

addition to the volume title, two of the five sub-headings and three of the eleven essay titles (with two others that refer to the “state” and the “government”) contain the word “politics,” while none of the headings or titles, let alone the essays themselves, speak of “Reading as devotion.” This glaring omission is perhaps most notable in Sharpe’s essay, in which the theological and ecclesiastical implications of reading the book of Revelation throughout early modern history are pushed to the side in favor of the political. Nevertheless, there is a great deal one can learn from reading this volume, and if Raymond is correct in his essay that reading provokes writing, then the reading of this collection will certainly provoke a good deal more writing.

Stanton J. Linden, ed. *The Alchemy Reader: From Hermes Trismegistus to Isaac Newton*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. 260 pp. \$70.00. Review by EUGENE R. CUNNAR, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY.

Stanton J. Linden, one of the leading authorities on alchemy and literature, has compiled an extremely useful anthology of primary readings from the history of alchemy. In the past, alchemy could simply be dismissed as an arcane and superstitious body of knowledge that was not worth the effort of scholarly study. Over the past few decades that attitude has changed so that scholars from a variety of disciplines now engage in scholarly explorations of alchemy and its influences. Unlike their predecessors, historians of science now realize just how important alchemy was in formulating the modern scientific mentality, especially in seminal figures like Robert Boyle and Isaac Newton. Cultural scholars have shown the importance of alchemical influences in literature, art, religion, psychology, and politics from antiquity to the present. Although scholars have recently been putting out new scholarly editions of alchemical texts, there has long been a need for an anthology such as this, which puts together selections from key texts that reflect the historical development of alchemy. Linden

provides an excellent introduction in which he surveys the origins and definitions of alchemy and offers clear explanations of alchemical principles and theories. The author situates the development of alchemy within broader intellectual contexts such as the art vs. nature debate. Given that there are many different varieties of alchemy and that alchemical discourse is frequently arcane, obscure, and enigmatic, Linden offers clear explanations of the alchemical process and its terminology, including clear discussions of alchemy's exoteric and esoteric features. In addition, Linden includes and discusses fourteen alchemical illustrations, illuminating and putting into perspective the enigmatic visual/iconographic tradition in alchemy.

Like all anthologies, an editor must make choices about what texts to include and exclude. This anthology provides an excellent selection of texts representing the major aspects of alchemical discourses, ideologies, and methodologies. Linden has only lightly modernized texts, giving readers the opportunity to experience texts in their original format and has used authoritative editions or primary editions where no reliable modern edition exists. Each selection has a useful brief introduction and a short bibliography. Selections are arranged chronologically, beginning with ancient texts and then proceeding to Islamic and medieval texts and then Renaissance and seventeenth-century texts. Each selection provides a representative example of a particular author's approach to alchemy. The first section begins with Hermes Trismegistus and includes selections from Plato, Aristotle, Pseudo-Democritus, Zosimos of Panopolis, and others. The second section includes Khalid Ibn Yazid, Pseudo-Gerber, Avicenna, Albertus Magnus, Roger Bacon, Nicholas Flamel, and George Ripley. The final section includes selections from Paracelsus, Sendivogius, Robert Fludd, George Starkey, Elias Ashmole, Robert Boyle, and Sir Isaac Newton. This arrangement shows the fascination that alchemy has exerted from the ancients to the early moderns. The anthology concludes with a glossary and a bibliography. This anthology should prove

extremely useful to the scholar beginning to explore alchemy, as well as the more experienced scholar who is familiar with the many difficulties in interpreting alchemical texts.

Lois G. Schwoerer. *The Ingenious Mr. Henry Care, Restoration Publicist*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. xxx + 349 pp. Includes b & w illustrations. \$45.00. Review by BRYAN N. S. GOOCH, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Lois Schwoerer's *The Ingenious Mr. Henry Care* is a carefully-detailed study of a remarkably clever, energetic, prolific, and prickly pen-wielder who, largely self-taught and particularly acute with respect to matters of church history and Restoration/Jacobean politics, played a central role in polemics concerning the Popish Plot, the exclusion crisis, and James II's attempt to survive the turbulence—largely of royal making, reflecting the pre-Cromwellian obstinacy of his father—during his brief reign. Care, as Schwoerer emphasises, was not a member of the establishment or even of the near-elite, and that he rose to such prominence as a writer is in itself an indication of a changing social milieu, even more remarkable in the light of Care's vigorous advocacy of losing causes; he supported the Whigs during the terrors of Titus' Oates deceitful legacy and the attempts to keep James from succession and then was wooed, Protestant though he was, to take up his pen on the new king's side after 1685.

The introduction provides a useful overview of the political/ecclesiastical context, a review of scholarship, and a preliminary discussion of Care (alas, his MSS. are not extant [xviii] except for one [see 195]) in terms of his education and his work through his weekly papers and other writings. Emerging here clearly are issues taken up later in the book, including the use of history as material for propaganda, the influence of serial publication, the concern about a judiciary prepared to assume an authority properly vested in Parliament, and Care's role in bolstering, especially through works like his *English Liberties*, the importance of trials involving juries.