

FRASSINETTI (P.) *Pagine sull'Octavia. Bibliografia dell'autore. A cura di Lucia Di Salvo*. Pp. 113. Genoa: Tilgher-Genova, 2012. Paper, €13.50. ISBN: 978-88-7903-185-1.

doi:10.1017/S0009840X14001097

This slim volume celebrates the 90th birthday of the Genoese scholar Paolo Frassinetti. L. Di Salvo (F.'s collaborator on critical editions of Sallust and the satirists Persius and Juvenal) re-publishes part of F.'s *La pretesta "Ottavia"* (1973), along with a bibliography of F.'s published works. The latter reflects an impressively varied lifetime's work, which starts with a still indispensable study of Atellan farce, ranges from Pindar to Demetrius Cydones, encompasses republican, imperial and late Latin texts, and includes critical editions of Ennius, Lucretius, Apuleius and Tertullian. F. is particularly interested in fragments and the reconstruction of lost texts, in questions of authorship and authenticity, and in textual criticism, particularly of 'minor' texts.

It is then fitting, as Di Salvo points out, to reprint F.'s now hard-to-find "*Ottavia*". Selecting this work as particularly representative of his interpretative methods, Di Salvo republishes pp. 101–59 of the original volume. These chapters tackle the relationship of the *fabula praetexta* with Tacitus; the author's fusion of literary and historical models; anachronisms and allusions to historical events; *Octavia's* Senecan allusive flavour, as well as divergences from Senecan philosophical thought; remarks on *Octavia's* language, style and metre. Concluding remarks sum up the thrust of the previous chapters – the *Octavia* is clearly not by Seneca – and flesh out this position, rehearsing arguments about possible authorship and dating. F. argues in the end for composition in the period immediately following Nero's death, written by an author, who if not Curiatus Maternus, at least shares the same kind of ideological sensibility. To this work Di Salvo adds a brief postscript incorporating the results of later work from F. on *Octavia*, and pointing to major work on these issues since 1973.

St Andrews University

EMMA BUCKLEY
eb221@st-andrews.ac.uk

PALUMBO (S.) (ed., trans.) *Ambrogio di Milano: De Nabuthae historia*. (Biblioteca della Tradizione Classica 3.) Pp. 365. Bari: Cacucci Editore, 2012. Paper, €40. ISBN: 978-88-6611-181-8.

doi:10.1017/S0009840X14001097

The Old Testament story of Naboth (1 Kings 21) is that of an innocent smallholder unjustly executed by the wicked rulers Ahab and Jezebel for the sake of expropriating his paltry plot of land. This rather obscure episode is part of the ongoing struggle between Ahab and the Jewish prophets, in which the king emerges as a weak but well-meaning figure, too easily influenced by the wicked Jezebel, but honest enough to show some remorse. Naboth himself remains mostly offstage, but his brief and unfortunate brush with the authorities offered Ambrose of Milan the opportunity for a short, sharp treatise on poverty and wealth. His *De Nabuthae historia* thus reaches us as something between a sermon and a pamphlet, patiently interpreting the story of Naboth and drawing out its lessons for his contemporary audience. P.'s edition provides a text – that established by Schenkl in the CSEL series, and revised by F. Gori in 1985 – with Italian translation, plus an introduction and an extensive commentary.