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Mommsen's *Gesammelte Schriften* Gesammelte Schriften. Von Theodor Mommsen. Erste Abteilung : Juristische Schriften, erster Band. Mit Mommsens Bildnis und zwei Tafeln. 1905. Pp. viii + 479. *Juristische Schriften*, zweiter Band. 1905. Pp. viii + 459. Vierter Band : Historische Schriften, erster Band. 1906. Pp. viii +556. *Theodor Mommsen als Schriftsteller: ein Verzeichnis seiner Schriften*. Von Karl Zangemeister ... Bearbeitet und fortgesetzt von Emil Jacobs. 1905. Pp. xi+189. Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung. 9³/₄" × 6¹/₂". Price : each vol. of the Ges. Schr. M. 12, or bound M. 14.40; the Verzeichnis, M. 6. *Catalogue des Vases du Musée de Constantinople*. By the same. Constantinople, 1906. Pp.43. 8³/₈" × 5³/₄". Fr.3.50.

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MOMMSEN'S *GESAMMELTE
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Gesammelte Schriften. Von THEODOR MOMMSEN. Erste Abteilung: *Juristische Schriften*, erster Band. Mit Mommsens Bildnis und zwei Tafeln. 1905. Pp. viii + 479. *Juristische Schriften*, zweiter Band. 1905. Pp. viii + 459. Vierter Band: *Historische Schriften*, erster Band. 1906. Pp. viii + 556.

Theodor Mommsen als Schriftsteller: ein Verzeichnis seiner Schriften. Von KARL ZANGEMEISTER . . . Bearbeitet und fortgesetzt von EMIL JACOBS. 1905. Pp. xi + 189.

Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung. $9\frac{3}{4}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$. Price: each vol. of the Ges. Schr. M. 12, or bound M. 14.40; the Verzeichnis, M. 6.

A REVIEW of a great man's minor writings, if it does not deal with less than its subject, must deal with more; it must aim at an appreciation of his work as a whole. That is a task for which I am not old enough, or even young enough; and I must therefore confine myself pretty strictly to the humble part of reporting the chief contents of these three tomes.

We learn from the preface that the task of arranging his scattered publications was taken in hand by Mommsen himself some years before his death, but that owing to other enterprises, and to the failure of his sight, he had sent to the press no more than a small part of the first volume when he died in 1903. His literary executor, Otto Hirschfeld, has entrusted the preparation of the juristic volumes to Bernhard Kübler, whom Mommsen himself had chosen for his collaborator; and Kübler's task, in the first and second volumes, has been to incorporate Mommsen's own additions, to verify the quotations and bring them up to date, to make occasional corrections, and to add references to later researches, by Mommsen or by others, in the various matters of which these papers treat. In the historical volume similar work has been done mostly by Hirschfeld himself. The choice of articles, it seems, is mainly Mommsen's own. In his will he forbade the publication of *Kollegienhefte*, and expressed a desire

'nicht als Polygraph fortzuleben'—a pathetic wish, unless indeed he wrote it with a twinkle in his eye. Yet Kübler has found himself forced to play the part of Varius and Tucca, and save a few doomed pieces from the flames.

A complete prospectus of the whole series I have not seen; but we are promised a third juristic volume, and others of philological, epigraphic, and numismatic writings. These divisions, in the case of a Mommsen, must necessarily overlap; but no one will quarrel with them if only the *Generalregister* is full enough. It is too much, perhaps, to ask that it should embrace the *History*, the *Staatsrecht*, and the other large works which are to form no part of this reprint.

The first volume (to which Brogi's well-known photograph of Mommsen is prefixed) consists entirely of commentaries or disquisitions on important documents of Roman law: the *leges repetundarum*, *agraria*, *Rubria*, *coloniae Genetivae*; the laws of Salpensa and Malaca, the *sententia Q.M. Minuciorum inter Genuates et Viturios*, the laudations of Turia and Matidia, and some Egyptian wills and other documents. Two of the articles belong to Mommsen's last years: a note on *C.I.L.* xi. 1146, and a longer paper on the fragment of the *lex municipii Tarentini* found in 1894. There are several misprints in this volume (e.g. on pp. 154, 155, 161), and the *Nachtrag* on pp. 442-4 might with advantage have been incorporated in its article; but otherwise, so far as I can judge, the work of editing has been well done.

The second volume is not so easy to define. Of its thirty-nine articles many attach themselves to particular jurists—Salvius Julianus, S. Pomponius, Gaius, Ulpian, Papinian; several are concerned with the textual problems of juristic literature; the rest defy classification, and it may suffice to mention as examples the portentous article on the chronological sequence of the constitutions of Diocletian and his colleagues, and the three papers on the edict of Diocletian *de pretiis rerum venalium*. Some of the contents touch on economic history and numismatics, but the juristic element prevails. The dates of composition range from 1850 almost to Mommsen's death, and it may be useful

to specify the articles which belong to the twentieth century as least likely to be familiar. These are: a study of the life and career of Salvius Julianus, based on an inscription found in 1899; 'Hofmann versus Blume,' an exposure of some heresies of Franz Hofmann; a few pages pointing out that *lex*, without a determinative expressed or implied, indicates the primitive code of Rome, and that *lex duodecim tabularum* signifies properly not the code as a whole, but an article of the code; comments on an inscription from Schaumburg-Lippe; 'die Heimath des Gregorianus,' in which it is shown that Gregorius was a teacher in the school of law at Beyrout; 'eine verlorene Brevierhandschrift,' on some marginal variants written by the elder Pithou; and finally a note, which was found among Mommsen's papers after his death, on the meaning of *sancio pragmatica*.

The Historische Schriften, while their results are not less important, address a wider public; to all who are concerned with ancient history, or with history of any sort, these papers will afford a tonic and a delight. In the present volume there is none of the rather awkward Latin in which some of the juristic essays are written, and the variety of the topics gives one a fair chance of judging Mommsen's German style. The verdict of foreigners will probably be *non liquet* (if I may pervert the phrase). He is careful of structure, it is true, and even the weariest period 'winds somewhere safe to sea.' But there is need of effort: the long sentences do not contrive to distribute the emphasis aright, or to carry the reader with them to the end. In general, Mommsen's language is workmanlike, but not artistic; it can impress, but it cannot charm. When will German exchange a few of its inflections for a little flexibility? A return of the dark ages is perhaps the only hope.

Many of the pieces here collected have long been classic: for example, the studies of the constitutional issues between Caesar and the Senate, the site of the defeat of Varus, the last struggle of the Roman republic (A.D. 68), the two battles of Betriacum, and the life of the younger Pliny. Others, perhaps less well known, but

of high importance, are the investigations of the legends of Remus and Tatius, the accounts of Zama, of Caesar's military system—but I am in danger of repeating the table of contents, and naturally enough, for few of these essays can be spared. They are arranged in chronological order, so that one passes on, without any too enormous jumps, from the beginning of things (or earlier) to the death of Attila. In this book, perhaps better than in the author's continuous works, one sees his judgment brought to bear on problems of every kind, and one finds the same sureness and sobriety in all. The critic who calmly but ruthlessly applies the knife to the *τομὴν πῆμα* of the Tatian legend, can also intervene as a mediator in the question of the Thundering Legion, with the words, 'die Wahrheit liegt nicht immer, aber hier in der Mitte' (p. 498), and with a protest against the criticism by which, 'when a Christian testimony is inconvenient by reason of its age, it is curtly qualified as false, and when good heathen evidence will not comply, it is sentenced to penal transportation' (p. 513). This last passage illustrates his ironical humour, more Johnsonian than Gibbonian, and I will add another example of it from the article on the official autobiography of Augustus (p. 255):—'Es ist freilich auch ihm nicht erspart worden Tieferes zu sagen, als woran er selber gedacht hat; aber wenn die 35 Kapitel seiner Denkschrift die 35 Tribus des römischen Volkes bedeuten sollen, so kann er dafür wirklich nichts und hat sogar vorsichtiger Weise keine Zahlen hingesezt, freilich ohne damit dem Scharfsinn des deutschen Gelehrten entrinnen zu können.'

To the articles already mentioned I would add the following, as new or comparatively inaccessible:—on the date of the appearance of the *Julium sidus*; on the Marcomannic war of Marcus Aurelius; on Stilicho and Alaric; and on Aetius. The editing of this volume seems to me excellent, but here again misprints are rather numerous (e.g., on pp. 37, 119, 252, 336, 454).

Finally, a word of welcome is due to the bibliography of Mommsen's writings, uniform with the present series. Zangemeister's *Verzeichnis*, published in 1887, has served as a basis, but it has been revised, enlarged, and

continued by Jacobs, and the period now covered exceeds sixty years, and the total of entries is 1513. If the reviewer may adapt a phrase from the compiler's preface, the bare number is eloquent enough.

E. HARRISON.

Tiberi Claudii Donati Interpretationes Vergilianae, primum ad vetustissimorum codicum fidem recognitas edidit HENRICUS GEORGI. Vol. II. (Aeneidos libri VII.-XII.) Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1906. Pp. 688. M. 12.

TIBERIUS DONATUS, who wrote his comments on Virgil for the benefit of his son towards the end of the fourth century A.D., was at least a change from his predecessors: among the ancient commentators 'none but himself is his own parallel.' He is a refreshing parenthesis over which blows no arid blast of bitter verbal criticism. It was not his to cavil at Virgil's innovations of style, his unusual employment of old words or invention of new ones. Whether the Mantuan imitated Homer much or little, well or badly, seems not to have troubled Donatus. The gall of Corvilius Pictor and other *obtrectatores Vergilii* has not found its way into the concoction for which Donatus is responsible. Rather we have a more genial compound to which we may suppose go as simples a little of the traditional lexicography, grammar, and religious antiquities filtered through Probus, Servius, and Macrobius. But only a little of these ingredients. The idea of Donatus' work is original, and would have made his fortune—in the way of posthumous fame—if only it had been carried out with a moderate show of genius. But this is anticipating. The task he sets himself is to advance from line to line of the *Aeneid* and draw out the full connotation of his author's words by means of a full prose paraphrase.

A condensed style like that of Virgil certainly offered a great chance to the first commentator who tried this method. To explain the meaning of the poet by exhibiting the rhetorical connection of clauses, the connection of ideas, consistencies of character, and to show that the arrangement and development of the narrative is as it should be—all this might have meant an immortal work. A few specimens may be quoted of Donatus' manner of handling this method. At the beginning of Book VII it was perhaps worth suggesting that Aeneas was all the more ready to pay funeral honours to Caieta because by crossing the infernal river he had seen how piteous was the case of the unburied dead. Donatus is at pains to explain *Tu quoque*, the opening words, by showing that the incident is connected with the passage describing the funeral rites of Misenus in Book VI. Conington hits this off in a note of four words: Donatus repeats himself four times and

consumes twenty lines. Such long-winded exegesis is characteristic. Such a verbal point as the juxtaposition of *aeternam moriens* is seldom mentioned. *Ossaque nomen . . . signat*. The comment here is to this effect: it is wonderful that whereas the names of the living only with great difficulty are noised abroad, her bones make light of centuries. This surely is a shade too subtle: one notices that Conington is eloquently silent on this point. Here and there Conington adopts something from Donatus, sometimes referring to him by name, but more often tacitly; but the fine metal he has extracted from this mass of over 1200 pages on the *Aeneid* is measured by very small quantities. One cannot help wishing that points such as those offered by in noctem (8), proxima (10), resonat (12), received some comment; but it would not be fair to impute this to Donatus as a neglect, because his avowed purpose is to track sequences of thought; and, moreover, many verbal points which may seem significant to us we may well suppose would have had no interest for the young son whose native tongue was Latin. The pity is that so many of the remarks on subject matter are pedantic and utterly unilluminating. In fact it must be admitted that there is seldom an imaginative flash to brighten up these sombre though conscientious pages. Donatus dearly loves to preach. Having made his remark, he will repeat it in interrogative or exclamatory form in the style of an unskilful sermon preached to the very young. In short we find Donatus honest, unctuous, and dull. But he himself never loses heart: says he quite gaily 'Interea verba ipsa in propositione constituta repetamus, ut intendamus omnia cum suis ponderibus posita.'

We think few English boys of to-day would relish Donatus, and probably few professors. Henry Nettleship found him 'dull and unprofitable.' Sed cui bono? Most of the notes of any value will be found incorporated in Conington: most of the readings of note are given by Nettleship. First comes the importance of a mass of sound fourth-century Latinity, of which the editor of this volume supplies a full index. Second, the professional scholar might do worse than go back to original sources for Virgilian study, in the process of reading Donatus stretching his imagination and occasionally culling the stray remark that others have missed.

If space allowed there are several interesting points relating to Donatus' text we should wish to discuss. How far is a commentary first published so late likely to have survived as its author wrote it? Did Donatus' work suffer in the same way as that of Probus? Ever since its publication in the sixteenth century the multipliers of *variae lectiones* have not been idle, to judge from the apparatus criticus to this edition. But in the midst of our interest not so much in Donatus, as in things about Donatus, we find already in the opinion of our editor *immensum conficimus aequor*.

S. E. WINBOLT.