

Brodericus, Stephanus. *De conflictu Hungarorum cum Solymano Turcarum imperatore ad Mohach historia verissima. Oratio ad Adrianum VI. pontificem maximum.* Edited by P. Kulcsár and Cs. Csapodi. Bibliotheca scriptorum medii recentisque aevorum, Series nova, Tomus VI. Akadémiai kiadó, Budapest, 1985. 92 pp. Notes. Index. £8.50.

Johannes de Thurocz. *Chronica Hungarorum.* I. Textus. Edited by Elisabeth Galántai and Julius Kristó. Bibliotheca scriptorum medii recentisque aevorum, Series nova, Tomus VII. Akadémiai kiadó, Budapest, 1985. 332 pp. Index. £19.75.

THE publication of two further volumes in the admirable series of medieval and early modern Latin texts produced by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is to be welcomed. Brodericus wrote one of the most valued accounts of the Battle of Mohács in 1526, at which time he was the newly-installed chancellor to the ill-fated King Louis II of Hungary. He accompanied the king into battle and managed to escape alone; his eye-witness description of the disaster was written early in 1527 and gave rise to numerous variations during the succeeding two centuries. The original manuscript has been lost, but the editors have based their work on careful comparison between the earliest editions. Brodericus wrote in good humanist Latin and clearly knew the Roman historians and their style very well. His work is brief and vigorous; he has a dramatic story to tell, and his position gave him access to facts that otherwise might have gone unrecorded after the ensuing chaos. Apparently there should also have been a map (p. 33), but this has never come to light.

Even so, Brodericus remains an invaluable source and although this is the only example of his literary activity, his numerous letters suggest that he enjoyed writing and had some pretensions to be a stylist. This is supported by the speech he made to Pope Hadrian VI and the College of Cardinals in 1522, included as an appendix in this volume. He had been sent by King Louis II to plead for help after the fall of Belgrade to the Turks. It is a powerful oration and deserves its republication from the one surviving manuscript in Seville.

The second volume is, at least in translation, more familiar to students of Hungarian history. Johannes de Thurocz compiled a Hungarian chronicle which appeared in Brünn and Augsburg in 1488. A notary for many years during the reign of Matthias Corvinus, he began his work some thirteen years earlier and gradually expanded his original scheme to embrace the whole history of the Hungarians up to the time of writing. Much of it is compiled from earlier sources, but the later chapters are the notary's own work. The result is a curious mixture, divided into 261 brief chapters, with prologues at chapters 27 and 130, two dedications, and a preface at chapter 195. There are fragments of verse, legends, and, in the final part, eye-witness accounts of battles. In places the narrative is spiced with dialogue, and for full measure the compiler added the *Carmen miserabile* of Rogerius at the conclusion of his work. The present edition follows normal practice in omitting this poem. The Brünn text is followed by the editors, who note that the only significant difference between this and the Augsburg edition is the omission from the latter of Matthias's exploits in Austria and his capture of Vienna (pp. 291–92). The length of the text has made it necessary to publish Elemér Mályusz's commentary separately in the same series. In the meantime it is good to have available a reliable edition with a good index of names. As a postscript it is worth noting that both the Brünn and the Augsburg editions were published with illustrations; for these the reader must consult the excellent Hungarian translation by János Horváth, published in 1978.

Both volumes under review maintain the high standards of scholarship and book-production set by the earlier works in this excellent series.