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REVIEWS

Gerald M. Quinn and Fred Schreiber


Thucydides’ analyses of human nature, power, war, and the interrelation of these factors remain perpetually fascinating, to the amateur no less than to the professional. Harding’s book represents an attempt to make available some of the most concentrated sections of Thucydidean thought, the speeches, for “the careful study of speakers, students of politics and public affairs, and especially of citizens with the right to vote” (p. v). The book consists of two parts: (1) pp. 11-220, a reprinting of the speeches in the Crawley translation, accompanied by introductory notices by Harding (the military harangues, following Jebb, are separated from the others), and (2) pp. 223-347, reprints of two famous discussions of the speeches: R. C. Jebb’s excellent essay of 1880, “The Speeches of Thucydides,” and John Finley’s chapter, “Intellectual Background,” from his Thucydides (1942, repr., Ann Arbor paperbacks 1963). This basic material is supplemented by a brief introduction noting especially the problem of translation (pp. 1-7), a chronological table, bibliography, five maps, and an index.

Even when read in the somewhat old fashioned but basically quite readable Crawley translation, the speeches amaze one with the force and penetration of Thucydides’ mind. The very nature of the book, however, obscures one of Thucydides’ most important qualities: the ability to see the relation between man’s intellectual or emotional interpretation or response to a situation and how the situation in fact works itself out. Harding’s introductory notes are devoted largely to making clear the main points discussed, or pointing out sets of complementary speeches. He regularly relates the speeches to the narrative context, but only in a general way, without that acute awareness of the interrelation of intellectual activity and event which de Romilly and Stahl have shown to be fundamental to Thucydides’ way of thinking. In this book one misses the influence of Thucydidean scholarship since Finley, especially that in foreign languages, such as Luschnat’s RE article, Stahl’s Thukydidcs, and de Romilly’s Histoire et Raison chez Thucydide. These writers have shown that in Thucydides, speech and event are inseparable.

Despite this fundamental weakness, the book should be useful and helpful for those for whom it is intended: students or citizens who wish to become acquainted with the perennial wisdom of the historian. The speeches, while not all his thought, are an important part of it, and the aids which Harding has provided make access to this frequently forbidding author both congenial and rewarding.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Philip A. Stadter


This publication is billed in a prefatory advertisement as “The Haymes Bibliography,” suggesting by editorial fiat an indispensability associated with tools
like "Bursians Jahresberichte," "Nairn's Hand-list," or "Pack's List." Comprising more than 500 items by some 280 authors, it aims to be an exhaustive directory of research on oral composition. Homeric scholarship predominates, but studies of orality in many other literatures — most notably. Anglo-Saxon — are listed as well. Given the scope of the project, the survey is remarkably thorough. Especially useful for the classicist are the complete listings of Lord's, Notopoulos's, Russo's, Whallon's, and others' investigations of oral composition.

Since "periodic supplementation and re-editions of the Haymes Bibliography are planned," perhaps the following addenda et corrigenda may be assimilated.


Brodeur's Art of Beowulf was published in 1959, not 1960; Fenik's monograph is in the Hainhofer Einzelbriichen series; Hansen's California dissertation has been published (UCPCS, 8: Berkeley 1972); papers by Kirk on "Homer and Modern Oral Poetry" and "Objective Dating Criteria in Homer" are reprinted in LB 79-89 and 174-90 respectively; Lesky's GgL was translated in 1966, and his "Mündlichkeit und Schriftlichkeit im homerischen Epos" is reprinted in Gesammelte Schriften (Bern 1966) pp. 73-81; Levin's "Portrait of a Homeric Scholar" is reprinted in Grounds for Comparison (Cambridge, Mass. 1972) 140-46; Lord's "Homer and Huso I" was published in 1936, not 1963, his "Homer, Parry, and Huso" is reprinted in MHV 465-78, and his "Oral Dictated Texts" in LB pp. 68-78; Marzullo's "Il problema omerico" is a preface to the 2nd edition of his book of the same title (Florence 1970); Mette's Lustrum bibliography has been frequently supplemented (1956-59-60-66-70); Adam Parry's "Language of Achilles" is reprinted in LB 48-54; Anne A. Parry's CQ paper is in vol. 21, not 65; Pope's article is 1963, not 1964; Scott's Princeton dissertation is now Memosyne Supplement 28 (Leiden 1974); the first edition of Shipp's (not Schipp) book was 1953; the vol. (vols.? of Severyns's trilogy is not indicated; Wrenn's paper on harps is reprinted in Brodeur 118-28; Young's Arion article is reprinted in Essays on Classical Literature ed. N. Rudd (New York 1972) 33-78.

Ann Arbor

James P. Holoka


This is the first of four volumes projected. It was delayed in expectation of the edition which the late Friedrich Lenz began but never completed, but the text of both orations benefits from Lenz's collations. The general introduction is a jejune account,