

inscriptions as evidence for local variation, but he also, e.g., discusses the question of whether a literary work can be placed geographically on internal linguistic evidence alone. The answer to the latter question is that this is possible, but only seldom and certainly not in a very accurate way.

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AXEL SCHÖNBERGER: *Die Ars maior des Aelius Donatus: Lateinischer Text und kommentierte deutsche Übersetzung einer antiken Latein grammatik des 4. Jahrhunderts für den fortgeschrittenen Anfängerunterricht*. Bibliotheca Romanica et Latina 7. Valentia GmbH, Francofurti Moenani 2009. ISBN 978-3-936132-32-8. 422 S. EUR 198.

Donatus' two grammars, the *Ars minor* and *Ars maior*, are the most famous grammars of the Roman world. They were in continuous use up to the sixteenth century, and provided a model for a large number of other works well into the early modern period; the *Donatus minor* was one of the first books printed by Gutenberg. The *Ars minor*, designed for beginners, deals only with the parts of speech, in question-and-answer form, in eleven pages in Keil's edition. The *Ars maior*, a more advanced work, is divided into three books, the first dealing with items smaller than the word, the second with the parts of speech and the third with stylistic issues. The last section began to circulate as an independent stylistic manual in the Middle Ages, known as the *Barbarismus*. Thus, we are dealing with texts of enormous importance not only for the teaching of grammar but also for literary studies. To my knowledge, Schönberger's German translation of the *Ars maior* is the first translation of Donatus' more advanced grammar into any modern language. The author had already translated the *Ars minor* into German in 2008.

Schönberger points out that for centuries there was no need for translations since Donatus' Latin is quite straightforward, and students had a sufficient knowledge of Latin. Today, however, knowledge of Latin has declined, and therefore it is important to render these seminal texts of Western grammar more accessible to modern students. The book consists of a foreword, the Latin text and German translation, commentary to the text and the translation, and a bibliography. There are no indices. The Latin text is based on Keil's edition, with minor modifications (p. 338), and Keil's text is scanned in the Appendix. The more recent edition by Louis Holtz is protected by copyrights and could therefore not be used. A separate chapter, "Zur Begrifflichkeit und Definitionen", surveys the salient features of each section on the parts of speech.

Donatus' text requires interpretation and commentary for several reasons, one of them being its telegraphic brevity. His work is so concise that it can indeed be called a *compendium* (p. 337), and he is often content to introduce a grammatical concept by merely quoting one or two examples. Because of this, Donatus' grammars required commentary even in his own time. Servius wrote the first commentary on Donatus in the late fourth century and henceforth every generation of grammarians until the early modern age reworked this concise manual for their own ends or wrote commentaries on it. The work also requires explanation because of its many references to Classical literature, including names of gods, mythological figures, historical places and so on. Moreover, some ancient grammatical terms have since fallen out of use, and need to be explained. Such is the case with *epikoinon*, for instance. Here translating

Donatus' own explanation suffices: "Es gibt das Epikoinon oder Mischgeschlecht, das unter einer Bezeichnung Männchen und Weibchen zusammenfasst, wie *passer* und *aquila*." (p. 55). The same is true of *ketika*: "Es gibt auch *ketika*, das heisst besitzanzeigende Nomina" (p. 45). Schönberger's comments are short and lucid and generally sufficient, e.g., Themisto: "Tochter des Hypseus, eine Nereide, die Pausanias zufolge Homers Mutter gewesen sein soll" (p. 220). However, here and there one might have wished for an additional comment, especially as regards philosophical terms. For instance, the two types of relational nouns (*nomina ad aliquid dicta* and *nomina ad aliquid qualiter se habentia*, p. 47) are probably alien to modern students. The former nouns are explained as "Nomina, die einen Bezug auf etwas ausdrücken" and the latter as "Nomina, die in einem qualitativen Verhältnis zu etwas stehen", the examples being "left" and "right".

Nouns are divided into proper and common by Donatus, but he also quotes a division into three, *nomen*, *vocabulum* and *appellatio*, which can be traced back to the second century grammarian Scaurus. The "Rufwort" as a translation for *vocabulum* – a common noun signifying things – strikes me as odd, since what first springs into mind on hearing this word is interjection rather than noun. But, of course, *rufen* is equivalent to *nennen* in one of its senses, and "Nennwort" could not be used because it stands for *appellatio* and *nomen appellativum*, terms for common nouns. In this case, it might have been a good idea to explain the motivation for this translation which is not immediately obvious to the reader. Schönberger does not reflect upon the general principles of translation in this volume.

Schönberger is a professional linguist and a classical scholar, which enables him to offer a highly adequate commentary as regards Donatus' linguistic framework and the historical context of his manual. The Latin text in the present volume marks some improvements with respect to the text of Keil's edition, by using many visual aids in the German text, such as, for instance, the subtitles and the detailed list contents (pp. 177–98). The italicized and indented examples also make the text more attractive to a modern reader. Thus, this work together with S.'s translation of the *Donatus minor* is an important contribution to the educational works on the history of linguistics. With his two Donatus translations, S. has initiated an important project, which has already found continuation in the translations of Priscian's grammatical works. Five volumes have come out over the last few years: *Priscians Darstellung der lateinischen Präpositionen: lateinischer Text und kommentierte deutsche Übersetzung des 14. Buches der Institutiones grammaticae* (Frankfurt am Main, 2008), *Priscians Darstellung der lateinischen Pronomina: lateinischer Text und kommentierte deutsche Übersetzung des 12. und 13. Buches der Institutiones grammaticae* (Frankfurt am Main, 2009), *Priscians Darstellung der lateinischen Konjunktionen: lateinischer Text und kommentierte deutsche Übersetzung des 16. Buches der Institutiones grammaticae* (Frankfurt am Main, 2010), *Priscians Darstellung der lateinischen Syntax (I): lateinischer Text und kommentierte deutsche Übersetzung des 17. Buches der Institutiones grammaticae* (2010), *Priscians Darstellung des silbisch gebundenen Tonhöhenmorenakzents des Lateinischen: lateinischer Text und kommentierte deutsche Übersetzung des Buches über den lateinischen Akzent* (2010). Completing this project will be a great service to the community of historians of linguistics by rendering the ancient grammatical sources more accessible to scholars wishing to be introduced into the study of the history of Latin grammar in any historical period, not only Antiquity.