

Proceedings

of the

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRGIL SOCIETY

No. 12, 1972–73

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LECTORIBUS EDITOR

A most welcome event in the past year has been the appearance of the two-volume edition of the *Aeneid* by our President, Professor R.D. Williams (Macmillan; vol. 1 containing books i-vi £2.50; vol. 2, books vii-xii, £3). Mackail's highly selective commentary of 1930 excepted, this is the first commentary on the whole of the poem since T.E. Page's celebrated work of 1894-1900. Despite his interpretation of the fourth book (which must have coloured many people's attitude to the *Aeneid* and Aeneas in the intervening years) Page was a man of learning and discernment. However, Virgil scholarship has advanced with great vigour and Page's work had to be re-done, a task which Professor Williams has admirably performed. No words are wasted; introduction ('Life and works of Virgil', 'Virgil and Augustus', 'The legend of Aeneas', 'Sources of the *Aeneid*', 'Synopsis of the *Aeneid*', 'Structure and themes', 'Virgil's hexameter', 'The MSS of the *Aeneid* and the ancient commentators', 'Differences of text between this edition and Mynors and Hirtzel', 'Bibliography') and notes show an economical lucidity which takes the reader to the heart of the matter. Frequent illuminating citations from Milton, Spenser and other English poets are a notable feature of the commentary. We congratulate Professor Williams and the publishers on this really valuable addition to our resources.

The fifth Jackson Knight memorial lecture, delivered by Professor G.B. Townend under the title 'The Augustan Poets and the Permissive Society' (Abbey Press, Abingdon-on-Thames, 1972; 26pp., 30 n.p.), is a sprightly piece of writing, offering a survey of Roman poets (including some pre- and post-Augustans) with regard to sexual *mores* and morals. Much good sense in brief compass.

We offer our congratulations also to Professor F.H. Sandbach, a recent past President of the Society, on the publication of his Oxford Classical Text of Menander and a commentary on this comic poet begun many years ago by the late Professor A.W. Gomme. It is not only students of ancient comedy who will be grateful for these two outstanding contributions to knowledge.

We gratefully acknowledge a generous grant from the Research Fund of the New University of Ulster. Prices continue to rise frighteningly, and we highly appreciate such assistance. May we ask members to remember to pay their subscriptions regularly and on time – 60 n.p., or 38 n.p. for full-time students (due on January 1st each year)?

After twelve issues of *The Proceedings* I feel that I must now sign off – with best thanks to all those who over the years have generously helped me and borne with me.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY

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