

the poetical structure as a result of the author's narrative and lyrical attitudes (De Robertis); the cultural significance in the humanistic context (Ponte, Ruggieri).

The scope of this review does not allow for an adequate evaluation of all the essays in this volume. There is no doubt, however, that several of them are an extremely relevant and interesting addition to Boiardo criticism. All scholars, not only of the Count of Scandiano, but also of Italian Renaissance culture and literature will find the reading of this book a very stimulating and rewarding experience.

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Michelangelo Buonarroti. *The Complete Poems of Michelangelo*. Tr. with notes and introduction by Joseph Tusiani. New York: Humanities Press, 1969. Pp. lxiii, 145.

The translation of poetry, under the most favourable conditions, is a literary and linguistic trial by fire in which even the few really competent in this discipline do not always come off perfectly safe. Michelangelo's poetry, moreover, as Professor Tusiani observes in the "Introduction" to the present English edition, poses a particular challenge. Lexical and syntactical difficulties have already created "pitiful traps" for many a seasoned translator's efforts to "capture the power" of Michelangelo's poetic inspiration, "and not the roughness of his dress." Professor Tusiani's own attempted solution has been twofold: to stress lexical connotation rather than denotation, and to preserve, as far as possible, the original rhythm and rime patterns.

"Michelangelo's poetry . . . because of its structural difficulties, can baffle the ear of the keenest Italian reader." Ironically, this statement is also conversely true. Professor Tusiani's translations, syntactically and lexically, can, and often do, "baffle the ear" of the most ordinary English reader. Uncommon inversions, as in "some *old holy* man" (167), and awkward ellipses: "Forever in my *unworthy ready* arms" (47) are not infrequent. The metrical effects are often curiously Procrustean: the stretching out of smoothly accented but poetically insignificant ideas on the one hand, or, on the other, the forcing of ideas into a straitened mold: "Sweetness can stop even a serpent's mouth/ Just as sour grapes *bind the teeth in my mouth*". (36) Lexical substitutions sometimes lessen the emotional impact, as when the lover's quasi-religious "fede" is metamorphosized into a "trick" (36); or they create anew the obscurities that the translator is trying to avoid, as when the words of personified "Infelicità" "ben ama chi ben arde, ov'io dimoro" become "Love only grows together with your sore". (47).

Professor Tusiani's silence about Creighton Gilbert's English translation of Michelangelo's complete poems in 1963, and about Enzo Girardi's 1967 edition of the *Rime* must be attributed to the fact that his "Introduction", written in 1959, was not updated. A translator would hardly bypass either scholar's introductory notes, or Girardi's prose transliterations which, for the present edition in particular, could have clarified many of the suppositions and generalizations about themes and metaphorical allusions.

At those moments when the English phrasing is simplest, and least self-conscious about its supposed obligation to recreate the poet's spirit in the original metrical

patterns, it approaches most closely to Michelangelo's transparent candour and fiery intensity. On occasion the reader is swept up into lyrical-or agonized- confrontation with the soul of the creator; one could only wish that such occasions were more numerous.

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Charles B. Schmitt. *A Critical Survey and Bibliography of Studies on Renaissance Aristotelianism 1958-1969*. Padova: Editrice Antenore, 1971. Pp. 196. L. 3000.

Undoubtedly the most pervasive intellectual influence in the Renaissance period was Aristotelianism, or "the varieties of Aristotelianism" as the author of this study puts it. In one way or another Aristotle and his commentators affected every area of European intellectual endeavor during c. 1400-c. 1650, the period under discussion in this bibliography. The author, at present a research fellow in the history and philosophy of science at the University of Leeds, has analysed the scholarship on Renaissance Aristotelianism for the period 1958-1969, surveying over 600 items, including a number of unpublished dissertations by Kristeller's students at Columbia. These studies, primarily in the periodical literature, cover the history of Renaissance Aristotelianism in Portugal, Spain, especially Italy, England, France, the Low Countries, Germany, and Poland.

A quick review of the dominant general interpretations begins the book. Then after reviewing bibliographical works, editions, translations, and textual criticism, he moves on to the secondary literature. In each case he groups them into subject and geographical categories, and systematically works his way from the general to the particular. Always the author keeps in mind the needs of scholars in a variety of fields. Schmitt's *Survey* also lives up to its title of "critical": he does not hesitate to evaluate, to point out inadequacies, and to take issue. All this is quite useful for, indeed, there is much mistaken information abroad on even such a key figure as Pomponazzi. And even when one disagrees with the author, his comments are intelligent and a good point of reference.

In the last chapter he notes areas where future work needs to be done. Especially needed is basic research behind the walls of Renaissance universities: what was taught? who were the professors? what was their background? Schmitt also points out that the problem of what he aptly calls "the escape from the Aristotelian predicament" in the late Renaissance needs more study. Even while intellectuals sought to demolish the Aristotelian worldview, they sometimes used Aristotelian cudgels, a kind of intellectual cannibalism. Finally, the bibliography is simply organized and the index accurate, making the book easy to use.

This reader was surprised at the amount of scholarship (including Schmitt's own contributions) done in the past dozen years. The author has performed a valuable service in providing this guide to it, and the publisher is to be congratulated for making it available for less than \$5.

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