

poet for those who already have some deep knowledge and appreciation of that impressive Theban poet.

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**John Herington**, *Aeschylus*. Hermes Books. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1986. Pp. ix+191. Cloth \$ 25.00. Paper \$ 7.95.

**James C. Hogan**. *A Commentary on the Complete Greek Tragedies: Aeschylus*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1984. Pp. ix+332. Cloth. \$ 23.00. Paper \$ 6.95.

Both books reviewed here are described as commentaries but they are radically different kinds of commentaries. John Herington's book is a literature introduction to the study of Aeschylus presented in a very literary way; James Hogan's book is a line-by-line commentary on the University of Chicago translations of Aeschylus in the *Complete Greek Tragedies* series. Both books are aimed at the interested general student of Greek drama who is most likely to confront Aeschylus primarily, if not exclusively, in English translation.

John Herington of Yale University is general editor of the Hermes Books series, which is intended to communicate to the non-specialist the beauty and the relevance of Greek and Latin literary masterpieces. Two other volumes have already appeared in this series: *Homer*, by Paolo Vivante, and *Pindar*, by D. S. Carne-Ross, both in 1985. In the words of the editor, who is also the author of *Aeschylus*, «The first, middle, and last goal of the Hermes series is to guide the general reader to a dialogue with classical masters rather than to acquaint him or her with the present state of scholarly research. Thus our volumes contain few or no footnotes; even within the texts, references to secondary literature are kept to a minimum. At the end of each volume, however, is a short bibliography that includes recommended English translations, and selected literary criticism, as well as historical and (when appropriate) biographical studies» (p. viii).

Professor Herington has adhered well to his own guidelines. The two main parts of his book are devoted to the «Background to Aeschylus' Work» and to «The Poetic Dramas» themselves. Herington concentrates on what he calls «the world-vision» of Aeschylus, as that vision comes across in the extant plays. In Aeschylus we see a universe in which everything matters and everything interacts and in which humanity exercises considerable power, and yet the human being cannot be viewed apart from the universe of which he is inextricably a part. Herington stresses that «Aeschylean drama... is occupied with the interaction of all the forces that make up our world, all between the dome of heaven and the recesses of hell. Humanity is but one of these forces; of the non-human, some are introduced into the plot by sheer force

