

Stephani Byzantii Ethnica. Volumen I: A-Γ. Recensuit germanice vertit adnotationibus indicibusque instruxit MARGARETHE BILLERBECK. Adiuvantibus JAN FELIX GAERTNER – BEATRICE WYSS – CHRISTIAN ZUBLER. Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae XLIII/1. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin 2006. ISBN 978-3-11-017449-6. X, 64*, 441 S. EUR 148.

In the sixth century, Stephanus of Byzantium wrote an extensive geographical encyclopedia, which included numerous quotations from earlier historical works. Since the days of Stephanus, most of the sources he used have been lost and so has also most of the original work of Stephanus itself. Mere fragments survive from the original *Ethnica*, but we do have a later epitome of the work by a certain Hermolaus on which our knowledge of the work is based.

The previous edition of Stephanus was done in 1849 by Augustus Meineke, who also attempted to create a proper commentary on the work, but this was never completed. Such a volume is long overdue, and the present edition by Margarethe Billerbeck is sure to remedy this need. Billerbeck's four volume Stephanus (Vol. I: A-Γ, Vol. II: Δ-K, Vol. III: Λ-Ω and Vol. IV: *Indices*) for the *Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* does not only provide a new critical edition of the *Ethnica*, it also includes a highly readable German translation of the text and very extensive commentaries about the original sources used by Stephanus and the locations mentioned.

The present first volume begins (5*-29*) with an examination of the known manuscripts and their relations, providing an easy-to-use *stemma codicum*. Each manuscript, which contains either direct or indirect quotations from the *Ethnica* is briefly described, as are all the known manuscripts containing the epitome by Hermolaus. This is followed by a brief examination of the late Byzantine references to the epitome of the *Ethnica* (29*-36*) and the earliest scholarly research (by Ermolao Barbaro and Angelo Poliziano) concerning Stephanus' work (36*-38*). In a similar fashion all the previous editions of the *Ethnica* are described briefly (38*-44*) and the editorial principles of the present edition are explained (44*-49*).

The Greek text has been edited according to the individual alphabetic terms so that there are 581 entries under A (i.e., A.1-A.581), 201 entries under B (i.e., B.1-B.201) and 122 entries under G (i.e., G.1-G.122), although the page and line numbering implemented by Meineke has been retained in the margin. The Greek text is on the left hand side and it is faced by the German translation on the right hand side of the spread. Underneath the Greek text there are two editorial commentary sections. The first one of these refers to the original sources used by Stephanus and the second to the manuscript variations of the *Ethnica* itself. There is also a commentary section underneath the German translation providing references to the other classical authors mentioning the same localities or modern research concerning the entries in question.

In spite of the extensive research already done, the *Ethnica* of Stephanus still contains much unexplored information. The new edition by Billerbeck does not only provide a much improved version of the text, but it also provides a gateway for further research and understanding of the work itself. If anything more could have been desired from this work, it would be the inclusion of a little bit more commentary based on modern research on the localities mentioned by Stephanus. Still, one must realize that such an addition would have required an enormous amount of work, which could not have been easily contained in a

useable size. Thus one can only prophesy that this new edition will enable an abundance of new research on the individual entries. And with that in mind, one remains in excited anticipation of the following volumes which are to be published (hopefully) in the near future.

Kai Juntunen

TACITUS: *Annaler I–V. Annales. Ab excessu divi Augusti*. Från latin till svenska av IVAN SVALENIUS. Paul Åströms förlag, Sävedalen 2003. ISBN 91-7081-115-6. 126 pp. EUR 18.67, USD 24.30.

The Annals (to use the title which dates only from the 16th century) originally consisted of eighteen (or sixteen) books. Of these, most of 5, all of 7–10, and much of the rest are lost. Here we are given a Swedish translation of the first four books and of what remains of the fifth. If I am allowed, as a non-native speaker, to pass judgement on the translation, it seems to be good and fluent. It is not the first Swedish translation of the Annals; the immediate predecessor by B. Cavallin from 1966 was a good piece of work, too. But Tacitus is the despair of the translator, to quote a famous verse by Michael Grant, and it is a very difficult task indeed to emulate the highly personal style of the great historian; we see it from various other translations, e. g., from those into Finnish. However, be that as it may, the general readers in Sweden should be grateful for this new translation into their language. Let us hope that the rest of the translation of the Annals will appear soon.

Heikki Solin

TACITUS: *Histories. Book 1*. Edited by CYNTHIA DAMON. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2003. ISBN 0-521-57822-1 (pb), 0-521-57072-7 (hb). XII, 324 pp., 3 maps. GBP 16.95; USD 24 (pb), GBP 47.50; USD 70 (hb).

According to the editor, the aim of her commentary is "to reintegrate *Histories* I into the corpus of teachable Latin texts". To reach this goal, the author had to overcome many challenges which she has thought carefully about. The result is an enjoyable commentary, rewarding both for students and scholars. A valuable contribution to the Cambridge Classics series which makes the understanding of Tacitus' in many senses difficult work easier for the younger generation.

Heikki Solin

MICHAEL LAPIDGE with contributions by JOHN CROOK, ROBERT DESHMAN – SUSAN RANKIN: *The Anglo-Saxon Minsters of Winchester: The Cult of St Swithun*. Winchester Studies 4.ii. Oxford University Press, Oxford 2003. ISBN 0-19-813183-6. 856 pp., 5 figs and 8 pls. GBP 287.

St. Swithun of Winchester was initially an obscure ninth-century bishop who, after his canonisation in the late tenth century, became the centre of a massively popular cult that