The translation seems to be, if a non-native speaker of Swedish is allowed a judgement, good and clear. Thus, the volume, as the other ones in the same series, will prove very useful for general readers in the Scandinavian countries as well as in Finland.

Heikki Solin


This book, whose preface is signed by J. Taylor (he must thus be considered as its author, even though this is not expressly stated anywhere), offers a selection of New Testament texts with vocabulary, from the introductory words of John to the last two chapters of the Revelation. At the end, an appendix provides a survey of differences between classical and New Testament Greek. The purpose of the book is to help readers understand and enjoy the New Testament in Greek; it is aimed at those who have been studying Greek perhaps a year. Knowledge of the commonest word-endings and constructions is assumed. Brief introductions draw attention to distinctive features of the various passages explained. A selection of illustrations (ancient and modern) gives life to the text passages.

Heikki Solin

SORANOS: Kvinnolära, Om graviditet, förlössningskonst, spädbarmsvård och kvinnosjukdomar, Γυναικεία. Översättning av SYLVIA TÖRNKVIST och INGRID ÜRNING. Klassiker 17. Paul Åströms förlag, Jonsерed 2001. ISSN 1104-3180. ISBN 91-7081-177-6. 448 s. USD 42.88.

We Finns cannot but envy our western neighbours for the varied range of good quality samples of translations of Greek and Roman authors in the series "Klassiker". At the same time, our thanks go to Paul Åström, a retired classical archaeologist from Göteborg, who has taken the risk of publishing volumes surely not destined to be bestsellers in the Nordic market.

The two writers, one a Hellenist, the other a former senior physician at a women's clinic in Stockholm, have given a complete Swedish translation of the work by Soranus in four books, usually called Γυναικεία or Γυναικεία πόθη, based on the fresh Budé text. Soranus of Ephesus, one of the greatest physicians of the Empire, has entered medical history as the author of the best ancient study of gynaecology. The translation is of a high standard, as even a non-native speaker like myself can see. The introduction could have been a little more comprehensive, as could the notes which, in fact, are non-existent. But notwithstanding such wishes, the authors have, on the whole, done a great service by rendering this difficult subject accessible to general readers in the Scandinavian countries as well as in Finland.

Heikki Solin

This book offers a thorough discussion on Apollonius Dyscolus' treatise On the Pronoun. Alongside the new edition (which fills in a good number of omissions to the previous authoritative edition by Schneider), the book contains a German translation of the entire treatise, as well as a long introduction and commentary. The book amounts to over six hundred pages.

The introductory part (p. 3–213) consists of a detailed account of the ancient doctrine of the parts of speech. Some of this information is quite necessary in order to understand Apollonius' position in ancient linguistic historiography, since the definition of the pronoun is intimately associated with that of the noun in Apollonius' theory. However, B. offers a much too extensive description of the development of the parts of speech, their names and their ordering; much of this discussion is irrelevant for the present purposes, and fails to throw any new light on the subject.

B.'s bibliography covers a wide range of modern research literature, but I am critical of the way he often uses it. This is the case, for instance, when B. quite frequently leans on the authority of nineteenth century works, where more recent literature would be abundantly available. Moreover, he resorts to such early, outdated works where hardly any reference is needed at all, e.g. "Die früheste im Primärüberlieferung erhaltene Quelle ist Varro. Durch Varro erhalten wir einen Einblick in den Stand der römischen Grammatik am Ende der hellenistischen Periode" (Steinthal 1891, 219–220; Lersch 1840, 143) (B., p. 24). Surely this is common knowledge among those working on ancient linguistic historiography. Such miscalculations may result from the thesis-like nature of this book.

B. maintains the traditional dichotomy between technical and philosophical grammar, which has been – correctly, as I think – abandoned in Daniel Taylor's "new model of the history of Graeco-Roman language science" (1987:13). B. emphasizes the division between Alexandrian philology and Stoic philosophy to the extent of ignoring the influence of Stoic logic in Apollonius' grammar altogether:

"Die Trennung zwischen stoischer Philosophie und alexandrinerischer Philologie begegnet bereits in antiken Texten. Diese Texte stammen stets von Gegnern der Stoa und polemisieren gegen die Stoa. Sie belegen also schon in der Antike empfundene inhaltliche Differenz zwischen beiden Parteien, lassen sich aber nur mit Vorsicht für eine Rekonstruktion der stoischen Lehre nutzen." (p. 24).

As a result, no question is raised as to the origin of Apollonius' philosophical terms, such as ousia and poioites. I find their translations as 'Existenz' and 'Eigenschaft' (p. 183, 209, 239) rather than substance/subject and quality infelicitous.

It emerges, however, that B.'s knowledge of the Stoic theory of meaning is highly limited; he is content to quote the common three-fold division between a corporeal sound, meaning and the referent given by Sextus Empiricus (Adv. math. VIII, 11–13). This problematic passage does not reflect genuinely Stoic doctrine, as has been pointed out by Frede, Long (1971: 77 n. 11) and Luhtala (2000: 77). Sextus illustrates the Stoic theory of
meaning by an individual word, 'Dion', where a combined expression, such as 'Dion walks', is required. As Frede put it, "unfortunately 'Dion' is not an example of something which is true or false, and so it is clear that something has gone wrong with Sextus' report" (Frede 1978: 65).

These critical observations suggest that the author is less confident in the theoretical aspects of his work than in translating the text of the famous Greek grammarian. The most important contribution made by B. is the German translation of this extremely difficult text, which has never been translated into any modern language. It can be hoped, therefore, that this work will inspire further research into the linguistic theory of Apollonius Dyscolus, who is the figure most in need for a reappraisal in ancient linguistic historiography.


Lersch, Laurenz (1838–40) Die Sprachphilosophie der Alten I–II. Bonn (ND Hildesheim 1971)


Anneli Luhtala


Heikki Solin


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 polymeric songs. In this play, which belongs to the relatively early ones (perhaps 206-204/3 BC), the stupid, boastful officer called Pygopolinices (a name which speaks for itself) now becomes for the Scandinavian audience more familiar through the new translation.

Heikki Solin


Quid sibi velit Georg Schwertlob Korzeniowski, nomine scurrili modo latinizato, auctor huius scriptuiculae Arcto missae, mihi saltem non constat. Ut ommittam eius titulum nomenque facetum, agitur de natura tragicomediae, 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 Aristotelici), in quibus erat, ab Amphitruon eis argumentis praebentibus, ut Dion prosperererit, aut cuilibet alio modo quodammodo verum, nec discrepantiae aliqua senserit. Eius opus ergo in punctum novam versionem, quam mihi nonnulla obscura et inexacta semper irit, hanc hodie communi versioni praebemus. Adopera dedit, quamtilia quibis mendis meis, additor etiam meherele immunis non est.

Heikki Solin


This book is, according to the author, about "the character differentiation by language in Terence and the relation of Terentian dictio 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 μορφολογία and elevated language. Each of these is checked for its