

SHORT REVIEWS/NOTICES DE LIVRES

CLAVIS SCRIPTORUM GRAECORUM ET LATINORUM. By RODRIGUE LARUE with the collaboration of GILLES VINCENT and BRUNO ST-ONGE. Trois-Rivières: Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Service de la Bibliothèque. 1985. 4 vols. Pp. lxxviii, 3493.

THE READER who has used other standard lists of authors and works should be put on notice at once that the object and scope of the present work are different from those. It is a by-product and precondition of a more ambitious and continuing project which Father LaRue directs, the Dossiers de Bibliographie Classique. The Dossiers are intended to be the foundation of a comprehensive automated bibliography of Greek and Latin studies, and they consist of existing printed bibliographies about classical and postclassical studies, cut up or photocopied and grouped by author or subject. Someone trying to create such a massive archive of bibliography naturally needs to know who the Greek and Latin authors were, that is, to establish an authoritative and normative list of their names, genres, and dates, in order to make the classification of the bibliographical notices accurate. The *Clavis* thus grew out of the need for what a librarian would call an authority file, an important need (about which I am quoted on vii).

Part of the preface discusses the larger project, setting out the various problems which are encountered in the area of classical bibliography (bulk, dispersion, disorder, redundancy, etc.) and the way in which the Dossiers project aims to counter them. First came the Dossiers themselves, then this repertory of authors, then a set of the Dossiers on microfiche is envisaged, then finally the automated bibliography. The scope includes all Latin authors up to the present, and all Greek authors up to 1453. LaRue lists (xxvii-xxx) the works which have been used for the purposes of the Dossiers.

The actual entries provide names, date, genre descriptors, language(s) in which an author wrote, variant names, and sources of bibliography. They do not, unlike the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae Canon of Greek Authors and Works*<sup>2</sup> (by L. Berkowitz and K. Squitier [Oxford 1986]), list the actual works of an author, much less (as Berkowitz and Squitier do) give any information about editions of the author's works (the TLG Canon cites the editions recommended by the American Philological Association's advisory committee). This is probably just as well. Duplication of Berkowitz and Squitier would have been useless, and it is hard to imagine that one author would have been capable of creating such a work for all post-600 Greek and all Latin up to the present day.

That the creation of this authority file has an internal use for the Dossiers

project is evident. Does it also have any use for others in its published form? LaRue expresses some doubts (xxxiii): "Sauf exception, les spécialistes utiliseront sans doute peu souvent cet ouvrage trop succinct." And the present edition, expensive though it is, is considered provisional (lv ff.: a list of defects to be remedied in a future edition). The bibliography presented for each author indicates where (apart from the author section of *Aph*) one may find detailed bibliography for the writer. As an example, here is what we find for Aristotle: three articles from Pauly-Wissowa; four page references in Migne, *PL* 64; the *Dictionnaire de théologie catholique*; Fabricius, *Bibliotheca Graeca*; M. Grant, *Greek and Latin Authors* (1980); and one ("Tables 251") which I must confess I have been unable to identify in any of the lists of abbreviations or works in this set. I am not certain that the non-specialist will be enlightened by these references either.

Despite the title of the work, there are also descriptor and subject entries as well as authors. They do not seem to me to help. A novice reader interested in papyrology would find citations only to section 3.2 of the subject part of *Aph* and to the *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*. There is a cross-reference to ostraca, which one finds classified under Latin studies with a reference to Pauly and to *Catholicisme*. There are many fine guides to the bibliography of papyrology, but this sort of entry will not help anyone find them.

One must admire the enormous effort which has gone into creating the file and acknowledge its importance for the long-range development of an automated bibliography. But it is hardly obvious that these volumes, for all their internal use to such a project, will be of much use to other prospective users in their present form.

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PLATON: LETTRES. Traduction, introduction, notices et notes par LUC BRISSON. Paris: Flammarion. 1987. Pp. 314.

CETTE TRADUCTION des *Lettres* est le deuxième volume d'une nouvelle édition française des oeuvres de Platon à paraître dans cette collection de livres de poche. Son auteur, un compatriote en exil volontaire à Paris devenu entretemps figure de proue des études platoniciennes en France, partage également la direction de cette nouvelle édition avec Monique Canto qui a signé la traduction et présentation du premier volume (*Gorgias* [Paris 1987]). Le but de cette nouvelle édition est d'offrir une traduction et présentation des oeuvres de Platon qui s'adresse autant aux spécialistes qu'au grand public.

Force est de constater que Luc Brisson a relevé ce défi redoutable avec brio. Les spécialistes y trouvent largement leur compte, surtout dans l'in-