Book 11 he says that one way the poet achieves this is by having several Greek heroes get wounded and retire from the action. He also analyses how individual books are constructed: he has a good discussion of the tragic characteristics of the plot of Book 16.

It could be rather unwieldy to comment on three translations: J.'s method is to take his comment lemma from Rieu-Jones 'where the translations are so similar as to require no differentiation', but where the translations differ he generally cites all three versions. Sometimes he comments on the translations, stating which he finds preferable, or criticizing a particular translation. For instance, on 9.197 he (I think rightly) comments on Lattimore's 'greatly I need you' that 'Achilles would never say that!' and prefers the other two translations. The comments range from explanations of names and places to discussions of well-known problems like the duals in Book 9 (on 9.182), and analyses of typical scenes and narrative patterns. J. is good on the latter. Some (almost) random examples: 2.28—the repetition of messages in oral poetry; 5.1—the typical pattern of a heroic *aristeia*; 8.470—how Homer uses Zeus to reveal the future piece by piece; 9.182-224—on patterns of welcome and hospitality scenes.

J.'s wide knowledge of the *Iliad* and of modern literature on it is evident throughout the book. As I have said, he is especially good on the plot and narrative techniques of the poem, and conventions of Homeric storytelling. Throughout the commentary he lists the works he has used most for each book, and has a broader bibliography at the end. There is also a useful index, which lists all the passages where there are comments on a character or topic. All in all, this is a helpful, readable and reliable guide to the *Iliad*, and should be useful for anyone who is teaching or studying Homer in translation.

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ILIAD II

J. LATACZ (ed.): *Homers* Ilias*: Gesamtkommentar. II. Book 2, fasc. 1. Text und Übersetzung; fasc. 2. Kommentar.* Pp. xviii + 57, xv + 346. Munich and Leipzig: K. G. Saur, 2003. Cased, €98. ISBN: 3-598-74305-X, 3-598-74306-8.

The first fruits of this great undertaking, consisting of *Prolegomena* and *Iliad, Book 1, 1. Text and Translation, 2. Commentary*, were published in 2000 (reviewed in *CR* 52 [2002], 229–31). Now we have Book 2 in the same double form. The commentary, even longer than that of Book 1, fills 288 pages (twice the size of Kirk's in the Cambridge commentary), and is followed by over fifty pages of bibliography, four of corrigenda to the previously published parts, and two maps inserted in the back cover.

What will concern many is the rate of future publication. At an earlier stage Professor Latacz left open the possibility that after an extensive beginning it might happen that future volumes would contain more than one book; but it now seems likely that they will continue to appear one by one till the end is reached. We are told that five more are to be published by 2009—not, as one might expect, Books 3–7, but 3, 6, 9, 19, and 24. The reason given for this is that these are books particularly required in school and university teaching. This somewhat worrying development must complicate the

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intention that repeated features are to be fully discussed at their first occurrence with later back-reference, and seems to postpone even further the date of final completion.

Much of the introductory material is repeated from the previous volumes, though there are small variations. The text naturally continues to be West's, from the Teubner edition (1998). He is a supremely confident editor. In the first fifty lines, his text differs from what we usually read at seven places, in two of them printing forms which most students would not recognize—4 πολὺς accusative masculine plural (Zenodotus), 38 εἴδη unaugmented form for ᾔδη past tense of οἶδα (Fick). In the Catalogue of Ships, he marks seven passages as spurious (525–6, 535, 547–51, 558, 674, 703, 742–4), in most cases not followed by the commentary.

In the translation, a modification is that common stock formulas are now hyphenated (*der Herr-der-Männer-Agamemnon, der Gerenische-Kampfwagenritter-Nestor*). This may well be a good idea, but it causes some loss of rhythm in the verse translation. As to the commentary, the first half is the work of the team, but the two catalogues have been handed over to the specialist Edzard Visser (see below). An unexpected feature is that, of the four sections of commentary demarked by size of print or position on the page, the promised 'Petit-Druck' devoted to technical matters of Homeric scholarship does not appear in this volume at all.

Edzard Visser has made two major contributions to Homeric scholarship. His doctoral thesis was on *Homerische Versifikationstechnik* (Frankfurt, 1987), with an English summary in *WJb* 14 (1988), 21–37. In it he argued, against the Parry view of formulaic building blocks, for the composition of lines by the primary locating of semantically functional words ('determinants'), the line then being filled out with appropriate 'variables'. He reached this conclusion because he concentrated on the frequent lines that record the killing of one warrior by another, and observed there the practice of having precisely two determinants (the two names), the rest of the lines being made up of 'variables', particles, epithets, and, of course, the word for 'killed', for which a large set of alternative metrical forms was available.

His second contribution was *Homers Katalog der Schiffe* (Stuttgart and Leipzig, 1997), his *Habilitationsschrift* at the University of Basel, nearly 800 pages long, containing already an elaborate commentary on 2.494–759. This is naturally the basis for the commentary on both catalogues included here. His view on the much discussed and perennially fascinating Catalogue of Ships is that it was composed by the Iliad poet (the language is not different from that of the rest of the *Iliad*), but using geographical information, particularly the names of towns, which had been poetically preserved, many of them from the Mycenaean age. The poet has contributed personal and mythological information, the names of heroes, and their place in the story. Other recent commentators, including Kirk, who is particularly focused on this section, and Hope-Simpson and Lazenby (1970), have concentrated pretty exclusively on the geography, caring less about the characters.

A minor flaw is that in a very Germanic way he has elevated into a general rule what he discovered from the particular lines discussed in his work on *Versifikationstechnik*, i.e. that only two 'determinants' normally exist in a line; thus he argued in 1997 (esp. pp. 288–324) that when in the catalogue a line contains three place names, two are significant, the third merely metrically convenient. On pp. 151 and 263 here and in the notes on lines 497, 531, 582, 836, 855, though not in those on other lines, there are relics of this attempt at regulation.

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