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Prou's Latin Palaeography *Manuel de Paleographie latine et française*, par Maurice Prou. 3e édition, entièrement refondu. Accompagnée d'un Album de 24 planches. Pp. ix + 509. Paris: Picard et Fils, 1910. 15 francs.

W. M. Lindsay

The Classical Review / Volume 25 / Issue 02 / March 1911, pp 58 - 59

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00046266, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00046266

How to cite this article:

W. M. Lindsay (1911). The Classical Review, 25, pp 58-59 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00046266

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was to develop for nearly two thousand years.' If the excesses of some of the later Greek and Latin writers are to be laid at Thrasy-machus' door, one could wish that Socrates, who never wrote at all, had still more effectually dis-comfited the progenitor of so much literary ineptitude.

Mr. Clark's own paper is most lucid, interesting, and comprehensive. Towards its close he argues, with much probability and originality, that the *cursus mixtus* [i.e., that composite *cursus* in which some of the *clausulae* are metrical, while others are accentual rather than quantitative] originated at a much earlier date than that of St. Augustine. He shows reason for believing that it was characteristic of vulgar or colloquial Latin, as opposed to the *sermo urbanus*. He finds traces of it in Petronius, Vitruvius, Frontinus, and in some among the more intimate of Cicero's *Letters to Atticus*.

Both volumes are printed with great

accuracy. But there is a trifling error on p. 37 l. 4 of the *Fontes*: and can ὅπως, on p. 13 (extract 5) *ibid.*, be defended? *Cursus*, p. 31: If Cicero had meant the end of the sentence, would he not have used *τελευτή*, in order to avoid ambiguity? Just one more point, suggested by *Cursus*, p. 5, 'the theory of the period is that of a rise and fall.' The underlying idea of the period would seem to be that not of any musical cadence but of a rounded sentence in which a feeling of suspense as to the full meaning is maintained from start to finish. Compare, for example, Aristot. *Rhet.* iii. 9, 3 λέγω δὲ περίοδον λέξιν ἔχουσαν ἀρχὴν καὶ τελευτὴν αὐτὴν καθ' αὐτὴν καὶ μέγεθος εὐσύνοπτον and Dionys. Hal. *de Lysia* c. 6 (with reference to Theophrastus' view of Thrasy-machus, not adopted by Dionysius) ἡ συστρέφουσα τὰ νοήματα καὶ στρογγύλως ἐκφέρουσα λέξις.

W. RHYS ROBERTS.

PROU'S LATIN PALAEOGRAPHY.

Manuel de Paléographie latine et française, par MAURICE PROU. 3^e édition, entièrement refondu. Accompagnée d'un Album de 24 planches. Pp. ix+509. Paris: Picard et Fils, 1910. 15 francs.

THIS is the best Manual of Latin Palaeography, and should be got by everyone who has anything to do with Latin MSS. The last part, between a third and a half of the whole book, absorbs Chassant's *Dictionary of Abbreviations*. These abbreviations are the kind used in charters and MSS. from the twelfth century onwards. In a chapter in the middle of the book the abbreviations used in earlier MSS. are discussed, but no list is given.

Prof. Prou lays stress in his Preface on the unambitious aim of this manual: 'Ce n'est pas un traité complet et scientifique de paléographie . . . mais un court manuel élémentaire et pratique destiné, non aux érudits, mais à tous ceux qui ont besoin d'apprendre à lire les manuscrits et les chartes.' In spite

of this, his book may be recommended to others also who are past the beginning stage. For although Latin Palaeography is too vast a subject to be treated satisfactorily in some 500 pages, or rather 300 (for 200 are occupied by the *Dictionary of Abbreviations*), good bibliographical notes are added to each paragraph for those who wish to go more thoroughly into any particular topic. And Prof. Prou is so completely up to date, that even 'érudits' will learn something from him; for example, from his remarks on the term 'Lombardic script' (pp. 75 *sqq.*), that the term should be used only of Italian writing, and that the old careless practice of applying it to any kind of pre-Carolingian minuscule, whether written in France or Switzerland or elsewhere, should be given up. But the truth is that we still lack a precise nomenclature for Latin scripts. And why? Because we lack full knowledge of their varieties. Even so well-known a term as 'Half-uncial' is of uncertain connotation, because the limits between it and, on

one side, 'uncial,' on another side, that script of St. Gall 1395 (frag. 1), which the St. Gall Catalogue calls 'Römische Minuskel des VI Jh.,' have never been clearly drawn. Nor has Anglo-Saxon script been definitely marked off from Irish. And although Beneventan script, the script of South Italy, has characteristic features which make it unmistakable, the script of North and Central Italy is still a *terra incognita* to Manuals of Palaeography. They are silent on those peculiar forms of *g*, of *ti*, of *ss*, or those peculiar abbreviations of 'eius,' 'misericordia,' 'noster,' which enable us to locate an Italian MS. of the eighth or ninth centuries. Visigothic script, too, is still insufficiently known. The French catalogue of the Autun MSS. describes the Visigothic minuscule of No. 27 as 'cursive méro-

vingienne.' The German catalogue of the Trèves MSS. describes the ordinary Caroline minuscule of No. 170 as 'Visigotisch.' And even in our New Palaeographical Society's Publications the Visigothic minuscule of the Manchester Smaragdus is called 'pre-Caroline minuscule of the Visigothic species' (or 'of Visigothic type').

Dr. Loew's book on Beneventan script will soon be in our hands. There is some prospect of its being followed by a book on Visigothic. When each variety of script has received in this fashion a special treatment, Latin Palaeography will at last achieve that 'sharpening of her weapons' for which Traube called.

W. M. LINDSAY.

St. Andrews, N.B.

GREEK ATHLETIC SPORTS AND FESTIVALS.

Greek Athletic Sports and Festivals. By E. NORMAN GARDINER. I vol. 8" x 5". Pp. xxiv+533. Illustrations, 190 in text. London: Macmillan and Co., 1910. 10s. 6d.

MR. NORMAN GARDINER, whose study of Greek athletics has already been much appreciated by readers of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, has in this volume amplified and elaborated his theme, and the result is a book which will be accepted by most classical scholars as an authoritative exposition of the subject.

Himself an athlete of some repute, the author brings to the consideration of ancient athletics an enthusiasm which would necessarily be lacking in one who was simply a student. All through the book, particularly in the chapters describing the various sports, we find him trying to fathom the how, why, and wherefore of everything; consequently his conclusions, whether on gymnastic or historical points, being based as far as possible upon personal observation or experiment, carry more conviction than if they were colourless reproductions of the investigations of others.

His claim that he has included in this book more of the subject than has

ever been treated in a single volume before, seems justified. The first part, which I understand is wholly new, consists of a history of Greek athletics and of the accompanying festivals from the earliest times—he begins with the games of Patroclus—down to the end of the fourth century A.D. The story of the development of these meetings, from the time when they were instituted as a practical help towards the more efficient bearing of arms until they degenerated into sterile professionalism, is well and clearly told, and the author is ever ready to apply his reading of history to the downward trend of present-day athleticism—and not without reason. The Olympic festival is given a complete chapter to itself, while the Pythian, Isthmian, and Nemean are treated together. Athens deserves, and receives, separate consideration, and there is also a chapter on Roman athletics.

Probably the second part, in which the various gymnastic sports and exercises are analysed and explained in detail, will prove the more interesting to the general reader. As the long-forgotten throwing of the diskos has been revived and reconstructed in our modern Olympic festivals, it is interesting to