features, the feeling ultimately prevails that not much new information was added to the results already existing. For example, the fact that Terence characterised the speech of the *senes* in his plays by archaisms and long-winded expressions was already established by Maltby, and it does not become clear to the reader how this conclusion is refined as a result of the unexciting, even if comprehensive, collection of features in this study. The same holds true for the other main themes of this book: Terence as the innovator of the linguistic tradition of Roman comedy, and the divergence of *Eunuchus* from the rest of the Terentian corpus as standing clearly closer to the traditional, Plautine, style of Roman comedy writing.

There may be some useful information in the latter part of this book on the comic fragments where previous studies are less numerous, but this section suffers from the same schematic and repetitive style as the rest of the book.

Hilla Halla-aho

MARCUS PORCIUS CATO: *Über den Ackerbau*. Herausgegeben, übersetzt und erläutert von DIETER FLACH. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2005. ISBN 3-515-08632-3. 204 S., 5 Abb. EUR 29.

Dieter Flach, pensionierter Professor der alten Geschichte an der Universität Paderborn, ist ein fleißiger und konservativer Herausgeber alter lateinischer Texte. Nach der Publikation z. B. des *Zwölfstafelgesetzes*, Varros *Landwirtschaft*, Tacitus' *Dialogus de oratoribus* und der sog. *Laudatio Turiae* hat er nun auch Catos *Über den Ackerbau* herausgegeben, übersetzt und