

NICHOLAS HORSFALL: *Virgilio: l'epopea in alambicco*. Forme, materiali e ideologie del mondo antico 31. Liguori Editore 1991. 160 pp. ITL 20.000.

Se lo Horsfall comincia dicendo che ci sono troppi libri su Virgilio, ha ragione, ma egli stesso non ha scritto un libro inutile. La lettura di questo attrattivo volumetto, scritto non senza umore (a cominciare dal titolo senz'altro poco chiaro per un non italiano), è veramente avvincente. L'a. tratta degli aspetti dell'uso virgiliano di fonti, sia in prosa che in versi, per quanto riguarda mitologia, storia, geografia ed etnografia, soprattutto nell'Eneide, ma anche nelle due altre principali opere virgiliane. In dieci capitoli tratta di cose diverse con acume, e sarebbe compito impossibile a cercare di caratterizzarne la sostanza nelle poche righe concesse dalla redazione di Arctos. Così ognuno legga il volumetto; lo farà certamente non senza grande profitto.

*Heikki Solin*

THEODORI PRODROMI *De Rodanthes et Dosicles amoribus libri* IX. Ed. Miroslavs Marcovich. Teubner, Stuttgart-Leipzig 1992. x, 230 p. ISBN 3-8154-1703-1. DEM 148.

The reappearance of the Greek romance in the Byzantine 12th century after an interval of six centuries is interesting not only from the point of view of traditional literary history but of cultural history as well. The direct quotations and the common motifs intertwine it with the genre of the Second Sophistic. However, behind the form of the genre the byzantine reality may be seen clearly, to say nothing of the fact the byzantine romances were written, contrary their late antique models, in verse, except *Hysmine et Hysminias* by Eustathios Makrembolites.

One of them, *Rhodanthes et Dosicles* by Theodoros Prodromos, a verse written erotic romance, has been given its first critical edition by M. Marcovich. The earlier one by R. Hercher (*Scriptores erotici graeci* II. Teubner 1859 (p. 287-434), was actually a reprint of the *editio princeps* by Gilbert Gaulminus (Paris 1625) based just on one manuscript.

We can now hope that the new modern edition of Prodromos' novel and the clarifying of its manuscript tradition by Marcovich will increase the discussion on the function and value of the genre in its own time, not just as imitation of its model, and further the still open question of the reappearance of the genre in the 12th-century.

*Mika Hakkarainen*

MICHAELIS PSELLI *Philosophica minora* Vol. I. *Opuscula logica, physica, allegorica, aliae figurae*, edidit J.M. Duffy. Teubner, Stuttgart-Leipzig 1992. xlix, 308p. ISBN 3-8154-1955-7. DEM 148.

Under the title of *Philosophica Minora* J. M. Duffy has selected and categorized, together with J. O' Meara (the editor of the earlier volume II published in 1989), partly using the order of texts in two manuscript Par. Graec. 1182 and Ox. Bar. 131, four different units: *generalia et logica, physica et meteorologica, miscellanea et allegorica* and *incerta et spuria* from the extant writings of Michael Psellus.