

MARIA CHIARA SCAPPATICCIO, *"Fabellae". Frammenti di Favole Latine e Bilingui Latino-Greche di Tradizione Diretta III-IV d. C.*, Untersuchungen zur antiken Literatur und Geschichte, Bd 128, Berlin-Boston: De Gruyter, 2017, € 79.95, ISBN 978-3-11-056531-7

This beautiful Italian book is tripartite¹: 1 Praefatio – La Teoria 5-40; 2 Corpus – la Pratica 41-188; 3 Epilogus – Prospettive 189-226.

The first part treats mainly Latin and some Greek testimonies on the theory of the genre: Quintilian, Phaedrus, Seneca, Apuleius, Ausonius, Priscian, and Isidore in Latin, as well as Theon, Hermogenes, and Aphthonius in Greek. The author gives accurate and clear descriptions of notorious problems, such as the identification of Iulius Titianus mentioned by Ausonius, and the sources, Phaedrus and Babrius.

The second (and main) part of the book is a meticulous discussion, and fresh edition, of a "Corpus" of Latin and bilingual Graeco-Latin fables transmitted on papyri: *P.Oxy.* XI 1404 (*de cane*: the dog and the meat), *P.Mich.* VII 457 & *P.Yale* II 104 (*de hirundine et ceteris avibus*: the swallow and the other birds), *P.Amh.* II 26 (three fables: *de fele et gallo*, *de anicula et lupo*, *de vulpe ignifera*: the cat and the rooster, the old woman and the wolf, and the fox catching fire) and *PSI* VII 848 (*de tauro*, *de homine et leone*: the bull, the man, and the lion). This "Corpus" of the above 4 testimonies is accompanied by exemplary editions, *apparatus critici*, and comparisons of the other versions of the same fables by Phaedrus, Babrius, *fabulae Aesopicae*, and *Romulus*. Attention is also paid to the bilingual *Hermeneumata Pseudodositheana* (18 fables; no edition), 207, and *P.Köln* II 64 (two fables: the bitch and her young; the ram and the ape).

¹ Not counting the Prolegomena (beginning poetically with "C'era una volta Esopo", well identified as a "philosopher"), elaborate "Riferimenti bibliografici" (227-237) and helpful "Indice dei passi citati" (238-253), and "Indice di iscrizioni, papiri e manoscritti citati" (254-255).

The third – and final – part of the book focuses on the use of the fables by the *grammaticus* (and *rhetor*) in teaching Latin as second-language acquisition (L2) to hellenophone pupils in the *pars Orientis* of the Roman Empire. The grammatical treatment of animal names is discussed and comparison with Greek and Latin *Physiologus*. The book is well documented.²

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² Especially: P. Fernández Delgado, “The Fable in School Papyri” in J. Frösén, T. Porula, E. Salmenskiivi, *Proceedings of the 24th International Congress of Papyrology (Helsinki, 1-7 August 2004)*, Helsinki 2007, 321-30; F. Rodríguez Adrados, “Nuevos testimonios papiáceos de fábulas esópicas”, *Emerita* 69, 1999, 1-11 (also in: *De Esopo al Lazarillo*, Huelva 2005, 675-84); E. Dickey, *The Colloquia of the Hermeneumata Pseudodositheana*, I-II, Cambridge 2012-2015; as well as a previous study of the author in 2016 (“Aesopi abellas narrare condiscant: les papyrus, les Hermeneumata et l'apprentissage du latin dans l'Orient grec”), *RHT* 11, 2016, 1-36.