

NOTICES

JOACHIM LATACZ (ed.): *Zweihundert Jahre Homer-Forschung: Rückblick und Ausblick*. (Colloquia Raurica, 2.) Pp. xi + 552; 41 plates. Stuttgart and Leipzig: Teubner, 1991. DM 136.

Falling between the anniversaries of Villoison's publication of the scholia contained in the two Venetian MSS. in 1788 and the appearance in 1795 of Wolf's *Prolegomena*, 1991 would have been an appropriate date to review the course of two centuries of Homeric studies. The title of Band 2 of the *Colloquia Raurica*, however, is something of a misnomer. This is not a history of Homeric scholarship. Wolf's contribution is noted at length only in the papers of Buchholz and Latacz himself. For the report of a colloquium the volume is also very handsomely produced, illustrated, and edited in a manner worthy of its contributors. What L. has here provided in fact is a collection of reviews of the present state of Homeric scholarship in many areas by distinguished experts. If this collection is added, as L. suggests, to the two volumes on Homer in the *Wege der Forschung* series (1969 and 1991) and to the relevant papers in *Colloquia Raurica* Band 1, a comprehensive survey of trends in recent work on Homer results.

It is difficult in a restricted space to do more than rehearse the contents: Archaeology (Buchholz, Blome, Hiller, Korfmann), and Homer and Ancient History (Lehmann, Deger-Jalkotzy, Bukert, Gschnitzer, Raaflaub), including the relations of the Homeric world with the Oriental world of its own time, are well served. These two sections follow the same pattern and relate the Homeric world to current belief about the Late Helladic, Dark Age, and Homer's contemporary world, assumed to be that of the late eighth century. Korfmann reviews his investigations during the 1988- and 1989-seasons of Schliemann's trench at Troy and the wall of Troy VI. Linguistics are dealt with by Forsmann on the various 'strata' in the *Kunstsprache* (who laments the lack of a grammar that is truly Homeric and not an Ionic grammar with exceptions) and Bartoněk on the Mycenaean complications; Personal Names by Neumann; Mythology and Religion by Graf. Literary criticism of a familiar and comprehensible kind follows: Homer the person (Vogt), the Structure of the poems (L. on *Iliad*, Hölscher on *Odyssey*), Interpretation (Kullman, Holoka, Schwinge, Schefold). Holoka, who must have been hard pressed to condense his bibliographical expertise, injects a neat résumé of modern critical theory and the impact it has, or should have, on traditional criticism. Comparative studies, apart from some passing comments by Holoka, are passed over, but that is an area covered by *Colloquium Rauricum* 1 and one in which most readers of this journal are well served by Bowra and Hatto. Orality also was examined in *Colloquium Rauricum* 1 by L. and others, and the impact of the oral-formulaic theory is here rather summarily treated by Holoka, the sole anglophone contributor.

Ironically, since Villoison and Wolf focussed attention on the problem of the text of the Homeric poems, there is nothing here on our increasing knowledge of the history of the Homeric text and the textual problems that remain, despite the impact in that area of the continuing publication of papyri, Erbse's recent republication of the scholia, and van Thiel's reexamination of the mediaeval MSS. With Allen's OCT now showing its age this is an area that deserves attention.

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J. PINSENT, H. V. HURT (edd.). *Homer 1987: Papers of the Third Greenbank Colloquium, April 1987*. (Liverpool Classical Papers, 2.) Pp. viii + 84; 5 illustrations. Liverpool: Liverpool Classical Monthly, 1992. Paper, £15.

This slim volume of conference-proceedings is aptly dedicated, with a touching memoir, to a contributor, the admirable Kevin O'Nolan. The papers are as mixed as a *kykeon*, but three deal with the surest way forward in Homeric scholarship, the study of 'themes'. The best is O'Nolan's unpretentious survey of similarities between Homer and Irish oral prose narrative;