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Elegiarum libri tres (review)

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(Review)

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printing sometimes missing. The final bibliography is rich, but is divided into so many subsections that it takes a lot of time to find the complete references to the books mentioned. Despite these flaws, this book gives precise and new information about Estienne's reading of Seneca, and enriches our reading of the early modern period in various fields such as the history of philosophy, the history of rhetoric, and the knowledge of European humanist circles.

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Johannes Secundus. *Elegiarum libri tres*.

Ed. Roland Guillot. Volume 2 of *Œuvres complètes*. Textes de la Renaissance 99. Paris: Honoré Champion Éditeur, 2005. 500 pp. + 8 b/w pls. index. illus. tpls. bibl. €84. ISBN: 2-7453-1322-3.

The second of the five volumes of the complete works of Johannes Secundus in Roland Guillot's edition is dedicated to the three books of *Elegies*, originally included in the 1541 Utrecht edition of the Dutchman's poetic works which his brothers, Grudius and Marius, saw through the press. In some ways, Guillot's edition of the *Elegies* is more successful than his edition of the *Basia*. Without the weight of the latter's *Nachleben* to burden him, he treats this collection in a more balanced way, and the introduction offers a generally informative view of the collection. After considering the importance of the elegy in Renaissance Latin works, the editor goes on to analyze the arrangement of the individual poems in the collection, assess Secundus's elegiac style and the sources which he drew on, and finish with a word on his humor.

As in the first volume, the Latin text is accompanied by a largely accurate French translation, though once again greater care could have been taken when reproducing the Latin. Just to give a few examples from the opening poems, *quam* appears as "quem" in Elegy 1.1, line 4, *stringentem* as "strigentem" (Elegy 1.2, line 33), and in Elegy 1.4 we find "repto" instead of *reperito* in line 3, and the long *s* has been reproduced as an *f* in line 7 ("fit" instead of *sit*), even though the text has been translated as if it were *sit* ("Mais que cette loi s'applique aussi à toi"). Clearly, this kind of carelessness militates against this text's ever being considered seriously as an authoritative one. It also suffers, as in the first volume, from having been set out with little regard to elegance: blank pages again abound, and far greater care could have been taken over the typographical layout.

Nevertheless, the notes which accompany the text are for the most part helpful, providing useful background details about how the elegies relate to the poet's life and on the identity of the various people mentioned by the poet, as well as offering a host of possible sources for individual expressions, perhaps at times a little indiscriminately. On the other hand, there is no real comment on aspects of versification, such as the unusual spondaic fifth foot in Elegy 1.2.81, "Quid juvat Assyrii in odoribus elanguentem," and despite the generally full references to modern critical sources, there is one surprising omission, the first volume of

Les Cahiers de l'humanisme (printed in 2000), entirely devoted to Secundus and in which the editor himself has an article. A number of the papers in this collection, including those of Michel Jourde and Perrine Galand Hallyn, might have been cited in the notes with profit. As in the first volume, the index fails to give page numbers, and the "Errata du Tome I," covering as they do errors on only five pages of that edition, are far from complete.

Once again, then, this is very much a curate's egg of an edition, and at 84 euros is far from being a bargain.

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Martine Julia van Ittersum. *Profit and Principle: Hugo Grotius, Natural Rights Theories and the Rise of Dutch Power in the East Indies 1595–1615*.

Brill's Studies in Intellectual History 139. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2006. x + 538 pp. index. illus. map. bibl. \$199. ISBN: 90-04-14979-1.

Profit and Principle is an interesting accomplishment in (at least) two ways. It first is an excellent study of the juridical, political, and diplomatic activities of a single Dutch jurist: Hugo Grotius. At the same time, it presents the reader with a comprehensive and detailed study of the many (legal) internal and external implications of the sudden rise of the young Dutch Republic as one of Europe's economic, military, and diplomatic powers. Van Ittersum accomplished both effects by analyzing Grotius's printed works and unpublished papers and manuscripts, as well as an admirable variety of other Iberian, English, French, and Dutch sources. Consequently, she successfully demonstrates how the printing of Grotius's tract on free trade — *Mare Librum*, taken from his extensive unpublished tract *De Jure Praedae* (*On the Law of Prize and Booty*) — was entirely part of his engagement as the most successful legal advisor of the Dutch East Indies Company (VOC) in the first two decades of the seventeenth century.

Van Ittersum shows how Grotius's involvement in the national and international maneuvers of the VOC was built on current legal issues and how he based his arguments on natural rights theories as well as events reported in correspondences, diaries, reports, and legal verdicts. Van Ittersum analysis of Grotius's activities for the VOC makes apparent how important the role of learned jurists was in streamlining occasional arguments from day-to-day trade, warfare, and legal practice and fitting them into international legal thought. Arguments arisen in practice thus acquired solid intellectual underpinning and became suitable for the justification of VOC policies for the Dutch public, in legal proceedings, in diplomatic missions, and in economic and political negotiations. These legal exercises also helped the VOC (and Dutch political institutions) to conceive consistent and rational strategies on national and international levels.

Grotius became involved in justifying the VOC's role in warfare against Iberian interests when the new company was pioneering the East Indies. This first