

Proceedings

of the

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRGIL SOCIETY

No. 13, 1973–74

(Acting Editor: H. MacL. Currie, M.A., Queen Mary College, London, E.1)

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LECTORIBUS EDITOR

Most members will already know that the annual ordinary subscription was raised on January 1st this year to £1. We very much regret this, but rising costs have hit us badly, and if the Society is to survive an increase in the revenue is unavoidable.

From January 1st 1975 the annual charge to libraries (*not* schools) will be £2.

After many years of devoted service to the Society in different capacities, Dr A.J. Gossage has decided to resign from the Council. The AGM elected him an Honorary Vice-President in recognition of his unparalleled record of work on our behalf. The Society owes a very great deal to Dr Gossage. He still remains a member and we look forward to seeing him at meetings from time to time.

An interesting little offering is '*Cave Canticum* – Ogden Nash in Latin', a translation by James C. Gleeson and Brian N. Meyer (Little, Brown, U.S.A., 1973; 94 pp. \$6.95). Not so long ago we had 'Winnie Ille Pooh', but to put Ogden Nash into some kind of a Latin dress is an even more formidable task. Gleeson and Meyer show great ingenuity. Here is an example:

The panther is like a leopard,
Except it hasn't been peppered.
Should you behold a panther crouch,
Prepare to say Ouch.
Better yet, if called by a panther,
Don't anther.

This becomes in Latin:

Panthera leopardo similis est
Nisi quod non pipere nota est.
Si distraheris pantherae flexu,
Para dicere Heu.
Praestat vocato a panthera,
Non respondera.

John Sparrow, the Warden of All Souls, begins his 'Dido v Aeneas: the case for the defence' (The Sixth Jackson Knight Memorial Lecture, 1972; the Abbey Press, Abingdon-on-Thames, 1973; 30p., and 10p. extra for postage and packing in U.K.) with the disclaimer, 'I was never a scholar', but readers of this contribution will know how to treat it, especially if they are familiar with the Warden's various other writings over the years including his 'Half-lines and Repetitions in Virgil' (1931)! With his usual urbanity and skill in argument, he urges that Aeneas deserves rather sympathy than censure, while Dido claims our pity, hardly our sympathy. The fourth book of the *Aeneid* is, as the papers by Dr Horsfall and Mr. Foster in this issue remind us, a work of peculiar subtlety, and we can expect the great debate 'Dido v Aeneas' to continue for a long time to come. During the interval of one of the Prom concerts this year Dr Horsfall had an opportunity of addressing a wider audience than the Virgil Society can command on Virgil's treatment of the Dido and Aeneas story, an excellent short talk which must have pleased and interested many as they waited to hear Purcell's opera on the same theme.

Officially *emeritus*, I appear before you as *locum tenens* in the editorial position. How long I shall remain as acting editor I do not know, but let not this lack of certainty prevent anyone from submitting to me for consideration any article or piece which he or she may feel is suitable for publication in *The Proceedings*

The Council sends its greetings to members and friends at home and abroad, and thanks them for their continued support.

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