

Dryden's Aeneid. A Selection with Commentary Edited by Robin Sowerby. Bristol: Bristol Classical Press, 1986. Pp. 248. Cloth. \$ 29.50.

The Bristol Classical Press of Great Britain under its general editor John Betts and its English editors David Hopkins and Tom Mason continues to make available valuable reprints and original books that can be used by teachers of the Classics, English, and the Humanities in and out of classes. John Dryden's translation of Vergil's *Aeneid* has been famous and available only in antiquarian or expensive library editions. Robin Sowerby, Lecturer in English at the University of Stirling, has put together a book containing generous portions of Dryden's translation, a sizeable introductory essay in which he discusses the qualities of the *Aeneid* and Dryden's version, and compares Dryden's achievement with that of other translators of Vergil, and presents a useful glossary of names and characters, a checklist of passages, and insertions of relevant commentary by Alexander Pope, Joseph Trapp, and Warton. The aim of the editor has been to provide a readable continuous narrative, so arranged as to offer the reader a clear idea of the form and structure of the Vergilian poem as a whole and of its most noted passages.

There have obviously been many outstanding English translations of the *Aeneid*, each one noted for its own particular virtues. Especially in more recent times, there has been much stress on accuracy of translation, while at the same time insisting on a poetic form that approximates the original in spirit, if not in literal reproduction. The Dryden version has had certain qualities which have made it admired, not so much for the accuracy of the translation in a literal way, but for capturing the poetic power of the original. Robin Sowerby puts it this way:

«Vergil's Latin has always been admired as the classic expression of the «imperium Romanum» that impressed itself upon the world, and of his translators only Dryden's language comes anywhere near the sovereign power of the Latin evinced in its rigorous clarity of syntax, in its polished elegance and emphatic gravity of expression, and in its rhythmic assurance and majesty of cadence» (p. 5).

Perhaps Dryden has captured in English more than anyone else what might be called the «Romanitas» of Vergil —a quality that embraces the elegant refinement that Vergil himself achieved and to which Dryden aspired. It is the power of the Latin language that Vergil has managed to capture exquisitely and Dryden to translate responsively.

Sowerby appropriately cites Dryden's most famous editor, Walter Scott, on Dryden's version:

«He who sits down to Dryden's translation of Vergil, with the original text spread before him, will be at no loss to point out many passages that are faulty, many indifferently understood, many imperfectly translated, some in which dignity is lost, others in which bombast is substituted in its stead. But the unabated vigour and spirit of the version more than overbalances these and other deficiencies. A sedulous scholar might often approach more nearly to the dead letter of Vergil, and give an exact, distinct, sober-minded idea of the meaning and scope of particular passages. Trapp, Pitt, and others have done so. But the essential spirit of poetry is so volatile, that

it escapes during such an operation... It is in this art, of communicating the ancient poet's ideas with force and energy equal to his own, that Dryden has so completely exceeded all who have gone before, and all who have succeeded him» (p. 43).

Walter Scott's assessment remains as solidly grounded now as when it was originally written. Robin Sowerby has provided a fine interpretative introduction to a classic Roman poet and a classic English translator of that poet. The Bristol edition of the Dryden *Aeneid* will become an invaluable resource for students and teachers of classical and English literature, for which we owe all those involved in its production a vote of thanks.

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Luciani opera, recognovit brevique adnotatione critica instruxit M. D. Macleod, tomus IV Libelli 69-86, Oxonii E Typographeo Clarendoniano 1987. Σελ. XXIII +517.

Ὁ παρῶν IV τόμος περιλαμβάνει τὰ ἔργα (libelli) τοῦ Λουκιανοῦ ὑπ' ἀριθ. 69 Ποδάγρα, 70 Ἑρμώτιμος ἢ Περὶ αἰρέσεων, 75 Πρὸς τὸν εἰπόντα Προμηθεὺς εἰ ἐν τοῖς λόγοις, 72 Ἀλκυῶν ἢ Περὶ μεταμορφώσεων, 73 Πλοῖον ἢ Εὐχαί, 74 Ὠκύπους, 76 Κυνικός, 77 Νεκρικοὶ διάλογοι, 78 Ἐνάλιοι διάλογοι, 79 Θεῶν διάλογοι, 80 Ἑταιρικοὶ διάλογοι καὶ τὰ νόθα 82. Φιλόπατρις ἢ Διδασκόμενος, 83 Χαρίδημος ἢ Περὶ κάλλους, 84 Νέρων, 85 Ἐπιγράμματα καὶ 86 Τιμαρίων ἢ Περὶ τῶν κατ' αὐτὸν παθημάτων. Τὰ κείμενα τῶν μὴ γνησίων ἔργων, 75 Libanii Πρὸς Ἀριστείδην περὶ τῶν ὀρχηστῶν καὶ 81 Ἐπιτολαί δὲν καταχωρίζονται εἰς τὸν τόμον.

Εἰς τὸν λατινικὸν πρόλογον τοῦ τόμου ὁ M. D. Macleod εἰς σελ. IX-XX ἀναφέρεται ἀρχικῶς εἰς τὰ ἐσχάτως εὐρεθέντα ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ δύο ἀποσπάσματα Λουκιανέων ἔργων, ἐν παπυρικῶν τοῦ II μ.Χ. τοῦ ἔργου 72 Ἀλκυῶν καὶ δευτέρου χαρτῶν τοῦ IV αἰ. τοῦ ἔργου 39 Λούκιος ἢ Ὀνος. Τοῦ δευτέρου τούτου ἀποσπάσματος τὰς διαφόρους γραφὰς καταχωρίζει ὁ συγγραφεὺς ἐν τῷ προλόγῳ πρὸς συσχετίσιν πρὸς τὰς δημοσιευθείσας ἤδη ἄλλας εἰς τὸν II τόμον τῆς σειρᾶς.

Εἶτα ἀσχολεῖται μὲ τὴν χειρόγραφον παράδοσιν τῶν ἔργων 69-86 τοῦ IV τόμου. Ἐκ τῆς συγκρίσεως τῶν κωδίκων τῆς χειρογράφου παραδόσεως καὶ τῶν ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐνδείξεων τῆς πληρότητος ἢ παραλείψεων, τῆς σειρᾶς ἀναγραφῆς τῶν ἔργων καὶ τῶν κενῶν, ἐκ τῆς διατυπώσεως τοῦ τίτλου ἐκάστου ἔργου ἢ παραλείψεως καὶ ἐκ ποικίλων παλαιογραφικῶν ἐνδείξεων καὶ ἐκ συναφῶν χαρακτηριστικῶν ὁ MDM πεῖθεται ὅτι οἱ κώδικες διακρίνονται εἰς δύο ὁμάδας, τὴν γ καὶ τὴν β, προερχομένας ἐκ κοινοῦ ὑπαρχετύπου. Οἱ νόθοι ἔχουν διάφορον παράδοσιν. Ὁ συγγραφεὺς ἐξετάζει περαιτέρω τὴν ἐξέλιξιν τῆς παραδόσεως ἐκάστου ἔργου ἢ ὁμάδος ἔργων καὶ διαπραγματεύεται περὶ τῶν ἐνδείξεων τῆς