III. PROVENÇAL STUDIES

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I. General

Another relatively quiet year in our field. Major works are few; the modest amount of published work has been generally interesting, but sound rather than exciting.


Among the limited number of articles dealing with the historical background I found the following of general interest: Ramon d’Abadal i de Vinyals, ‘À propos de la “domination” de la maison comtale de Barcelone sur le Midi français’, AMid, lxxvi, 1964, 315–45, a compact survey of the relations of Barcelona with the petty fiefs of SW France in the 11th and 12th centuries (Carcassonne, Narbonne, Cerdagne, Béziers, Foix) but with several mis-prints of dates (pp. 335, 341); Ph. Wolff, ‘Une ville pyrénéenne au XIIIe siècle: l’exemple de Foix’, AMid, lxxvii, 137–55, a useful résumé; A. R. Lewis, ‘La féodalité dans le Toulousain et la France méridionale (850–1050)’, AMid, lxxvi, 1964, 247–59, rather general; L. Kukenheim Ezn, ‘Originalité des communautés juives en Provence’, RLLO, 12/13, 152–9, a short survey of a subject which merits more detailed attention.

I should have noted earlier that RLLP changed its title in 1963 to RLLO. One number, a double one (12/13), of this review appeared in 1965 and the articles are discussed below.

2. Medieval Period

There have been a number of thoughtful articles on general subjects. I enjoyed S. M. Stern, ‘Esistono dei rapporti letterari
tra il mondo islamico e l’Europa occidentale nell’alto Medio Evo?, L’Occidente e l’Islam nell’alto Medioevo (Settimane di studio del Centro italiano di studi sull’alto Medioevo; 2-8 aprile 1964), Spoleto, 639-66 (discussion 811-31), a judicious review typical of Dr Stern’s admirably balanced outlook. G. d’Heur, ‘Une tavola sconosciuta del canzoniere provenzale A’, CN, xxiv, 1964, 55-94, publishes, with cross references to the index of MS. A, to Pakscher and de Lollis (Studi di Filologia Romanza, iii, 1891), and Pillet-Carstens (Bibl.d.T.), a list of poems (614 entries) in alphabetical order of first lines, found in a MS. miscellany Cod. 4820 fond. lat. of the Bibl. Apostolica Vaticana. RLLO, 12/13, contains a number of well-written studies. Mrs D. R. Sutherland writes with her customary elegance on ‘L’élément théâtral dans la canso chez les troubadours de l’époque classique’, 95-101, but, although I am on record as believing that the art of the troubadours is a social and public one in which their reputation depends on their dexterity, musical skill, and ability to create an individual and immediate impression, I am not sure that a detailed analysis would fully support Mrs Sutherland’s general thesis; A. Sakari, ‘Le thème de l’amour du ric one au début de la poésie provençale’, 88-94, shows that the idea of the malvatz rics, with their various faults and their doubtful qualities as lovers, is already a theme in various forms before the tenzo between Giraut de Bornelh and the King of Aragon (P.C. 242.22) sharply defined the question; A. R. Press, ‘La strophe printanière chez les troubadours et chez les poètes latins du moyen âge’, 70-8, is a thoughtful general article, but I think the comparative approach could be more fully developed; J. Mouzat, ‘La Cort de Leiats Amadors et le Dreit d’Amor de Gaucelm Faidit; leur rapport possible avec les Cours d’Amour, et leur légende’, 64-9, is suggestive but the emphasis should perhaps be on ‘possible’ (cf. article by P. Rémy, RUB, 1955, 1-9); J. H. Marshall, ‘Le Vers au XIIe siècle; genre poétique?’, 55-63, is an excellent and well-reasoned study; G. Folena, ‘Dante et les troubadours’, 21-34, re-examines an old question intelligently and with a good deal of perception; D. Evans, ‘Les oiseaux dans la poésie des troubadours’, 13-20, offers a pleasing general survey; P. Aimes, ‘Les Senhals’, 5-7, although short, offers the interesting suggestion that the senhals are not necessarily ‘noms de fantaisie’