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Per-Axel Wiktorsson (ed.), Äldre Västgötalagen och dess bilagor i Cod. Holm. B 59. Utgiven av Föreningen för Västgötalitteratur, vols. 1–2 (Skara stifshistoriska sällskaps skriftserie nr 60), [Skara]: Föreningen för Västgötalitteratur 2011 (Lars-Erik Edlund) ................................................................. 117


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practice that developed in the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which was founded in 1739 and which from the very beginning had decided that Swedish should be used in the printed proceedings. The second section deals with the origin and development of scientific language in the eighteenth century. Renata Schellenberg writes here about “scientific literacy,” which developed in eighteenth century Germany. Anna Helga Hannesdóttir deals with the development of Swedish into a scientific language and refers to the parts of the language planning process that Einar Haugen has defined by means of the concepts ‘selection—codification—implementation—elaboration;’ the article relates also to Linnaeus’ linguistic contributions. Lars Wollin describes “the early modern emergence of a professional vernacular variety in Sweden,” a study implemented at the lexical level, where among other things words formed together with a number of Latin prefixes are focused on. Richard Sörman’s contribution deals with Carl Linnaeus and Georges Louis Leclerc de Buffon, who competed with each other. Philippe Selosse writes from a rich perspective about Linnaeus’ botanical nomenclature. What the dissemination of ideas was like in the eighteenth century is dealt with by the contributors in the third section of the book, and contacts in several directions are brought to the fore. Ann-Mari Jönsson writes about Linnaeus’ correspondence with botanists in a number of European countries. Linnaeus’ importance for *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1771) is dealt with by Rosemarie Gläser, who shows that his ideas were well received in Great Britain. In a fascinating contribution Kenneth J. Knoesepel describes Linnaeus’ Russian dissertations and his Russian contacts. In the last article of this section Palmira Fontes da Costa writes about the introduction of the Linnaean classification in Portugal. The fourth section deals with various aspects of scientific writing in the eighteenth century. Carl Linnaeus’ position in the Swedish history of language is elucidated in an interesting way by Bo Ralph. Two of Linnaeus’ texts, *Fundamenta Botanica* (1736) och *Philosophia Botanica* (1751), are focused on in Han-Liang Chang’s article, while Swedish gardening literature is text linguistically analysed by Andreas Nord. The last two articles deal with medical texts: Britt-Louise Gunnarsson describes a Swedish corpus that is analysed within a socio-constructivist framework, while Päivi Pahta discusses medical texts in English. The texts of the book present a multitude of linguistic perspectives—textlinguistic, sociolinguistic, stylistic perspectives etcetera—but in the anthology aspects of the philosophy of language and the history and sociology of science are also represented. All in all this is a comprehensive anthology.

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This impressive work is focused on the gold bracteates of the Migration Period and contains a profound presentation of new finds and a survey of what is known, or in any case be-
lieved to be known, of this important group of finds. This is volume 4.3 in the series Die Goldbrakteaten der Völkerwanderungszeit. Volumes 1–3 are an iconographic catalogue (1985–1989), volume 4.1 Morten Axboe’s Herstellungsprobleme und Chronologie (2004) and volume 4.2 Alexandra Pesch’s Thema und Variation. Die Formularfamilien der Bilddarstellungen (2007). The present work is reminiscent of the now late pioneer Karl Hauck’s spirit—the book is also dedicated to him and Ilse Hauck—, whose study Goldbrakteaten aus Sievern. Spätantike Amulett-Bilder (1970) constitutes a milestone in the area. In the work to be presented here twelve studies have been collected together with a catalogue of new finds. A survey of the research on bracteates is given by Charlotte Behr, who demonstrates a multifaceted and multidisciplinary research area, where Hauck’s achievements are visualised, not least in the methodological area. Some remaining research problems are also noted in Behr’s article. Two contributions by Hauck are included in the volume. The first is entitled “Machtataten Odins” and makes a survey of fundamental issues and methods in the field. The figurative language in Late Antiquity is described here, the use of mediaeval Nordic texts in the interpretation is discussed, as is the interpretation of the runic texts on the bracteates in relation to the pictures. The other article by Hauck is also focused on methodology and theory and includes concretely the interpretation of the so-called Drei-Götter-Brakteaten with Wodan/Oden, Balder and Loki. Then there are articles on the bracteates in time and space. Martin Axboe deals with the chronology of bracteates with inscriptions, and thinks that he is able to discern different groups. Alexandra Pesch focuses on the central places and the contact patterns—in other words the cooperation and the competition—in the prehistoric society that can be understood through studies of gold bracteates. On a map (p. 244) it is shown where these central places may have been situated in Southern Scandinavia and Northern Germany. Klaus Düwel and Sean Nowak analyse in a joint article a small number of texts on the bracteates, the semantically readable inscriptions. The importance of an independent—one might almost say “rigorous”—text analysis is emphasised here, which is felt to be methodologically well justified. A summary of the research on the formulaic words on the gold bracteates—such as alu, laPu, laukar, ota—is made in Wilhelm Heizmann’s study, which accounts for a research discussion that has been going on for a long time. In one article Klaus Düwel discusses the letter and alphabet magic, touching on the gold bracteates’ function as amulets. Gunther Müller deals with the names, including among other things a discussion of a corpus with a number of possible examples of names. The so-called “I” formula on the bracteates is also discussed by Müller. Name problems are also focused on in Heinrich Beck’s contribution. Lutz E. von Padberg uses the gold bracteates to study how symbols belonging to Christianity are exposed on the bracteates, and Taina Dickinson studies animal ornaments in early Anglo-Saxon England. Some of the articles collected in the volume exist in previously published versions but have been updated here, and in one case an article has been included that was written a considerable number of years ago but has not until now been published, in a revised version. Morten Axboe’s catalogue of the new finds—in the work on which he was
assisted by Charlotte Behr and Klaus Düwel—concludes the volume, after the reference list. The latter provides a picture of a very vital research area. For those who wish to familiarise themselves with the articles in the book in a simple way there are both German Zusammenfassungen and English Summaries. A rich pictorial material accompanies the reading. Despite the great amount of research on the area questions still remain, for example regarding the interpretation of individual words and pictures but also concerning the relation between texts and pictures. But this book collects the multidisciplinary research, and by means of the catalogue of new finds, further studies of the gold bracteates can certainly now be more easily conducted. Not least for this reason the book will be of great importance.

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This is the textbook that relates to Robert Nedoma’s Kleinen Grammatik des Altsländischen (Heidelberg 2010); some printing errors in this grammar are by the way corrected in the introduction to the textbook. Altsländisches Lesebuch begins with a short variant narrating that “Hannes ok Gretta ganga af leið í skógi....” but shortly after-wards there are normalised texts from Eiriks saga rauða and Gæncludinga saga. On pp. 17 ff. there is a non-normalised version of Paternoster. Then there follows a post-classical text, Gautreks saga konungs with a translation and a normalised excerpt from Heimskringla, where the skaldic verse is accompanied by a detailed interpretation. Other saga texts are then presented, from Orkneyinga saga, Brønn-Njáls saga and Gísla saga Súrssonar. There follows an excerpt from Guðfaginning with a facsimile of a line from the manuscript. In Æres saga there is an example of a post-classical text. Some more prose texts are followed by Völundarkviða, which is accompanied by a translation. Of Atlakviða and Hamðismál there are however no translations. Hjölmarmál is then rendered with some notes and comments. Then there follow parts of Völospá. In one section it is demonstrated what a text may be like in manuscript, transcription, normalisation and different translations. Some runic inscriptions are then accounted for, Gripsholm II and Karlevi. The volume is concluded with some verses from the skaldic poem Ragnarsdrápa. It is easy to see the progression in the volume. Both well-known texts and more unknown ones are placed beside each other in the textbook, which is advantageous. The fact that Nedoma chose to include two East Nordic runic inscriptions can surely be defended by these texts having definite qualities, but in addition the West Nordic area could also have been allowed to contribute some interesting inscriptions (cf. the review of Michael Schulte in NOWELE vols. 64/65, 2012, p. 240 f.). In every separate case the texts are provided with information about the time of origin, the manuscripts (or, in some cases, the runic inscriptions) dealt with and