

REVIEWS

Schoder, Raymond V.: **The Art and Challenge of Translation**. Oak Park, Illinois: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers 1987. 107 + viii pp.; no price.

Raymond V. Schoder, S.J. (1916-1987), was a Classics scholar who taught for twenty-five years at Loyola University, Chicago. He was asked by the New American Bible Translation Committee to translate Galatians and Philippians. Because of "editorial disagreements" (as the publisher informs us) Schoder withdrew his translation of the two books, which is here presented together with a "total metrical correspondence" translation of nine fragments of Sappho's poetry, and a rendering into "the language of Marcus Tullius Cicero" of John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address.

The translation of the two Letters of Paul is accompanied by the Greek text (UBS 3rd edition, corrected) on the facing (left-hand) page. There are forty-seven Explanatory Notes for Philippians and 135 for Galatians: most of them are exegetical and expository; a few are textual. The translation is competently done, but the frequent use of male-oriented terms in English, where the Greek text is not exclusive (see, for example, Gal 1.10, 3.10, 11, 13, 6.7), seems to show that the translation was done quite a number of years ago and no changes were made when it was published. In Gal 1.2 "all my brethren" is used, and a note explains that "brethren. . .includes all fellow-believers in Christ, male or female." A two-page Foreword offers a brief, and unexceptionable, statement about the translator's task—hardly enough to justify the title *The Art and Challenge of Translation*.

The publisher included *Paul Wrote from the Heart*, which has the subtitle "Philippians Galatians In Straightforward English". Issued by the same publisher, and with the same date, this book is identical (even the same pagination) with the Philippians and Galatians portion of the other book. The three-page Preface offers a more adequate statement about the translator's task.

R.G. BRATCHER

Bruce, F.F., **The Book of the Acts** (The New International Commentary on the New Testament) Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans 1988. xxiii + 541 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0-8028-2418-8. (Distributed in the UK by The Paternoster Press, Exeter, at 19.50).

It is no easy matter for an author to rewrite and update a book published thirty-four years previously, yet F.F. Bruce has been active in his retirement to revise not only this volume but also his commentary on

the Greek text of Acts and that part of the NICNT volume which includes his work on Colossians. The original volume on Acts has occupied a valuable place as the major work on Acts by an English-writing scholar throughout this period. It is characterised by being a readable exposition of the text which explains the narrative clearly (not without some contemporary application) in the main body and which deals with major matters of text and other technicalities in footnotes. It is not a critical commentary in the sense of entering into extensive discussion of rival interpretations, especially those which take a less positive view of the historical value of the narrative, although the discerning reader will discover plenty of useful hints and allusions on such matters. Nor again is it a theological commentary, in which the theology of the author is explicated in detail.

The present revision is essentially conservative, and the general character of the volume has not been altered. Much indeed is naturally reproduced unchanged—there is no point in change where work has stood the test of time—but at numerous points account is taken of more recent contributions to Acts scholarship and of changes of mind by the commentator. There is no ongoing *Auseinandersetzung* with commentators like Haenchen and Conzelmann who adopt a very different view of the nature of Acts. We get the occasional direct comment on issues like the influential attempt of G. Lüdemann to redate Paul's first visit to Corinth ('a conclusion to be accepted only if the evidence for it were singularly compelling (which it is not)'). But for the most part Bruce is content to let readers compare the two kinds of exposition and judge which does better justice to the text.

For the readers of this journal the most important change is that, whereas in the original volume, the English text printed was that of the American Standard Version of 1901 (the North American equivalent to the English Revised Version), the author now offers his own fresh translation of the text. This is in accordance with the new editorial (i.e. Bruce's) policy for the series. The sectional divisions of Acts have been somewhat modified.

As regards the author's understanding of Acts, perhaps the most significant shift is that, whereas earlier Bruce found 'a reasonable life-setting for the work' shortly before the persecution of AD 64, in this edition he has come down in favour of the dating 'about A.D. 80' proposed by W.M. Ramsay. On other key issues his general views remain unchanged, especially as regards the understanding of Acts 15 as witnessing to a meeting in Jerusalem subsequent to that reported in Galatians 2.1-10 and indeed to the writing of Galatians itself. However he now suggests that there is reason to doubt whether 16.4 is a genuine part of the text of Acts. The 'two years' of Paul's imprisonment in Rome are now explained in terms of the congestion of court business rather than (as previously) as the time within which the prosecution must present its case before it lapsed by default. Nor is Bruce now so sure that Paul was released after the two-year period.

These few remarks show that the general understanding of Acts remains unaltered, but there are some changes of opinion and a greater hesitation to declare a verdict on controversial issues. Thus updated, the commentary will continue to fulfil its function for many years to come; it still has no rival in what it seeks to do.

I. HOWARD MARSHALL

Peter Newmark, **A Textbook of Translation**. New York and London: Prentice Hall International 1988.

Peter Newmark's new book is perhaps the first major textbook written especially for professional or technical students of translation in various academic institutions offering translation courses. It differs in this way from Dr. Nida's texts which are aimed primarily for translators of the Bible or sacred literature. This textbook is a successor to Newmark's *Approaches to Translation*, of which Newmark says "it is in many respects an expansion as well as a revision". It is clearly very detailed and extensive, covering more topics and aspects of translation theory than are usually covered in related texts. Its 292 pages include twenty chapters varying from "The Analysis of the Text," "The Process of Translation," "Language Functions, Text Categories and Text-Types," "Translation Methods," "The Unit of Translation and Discourse Analysis," "Literal Translation," "Other Translation Procedures," to "The Use of Componential Analysis in Translation," "The Application of Case Grammar to Translation," "Translation of Neologisms," "Technical Translation," "Translation of Serious Literature and Authoritative Statements," "Reference Books and their uses," "Translation Criticism," etc.

These form Part I of the book and are concerned with a discussion of principles of translation. Part II of the book deals with methods of translation and consists mainly of a review of thirteen texts for translation criticism. These are however limited to English, French and German. This section is valuable and useful for those who work in those languages and is of little help to those without knowledge of them.

Newmark's purpose in writing this textbook was "to offer a course in translation principles and methodology for final-year degree and postgraduate classes as well as for auto-didacts and homelearners" (p. 3). He claims to address non-English as well as English students but his examples and experience seem to be limited to three European languages, namely English, French and German. The text is therefore for this reason of special value to speakers of those European languages and perhaps also of related European languages. Its value to non-European languages is somewhat limited. A translator working in non-European languages