

storiologists. If there are any parts of the book which call for particular commendation it is the treatment of the *Cent Nouvelles* and the *Nouvelles de Sens*. In the one case the characteristics of the author's methods and style, with the multiple chances of variety, are brought out most strikingly, especially in the comparison of the French work with the *Decamerone*. In the other case the author has held the just balance between the over-enthusiastic tone of Vossler, natural, perhaps, in the first discussion of the work as a whole, and the curt tone of censure, with which Langlois judges it in his edition in his *Nouvelles françaises inédites du XV^e siècle*. The chapter on the *Arrests d'Amour* is welcome as it is unexpected particularly because the work of Martial d'Auvergne is not accessible in modern reprints as are the other works discussed. Taken as a whole the book adds a new chapter to literary history, on a subject which has been hitherto dismissed with a summary judgment, stated in vague generalities. For its merits, both of scholarship and of criticism, it at once keeps up the standard, and adds to the reputation of the collection of which it forms a part, the Bibliothèque du XV^e siècle, due to the enterprise, perspicacity and patriotism of its publisher.

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Gli studi provenzali in Italia nel Cinquecento, di Santorre Debenedetti. Torino, Loescher, 1911, in 8vo., pp. 304.

Although Mussafia, Rajna, Crescini and De Lollis have made special contributions to the history of Provençal studies in Italy, there has been hitherto no work, analytic and synthetic at the same time, elucidating the thousand details of this theme, arranging them, estimating them for their individual worth, and putting them into relation with the culture of the age. There was lacking above all a good history of the Provençal MSS. of Italy, dealing with that century when they were collected and preserved with such a great solicitude. This is the subject dealt with by Debenedetti in this volume.

After showing the deep interest aroused by Provençal literature in Italy in the early centuries, the author passes to an *Introduction* of the scholars, who in the sixteenth century renewed these studies. Pietro Bembo is characterised as a keen observer of the linguistic phenomena; then comes Colocci, to whom the A. dedicates several pages full of important information: he stands out as one of the most genial minds among these philologists. Equicola and Vellutello are also studied in their relation to one another; and a new light is thrown upon the characteristic figure of Onorato Drago. The A. passes then in review Barbieri and Castelvetro, scrupulous scholars both, Beccadelli and Giganti, Jacopo Corbinelli, the impenitent forger Jean de Nostre-Dame, Gianvincenzo Pinelli, Fulvio Orsini, Pietro di Simon del Nero.

The first part deals particularly with the philological studies of these scholars of the sixteenth century. In spite of the scarce number of grammars and dictionaries, we may observe how deeply these keen and quick minds succeeded in commanding the Provençal language. Drago's phonetical studies are minutely analyzed, and the evidence given by Bembo, in his *Prose*, by Barbieri, Giganti, Beccadelli and Varchi, undergoes a careful examination, which sifts the elements derived from other authors from the original ideas of the penetrating minds of

these writers, in whom abundance of learning is combined with a marvellous erudition. Hence we pass on to the indices, copies, collations and attempts at text emendation, to which work Giganti, Del Nero and Pinelli contributed. The glosses of Bembo and Colocci are examined in order to define more and more the goal they were aiming at, and thus through them we can know with certainty what the critical ideals of these scholars were.

The translations from Provençal, numerous and in great part still unpublished, open to the author a magnificent field of study. Beginning with those of Chariteo, Casassagia, and Equicola, passing then to analyze the various interpretations and readings given to the various Provençal lines contained in the *Divina Commedia*, then to the versions of Colocci, the A. arrives, always with the same critical insight and rigid method, at Doni and Bembo, without overlooking Castelvetro's translations and Varchi's studies on this subject.

The second part of the volume examines the comparative studies of Provençal and Italian. First of all, it studies the concept that these scholars had of the language of Provence; then it deals with the name given to this language. Bembo's theory offers the A. an opportunity of showing his deep acquaintance with the general culture of the sixteenth century. The examination of Castelvetro's etymological dictionary of the *Novellino*, a work hitherto considered lost, shows the relation between the researches of Bembo and those of Castelvetro; and availing himself of the knowledge gained in contemporary writers, the author is enabled to study in full the MSS. and printed works, and so succeeds in demonstrating the mode of criticism in vogue in the sixteenth century. Peculiar interest attaches to Chapter II, which shows the relation between Provençal and Italian metres, and deals with the origin of verse and rhyme. The notes by Colocci and Bembo, the materials by Veniero, are carefully analyzed. Ciro Spontone's theories are clearly stated; the opinions of Trissino and Giambullari are considered in their various aspects, and the various hypotheses are discussed with discrimination and insight. In Chapter III the troubadours are treated as they appeared to the minds of the sixteenth century. Petrarch's *Canzoniere*, the remarks of Vellutello and the observations of other commentators, together with many sources hitherto unnoticed, throw their light on the discussion. Especially interesting are the pages dedicated to Jean de Nostredame, whose derivations from Petrarch are not less certain than quaint.

The third part consists of contributions to the external history of the Provençal MSS. The author restores with much novelty of results, the MSS. belonging to Bembo, Colocci, Equicola, Vellutello, Beccadelli, Barbieri, Veniero, Castelvetro and Fulvio Orsini. An interesting collection of documents, even yet partly unpublished, closes the volume; there are letters from Pietro Summonte to Angelo Colocci, Casassagia to the same, others from Marquis Francesco Gonzaga to Trissino, from Bembo to Tebaldeo, from Corbinelli to Pinelli. The collations of Pietro Bembo are here published faithfully and completely for the first time. Casassagia's translations and Bembo's indices, offer, as does the whole work, not only an historical interest, but also a valuable contribution to modern studies of Provençal literature. Unless a whole series of new documents comes to light (for which however we must not cherish illusions, when we think that the author has completed researches through the MSS. of Rome, Florence, Parma, Bologna, Milan and Paris), the work may be considered as definitive.

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