
Five years after the publication of part I (see review in Olifant 14.3-4 [Fall & Winter 1989]: 208-10), this volume, a good bit thicker than the (bound) very first volume, published 40 years previously, happily completes this exhaustive mise au jour.

A good place to begin—respice ad finem—is at the end, where we have a series of fine tables. The most immediately helpful is the long and detailed table of contents. Whereas Bossuat’s original table took but a page and a half and was perforce quite general, his successors have provided 36 nicely detailed pages for their two volumes. Indeed, these pages could well serve as a rapid introduction to the richness of the literature of ‘our’ six-plus centuries. For example, the listing of the *chansons de geste* in ancien français takes over two pages, with half a page given over to the Roland with its sub-headings and sub-sub-headings.

The table of contents is preceded by an *index nominum* of medieval authors and works and an *index nominum* of modern scholars. For each index, Bossuat’s original volume and its two short supplements are merged, with the third supplement given separately (because of differences in the treatment of proper nouns by Bossuat and by his successors).

A four and a half page listing of additions and corrections to part I of the third supplement is given (39 additions in all). Additions to Bossuat have been made all along (see Mathieu Paris’ *Vie de s. Alban* [pp. 585-586], where, of the 8 items, 2 are from the late 19th century, and another 3 precede the second supplement’s cut-off date).
In matters epic, Bossuat’s two chapters for Middle French, “Remaniements de la matière épique, I: Textes en vers; II, Mises en prose” (9 pp.: 379-387), had 70 entries (plus 19 in the two supplements) and treated 24 (+ 4) items, 6 of which simply by reference to the *chanson de geste* portion of the *ancien français* section. The new supplement keeps Bossuat’s numbering as chapters II-III of the second part, but under the one ‘original’ title, has four subdivisions:

- Continuations, Remaniements, Mises en prose des Chansons des XIIe et XIIe siècles;
- Développements de l’épopée française en Italie au XIVe siècle;
- Le Deuxième Cycle de la Croisade (a newly separate, and welcome, rubric);
- Survivances de l’écriture épique et récits nouveaux.

In all, 14 pages (687-700), 91 entries, 18 works. Compared (28/18; 89/91) with the figures for the earlier *chanson de geste* (1137/1314; see review of the first volume), one can note that the middle French epic has not enjoyed such a outpouring of attention. A comparison of the number of editions makes this even more evident. Bossuat lists 13 middle French editions (excluding the two First Crusade Cycle poems, which properly belong in the *ancien français* part); supplement 3 only lists 7. Certainly the length of many of these poems is discouraging to the reader and perhaps even more to the editor in quest of something wanting editing or reëditing. Such a project does not, of course, lend itself to a Ph.D. dissertation project - yet the very successful Kibler-Picherit (and Fenster for the linguistic part) *Lion de Bourges* was the result of two separate North Carolina dissertations, plus one at Texas. And the two longest parts of the Second Cycle of the Crusade will - one hopes, nay, one is confident - see the light of publication before I retire in 1999 — I refer, of course, to *Baudouin de Sébourc* and to Edmond Emplaincourt’s reëdition of the entire *Chevalier au Cygne et Godefroid de Bouillon*, using both MSS (viz., with the Lyons lyric caesura MS as well as the Brussels MS used by Reiffenberg). But *Theseus de Cologne* and *Charles le Chauve* (a.k.a. *Dieudonné de Hongrie*) are still wanting editors, necessarily tenured and comfortably ensconced so as to allow the requisite eight to twelve years’ task.
Certainly many other interesting comparisons and findings can and will be made in other corners of our sundry medieval French matières through a careful and leisurely perusal of these meticulously compiled and clearly and pleasantly printed volumes (Paillart at Abbeville, the printer for Romania and the SATF).

This is the place to correct a mathematical error in the earlier review, where I gave the price of volume I of the new supplement as “c. $110”; at 350 F, and with the dollar hovering at about 5.40 francs, that comes, rather, to c. $65. The two volumes together, 800 F, come to c. $150, which, all things considered, is quite a bargain.

It would be comforting to know if the next supplement (and/or complete refonte – see the earlier review) is even now being compiled, and who is doing it. But for now — and for a long while to come - we have our two magisterial bibliographers to thank. Ils ont bien mérité de la profession.