

a recuperation of two late Enlightenment texts by Moses Mendelssohn, and a discussion of Friedrich Schlegel's response to them, both in writing and in person. Schlegel's relationship with Dorothy Veit, Mendelssohn's daughter in actuality, and in fiction (*Lucinde*, 1799), are countered by her novel of the relationship (*Florentin: a novel*, 1801). While this book sets out to theorise the three terms "Jew", "Catholic" and "Protestant" (to connote "letter" or "spirit" of the law) and how they displace and replace one another across time in a triangular and violent relationship, it is the more interesting interplay of gender and Jewishness that takes over. Unfortunately, this aspect is stifled to return to the rather schematised triangle that excludes the female subject completely. This is therefore an important study for its recuperation of less well-known texts, its suppression of major figures (for example Kant), and for the many ends it leaves untied.

The Life Of Lazarillo de Tormes. Trans. David Rowland & ed. Keith Whitlock. Warminster: Aris & Phillips, 2000. vii + 168 pp. £11.95/\$22. ISBN 0-85668-728-6. It is self-evident that working on a classic text such as *Lazarillo de Tormes*, on which so much has been written, is quite a challenging endeavour. However, it appears that this text will continue to offer unlimited possibilities to scholars, as transpires in the current edition. Based on Rowland's English version of 1586, it opens some new channels for the appreciation of the text. Basically, the translation offers the unique perspectives of a foreigner at a crucial point of the Renaissance period in Spain, embracing matters relating to international intelligence, Anglo-Hispanic relations, and political and military propaganda. In addition to making this bilingual version of *Lazarillo* more accessible to modern scholars via a most readable Introduction and informed notes, the editor has established useful links between the Prologue and the concluding Treatise of the text. He has also found interesting parallels with biblical episodes, which broaden the dimension of the approach to interpreting the text.

Lire Aragon. Ed. Mireille Hilsum, Carine Trévisan, Maryse Vasevière. Paris: Honoré Champion, 2000. 464 pp. FRF 500. ISBN 2-7453-0279-5. In 1997, the centenary of the birth of Louis Aragon saw two major conferences, in Manchester and Paris. Papers from the latter are gathered in this important volume. *Lire Aragon* sheds light on some of Aragon's more neglected poetic works, notably *La Grande Gaîté* and *Les Poètes*. A particularly interesting chapter looks at the influence exerted upon Aragon by the arch-nationalist writer Maurice Barrès. Aragon re-emerges as a virtuoso intellectual who, even in advanced old age, was actively engaged with the avant-garde of the time, be it the *Tel Quel* group or the new theatre pioneered by his former secretary, Antoine Vitez. Dadaist, Surrealist, Resistance hero, socialist realist and post-modernist *avant la lettre*, Aragon was nevertheless obliged to walk a tight-rope between a wary Party leadership and a fundamentally sceptical literary world. *Lire Aragon* goes some way to rescuing Aragon from the oblivion that always threatens to engulf this grand old man of French Communist letters.

The Literature of Al-Andalus. Ed. Maria Rosa Menocal, Raymond P. Scheindlin & Michael Sells. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature), 2000. ix + 507 pp. £90/\$150. ISBN 0-521-47159-1. This is the fifth volume to be published in the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature series and is, perhaps, the one likely to gain the widest readership, attracting not only the expected specialists in Arabic texts, but also Hispanists with an interest in the medieval period and scholars of Judaica. Its temporal gaze lingers on the era in which Arabic was the lingua franca of Iberia – the eighth to thirteenth centuries – but also looks beyond this to appraise the endurance of Arab culture under Christian rule. The volume is eclectic in ethos, transcending the boundaries of literature to examine other areas in which Arabic civilisation prevailed – art, architecture, philosophy, law, and the sciences. The contributors, drawn mainly from North American institutions, are all acknowledged experts in their fields, and include luminaries such as Cornell's D. F. Ruggles (four brief essays on the Umayyad palace and Great Mosque of Córdoba, the churches of Tíruel constructed by Mudejar artisans, and the fusion of Arab and Norman influences in Sicilian monumental architecture) and Ross Brann (on Judah Halevi and "The Arabized Jews"), and Samuel G. Armistead of the University of California at Davis, a leading authority on the Sephardim.

LITTLE, ROGER, *Between Totem and Taboo. Black Man, White Woman in Francographic Literature*. Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2001. xii + 288 pp. £35. ISBN 0-85989-649-8. Despite its title,