

Navigatio sancti Brendani. Editio Maior a cura di Rossana E. Guglielmetti. Testo critico di Giovanni Orlandi e Rossana E. Guglielmetti, Firenze, SISMEL – Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2017 (Millennio Medievale; 114 / Testi; 29). 745 pp. ISBN 978-88-8450-801-0

This anonymous Irish text, which achieved a remarkable manuscript tradition, is one of the most fascinating medieval accounts of a journey to a fantastic world. It captivated Giovanni Orlandi (1938-2007), who worked for many years on its textual tradition and critical edition, which would replace his early publication of 1968. Unfortunately, fate prevented the remarkable Italian scholar from seeing his book published. His work was carried on by Rossana Guglielmetti, who completed Orlandi's plan. She produced two outputs. The *editio minor* was published in 2014: *Navigatio sancti Brendani: alla scoperta dei segreti meravigliosi del mondo*. Edizione critica a cura di Giovanni Orlandi e Rossana E. Guglielmetti; introduzione di Rossana E. Guglielmetti; traduzione italiana e commento di Giovanni Orlandi, SISMEL, Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2014 (Per verba; 30). The book offers, as conceived by Orlandi, a critical edition of the Latin text with an Italian translation, a rich introduction on the historical and literary context, sources and main features of the work, and enlightening notes of commentary. The critical apparatus was limited to the variants of the heads of the branches of the *stemma codicum*, and the study of the manuscripts and the textual tradition was intentionally brief (and still it occupies some one hundred and thirty pages!).

The *editio maior* is the present volume. It was designed for a specialised public. First, it presents the description of all manuscripts containing the text (more than one hundred and forty), to which one should add the indirect witnesses and the manuscripts offering abbreviated versions. A large section of almost three hundred pages contains a thorough and detailed reconstruction of the textual tradition. It is a remarkable piece of scholarship. The relations between witnesses are thoroughly examined, shedding light on many aspects of the circulation of the text. The evidence supporting the reconstruction of the text is elucidated. The *stemma codicum*, divided by families owing to its complexity, contains minor corrections in regard to the stemma of 2014. The Latin text, the same as in the *editio minor*, is, this time, accompanied by a massive critical apparatus giving all variants of the manuscript tradition, a huge amount of information for specialists. From now on, it will be easy, or, at least, easier, to place any new witness in the history of the manuscript tradition.

In sum, the *editio maior* of the *Navigatio s. Brendani* is a remarkable example of high-quality scholarship, and a major contribution for the history of this extraordinary medieval work. Giovanni Orlandi would be most happy with, and proud of, Rossana Guglielmetti's book.

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