

Part of the excellence of this book is the cohesion, ease, and evenhandedness with which the numerous differences of detail found among these four, fundamentally similar, verse traditions are sorted out. Russom is intimately familiar with all four. Chapter 12 provides a beautifully concise summary of the differences between them, as projected by his word-foot theory applied to them all.

I earlier asked, in different words, Does an explicit theory that explains how the great variety of feet in early Germanic meters could come about (answer: a foot equals any existing word-stress pattern) also explain why you cannot tap your feet to this meter? Russom thinks it does. I think it would only if a much higher percentage of verses were syllabic-trochaic. In *Beowulf* the figure is around 40 percent, and of course those are the verses most commonly cited to exemplify the notable virtues of this verse form. In continental West Germanic the figure is hopelessly far below 40 percent, such that trochees can hardly be isolated as more typical than any other foot type. In Old Norse the figure is significantly higher, and the number of foot-tappable verses is correspondingly higher.

Russom's book is a splendid contribution to our understanding of early Germanic metrical systems and the linguistic rationale for them. That he leaves some questions unanswered, and that he raises a wide range of new ones, is not the least of its virtues.

ROBERT STOCKWELL, University of California, Los Angeles

FRANCESCO SENATORE, ed., *Dispacci sforzeschi da Napoli, 1: 1444–2 luglio 1458*. Preface by Mario Del Treppo. (Fonti per la Storia di Napoli Aragonese, 1.) Salerno: Carlone, for the Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, 1997. Paper. Pp. xxiv, 709; 3 black-and-white facsimiles. L 150,000.

In September 1943, as the Allies closed in on Naples, German troops torched the Aragonese archives. This senseless act of destruction has rendered the systematic study of fifteenth-century Naples immeasurably more difficult ever since. Those looking to write the history of Angevin and Aragonese Naples have had to employ, to borrow the military analogy coined by Basil Liddell Hart, the "indirect approach." While a sizable portion of the surviving fragments have been published in the Fonti Aragonesi series and in the *Regesto della cancelleria aragonese di Napoli* by Jole Mazzoleni, in recent decades scholars have also undertaken efforts to "re-create" the incinerated archives by gathering source material published before 1943 and by publishing corroborative material from archives outside of Naples. The series Fonti per la Storia di Napoli Aragonese, of which this volume is an installment, is part of that effort. It is also exemplary of recent efforts to publish fifteenth-century diplomatic correspondence, reflecting the growing recognition of how fruitful these sources are. In recent years the dispatches of Venetian ambassadors in Naples, Milanese ambassadors in France and Burgundy, and, most recently, Mantuan ambassadors in Milan have all been published. The ongoing publication of Lorenzo de' Medici's letters, the vast majority of them diplomatic in nature, must be considered in the same light. All this material is valuable not only for what it reveals about international relations at a time of great change in the practice of diplomacy. It also tells us much about court life, fashion, ritual, language, and any number of other areas of fifteenth-century life. And this recent spate of editions represents a minuscule percentage of the hoards of diplomatic correspondence that lie in the archives of Italy. It is not only, indeed not even primarily, diplomatic historians who should celebrate these publications. Cultural, social, and economic historians can all use diplomatic dispatches for their own purposes.

This is the first volume of a projected five-volume series of the diplomatic correspondence of Milanese ambassadors in Naples between 1444 and 1465. The current volume covers the first fifteen years of this period but is made up primarily of documents from after 1454,



when the creation of the Italian League led to a proliferation of resident ambassadors and systematized diplomatic representation. The volume's title is a little misleading: a good number of the letters are not Milanese documents at all but rather the letters of Florentine or Sieneese ambassadors. Nor are all the letters written from Naples or even from the kingdom; there are several written from Rome but that comment on news from Naples that had reached the papal court. It was not until 1454 that Francesco Sforza assigned a permanent, resident representative to the Neapolitan court. After that date, there was a regular, and copious, flow of letters arriving in the Sforza chancery from Naples.

Senatore has deliberately chosen documents for publication that are particularly revealing of the internal history of the Neapolitan kingdom. Indeed, in the preface Mario Del Treppo, the general editor of the series, states that the documents were chosen primarily for what they reveal about four main subjects: the king, the court, the city, and the kingdom. The king, the ambitious and mercurial Alfonso of Aragon, is at the center of many of these dispatches, unsurprisingly the chief focus of the entreaties, descriptions, and frustrations of the Milanese ambassadors. The slightly larger circle of the court is also on display here, with its *dramatis personae* of courtiers, royal officials, and ambassadors. The Milanese ambassadors constantly interacted with these individuals, tapping them for information, gossip, and insight. The circle beyond the walls of the court takes in the world of fifteenth-century Naples—the ambassadors and other correspondents make frequent reference to occurrences in the city. The letters of December 1456, for example, provide some of the most detailed testimonies we have on the destruction caused by the powerful earthquake that rocked the city. And finally, there is a bounty of information about the almost impossibly complex politics of the *regno*, racked as it was with baronial rivalries and the machinations of Angevin sympathizers. The volume ends with the death of Alfonso and the succession of his son Ferrante, events that set off a protracted civil war and a French invasion in support of the claim of John of Anjou to the throne.

Of course, there is also a great deal about the relations between Milan and Alfonso, about the attempts of Francesco Sforza to control the destabilizing ambitions of Alfonso. The international events that dominate this period revolve around the Peace of Lodi reached between Milan and Venice in 1454 and the formation of the Italian League the following year. Alfonso of Aragon was a late, and reluctant, signatory to this constellation of Italian states, for he saw it as a brake on his own significant territorial ambitions in Tuscany and Genoa. The Milanese ambassadors were a key component of Francesco Sforza's efforts to control these ambitions and bring Alfonso within the framework of the Italian League. Alfonso threw his support behind the troublesome condottiere Jacopo Piccinino, a major destabilizing influence who waged war against the Sieneese republic and who was intent on carving out his own state somewhere in Italy. There is much discussion in the correspondence between Milan and Naples in this period about what to do with Piccinino; there was even talk of sending him on crusade to fight the Turks. Piccinino remained a threat to stability until his arrest and death in mysterious circumstances at the hands of Ferrante (with the tacit cooperation of Francesco Sforza) in 1465. There is also a lot of ink spilled about the wedding negotiations that led to the betrothal of two sets of Milanese and Aragonese princes and princesses, linkages that would serve as the scaffolding of Milan-Naples relations for the next three decades.

It must be stressed that even this hefty volume represents only a small sampling of the correspondence between Milan and Naples. The folders in the state archive in Milan for the latter years of the reign of Alfonso and for almost the entire reign of his successor Ferrante are particularly rich, and a full accounting of these letters would run into the many thousands. In addition, many of the letters published here are only fragments—Senatore provides the excerpts that he deems particularly interesting, especially ones revealing of the person and policies of the king. The editorial apparatus provided by Senatore



is not terribly extensive but sufficient and useful. The subject matter of each entry is summarized in a few lines and the source, appearance, and autograph of the letter cataloged. Footnotes identify individuals named in the correspondence and also provide a baseline of historical context, not infrequently making use of the dispatches the editor chose not to publish. While he does not include them in this volume, Senatore often makes reference to, and on occasion cites, letters of instruction originating in Milan, Siena, or Florence. The Milanese ambassadors often resorted to the use of code to protect the more sensitive information communicated to the duke; Senatore indicates where cipher has been used and offers corrections where the chancery deciphering seems to have been in error. Senatore proves to be a capable chaperone for our walk through these sources.

Having this intelligent sample of dispatches is exceptionally welcome but only serves to whet the appetite for more. For both the internal and external history of Naples, this material is unparalleled (in David Abulafia's forthcoming biography of Ferrante, which promises to offer a valuable reassessment of the place of the king of Naples in the political history of the period, he draws extensively from the letters of Milanese ambassadors, including correspondence that will be published in subsequent volumes in this series). This volume also reveals how important Naples was in the international political arena of Renaissance Europe. The kingdom of Naples, largely because of its convoluted dynastic history, was the target of a confluence of Italian, Spanish, French, and imperial interests. Its position in the center of the Mediterranean placed it on the front line of the Christian-Ottoman conflict and in a commercial rivalry with Venice and Genoa. The kingdom of Naples was both a powerful political force and a chronic point of instability and object of external political ambitions inside fifteenth-century Italy. Naples has received scant attention in the historiography of Renaissance Italy, undoubtedly because of the source problems that I described above and also perhaps because its cultural achievements do not dazzle in the same manner as those of Venice, Florence, and Rome. But if efforts such as those carried out in this present volume and in the other volumes expected in this series are continued, we may soon see that balance redressed.

PAUL M. DOVER, University of the South

NANCY PATTERSON ŠEVČENKO and CHRISTOPHER MOSS, eds., *Medieval Cyprus: Studies in Art, Architecture, and History in Memory of Doula Mouriki*. Princeton, N.J.: Department of Art and Archaeology, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, with Princeton University Press, 1999. Pp. xxviii, 306 plus 32 color plates; black-and-white figures and 1 table. \$49.50.

Doula Mouriki was trained by some of the best-known Byzantine art historians of the twentieth century. She received a degree in history and archaeology at the University of Athens, obtained a degree in French philology after studying in Paris with André Grabar and Paul Lemerle, then worked as the assistant to Manolis Chatzidakis, director of the Byzantine Museum in Athens. With the aid of a scholarship from the Greek government, she went to Princeton to study with Kurt Weitzmann. In 1970 she was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from that university's Department of Art and Archaeology. Professor Mouriki put her distinguished education to good use, publishing important research on frescoes, mosaics, and icons. The work under review contains the impressive list of her publications, as well as a biographical essay by Charalambos Bouras.

Mouriki died of breast cancer at the height of her academic career. She is deeply missed by her friends and colleagues. All Byzantinists regret the loss of the further contribution she would certainly have made to their understanding of Byzantium. She was one of the few Greek scholars who was not only familiar with the academy in America and Western

