

Malarte, Claire-Lise. *Perrault à travers la critique depuis 1960: Bibliographie annotée: Avant-Propos de Jacques Barchilon*. Biblio 17, No. 47. (Paris, Seattle, Tübingen: Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature, 1989). 84 pp. ISSN: 0343-0758.

A review of this annotated bibliography of Perrault criticism from 1960 to 1988 may fittingly begin by echoing three points well made by Jacques Barchilon in his foreword. Claire-Lise Malarte does indeed deserve the gratitude of the scholarly community for all her labours; we may note with pleasure that thanks to computerization the updating of the listings should present no real problem; and there must be real regret that despite the reprographic revolution of recent years it has proved impossible to obtain sight of copies of certain major theses, even though there is plenty of material here to be going on with.

The bibliographical method adopted is straight-forward and clear. The 166 items are listed by name of author. A first sub-heading indicates whether the object of criticism is either Perrault himself or else one or other of his individual works, and a second provides a categorisation by field of enquiry (e.g. semiotics, folklore or music). Easy access under either classification is further facilitated by indexes, but another, containing all proper names, would have been helpful, for it is hard to locate, for instance, the reference to Flaubert unless you happen to remember who wrote an article drawing attention to parallels between Charles Bovary's first meeting with Emma and *La Belle au bois dormant*. The notes sketching the content of the items listed are often admirable, but sometimes they might be more informative. It is, for example, quite interesting to know of a German article in which Gönna Tonnies-Czauderra tells how she set her secondary school pupils reading six fairy tales (including *Le Chat botté*) before they tried their hand at the genre, but what is important in the context of the critical reception of Perrault is whether any fresh insights or emphases emerged from this enterprising teaching. Space could generally be saved for comment if phrases like 'dans cet article' and 'l'auteur de ce chapitre' were resolutely excised. These are, however, only very

minor criticisms of a research tool to which many will turn for guidance in the years to come.

Claire-Lise Malarte does not allow herself a lot of space for comment on the critical reception of Perrault over a period of nearly thirty years, though she does find some justification for her starting date in the impact that structuralism has had on criticism. What emerges is not only a growing interest in all aspects of Perrault's works but also an almost bewildering diversity of approaches to them. There might be fears that criticism here was becoming something of a self-centered activity, were it not for the abundant evidence that the texts of the *Contes* themselves can always be relied on to reassert their charming right to be the prime focus of our attention.

Christopher Smith