

students needed an intermediate language that they could translate into their own vernaculars,” i.e., languages and dialects of Italian, German, English, French and others; and (2) to serve as “instruction in logic as well as training in the syntax and semantics of university Latin” (125–26). In the second section, Perreiah discusses Rita Copeland and Donald Davidson’s theories of language interpretation. The final part of the chapter is devoted to Paul of Venice’s (1369–1429) *Logica Parva*. This work “is first and foremost a manual that taught thousands of students logic in Italian universities of the Renaissance” (141). The author explains in detail how *Logica Parva* was actually used to teach Latin grammar and logic—this is a fascinating section and is one of my favorite parts in the book.

Various notable seventeenth-century thinkers were influenced by the thinking of late medieval scholastics and Renaissance humanists. Alan Perreiah broke new ground with this work, and, for that reason alone, this book will offer scholars a fascinating read, especially those interested in logic, philosophy of language, language theory and the history of ideas.

Peter N. Miller. *Peiresc’s Mediterranean World*. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 2015. 633 pp. + 32 illus. \$39.95. Review by R. BURR LITCHFIELD, BROWN UNIVERSITY.

This is an intelligent, detailed, and well written digest of the “archive” of Nicolas Fabri de Peiresc, which is an important source for early seventeenth-century Mediterranean history. Peiresc (1580–1637) was a lawyer living in Aix-en-Provence and a member of the Parlement of Provence, which met at Aix, an office he inherited from an uncle. He was an unmarried nobleman with independent means. But more importantly he was an avidly curious antiquarian, collector, and observer of the Mediterranean world, which he viewed through the port of Marseilles. His estate and his collections of books, coins, medals, and curious objects (even a small crocodile skin) were dispersed after his death, but he had copied down on sheets of paper his letters, reading notes, memoranda, jottings of conversations, orders and receipts for goods (119 volumes of manuscripts, some 77,000 pieces of paper),

which were bound up and are mostly preserved in the Bibliothèque Inguimbertine of Carpentras, as well as in the log of his letter book that is now in the Paris Bibliothèque Nationale. These comprise Peiresc's "archive." His correspondents, or informants, were mostly Marseilles merchants and sea captains, but also French diplomatic agents abroad, missionaries, and other acquaintances among whom he acquired a reputation. One was the French philosopher Pierre Gassendi, who later wrote a life of Peiresc. Peiresc knew about Galileo and gave Jupiter's moons Galileo's Medicean names; in fact, he corresponded briefly with Galileo. Through his archive Miller ranks Peiresc as the most gifted French intellectual between Montaigne and Descartes. Not much use has been made of the archive by historians. Fernand Braudel seems to have known about it, but does not cite it in his work on the Mediterranean world in the age of Philip II. There were nineteenth-century partial editions of Peiresc's letters, but nothing as complete as this. Indeed, Miller's account of Peiresc is a valuable addendum to Braudel's work for the early seventeenth century.

The book is organized as a topical and discursive guide to the archive, the chapters grouping letters roughly by subject. Miller introduces Peiresc through a painted and a drawn portrait. The archive shows that he was very interested in the ancient Jewish Samaritan peoples, who appear in several chapters, in their history, biblical texts and alphabet. He was interested in early Christian music, and in the weights and measures of the ancients. A manuscript he ordered of medieval Provençal troubadour songs was unfortunately lost at sea. He learned much about North Africa, partly from black slaves at Marseilles, and he was curious to know more about ancient Carthage. "One would like to know ..." was a phrase appearing often in his notes. One can glimpse through his archive some important contemporary changes in the Mediterranean: the decline of Venice in favor of Marseilles, the importance of Aleppo and Alexandria as destinations, the crucial role of Genoa as a portal to Northern Europe and of Lisbon as a portal to the Indies, and the arrival of Dutch and English shipping through the straits of Gibraltar. Peiresc's library was full of travel books. He had travelled himself to England and Holland as a student in 1599–1607; probably the Thirty Years' War inhibited his further travels in northern Europe. He noted sea voyage times:

between Marseille and Alexandria took some forty days, a voyage beset by the threat of Corsair pirates, the capture of prisoners, and ransoms. Passage of a letter between Paris and Marseilles took seven or eight days. Natural phenomena drew his attention, particularly the eruption of Mount Etna in 1630 and the solar and lunar eclipses of 1635. The wide-spread outbreak of plague in 1630 disrupted his correspondence. He collected coins and medals, shells, fossils, coral, and other objects. His scientific interests included invention of a method for calculating latitude that he recorded and discussed at length. Many other topics appear in his notes. Particularly, through his research, and friendly contacts, Peirsec was a figure recognized by contemporaries and later commentators for furthering the early seventeenth century French discovery of the languages, literature, and culture of the ancient and contemporary Near East.

Miller notes that unlike Montaigne Peirsec did not reflect much on his own life in his writings. His archive is useful chiefly for what he saw in the Mediterranean of his day and for the kinds of goods he collected. It is a compilation of his observations. Also the archive itself is not entirely complete. There are missing gaps between letters received or sent, and many of the notes are mere jottings. He wrote down much, but not everything, and in a disjointed way. However, Miller presents the existing archive most usefully. In the appendices are charts of the number of letters by addressee, the number by location, year and month, and the names of captains and ships, and the ship destinations involved. There is a detailed index. The topical rather than chronological arrangement of material makes this book a bit tedious to read. It is basically a reference work that fleshes out Peirsec's archive in context. But for anyone interested in the Mediterranean of the early seventeenth century, Miller's edition of the Peirsec archive is a most valuable resource.