A. D. Scaglione. *Ars Grammatica*. The Hague-Paris: Mouton, 1970.

This relatively short book, each page of which is the fruit of long and dedicated research, is divided into four chapters. The first is a historical and bibliographical introduction, the second studies the Latin subjunctive, the third the Italian subjunctive and the fourth is devoted to Alberic of Montecassino and the ablative absolute. The book ends with an appendix which includes a review of Henry Desmond's book (*The 'De Grammatico' of St. Anselm: The Theory of Paronymy*, 1964), previously published by Professor Scaglione in *Romance Philology*, XIX (1966). The appendix is conceived as a sort of conclusion. To a certain extent, however, it may also represent an invitation to interpret the preceding chapters as a critical response to several basic questions already singled out by A. Scaglione, when he first tried to organize into an organic whole the imposing quantity of gathered materials. Many a reader, as a matter of fact, will be impressed by the amount of data Professor Scaglione has been able to include in his remarkably lucid treatment of a complicated matter. In the first chapter, he manages to give, in about thirty pages, a complete, precise picture of the history of the discipline, with a full assessment of the merits and the limitations of the scholars who preceded him, from the beginning of the last century to the present. The first chapter, in my opinion, should be of interest not only to linguists, but to any student of Classical and Romance languages. The other chapters are more technical and specialized. The specialization is apparent from the very choice of the subjunctive, both in Latin and in Italian, as well as the ablative absolute, as subject matter. Through the study of the subjunctive, Professor Scaglione succeeds in documenting and dating the predecessors of certain forms (e.g. *erint*, pp.57-63), that is to say, to write "history" in the fullest sense of the term, by going over the whole range of the Latin grammarians, from the 2nd to the 17th century, with a quick glance at the 18th and 19th centuries. It is, therefore, a discriminating selection which allows Professor Scaglione to establish a connection between the Latin normative tradition and that of the Italian grammarians. In Italian, A. Scaglione, always searching for a sense of the history of the discipline, starts from the first *Grammaticabetta* (which is perhaps by Alberti, but certainly of the 15th century) and goes as far as the studies of the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, in order to conclude that, in opposition to what happens for Latin, "the grammar of the Italian vernacular remained, after the Cinquecento, more often than not in the hands of *mestieranti*, little curious, and less capable, of deep commitment and fresh starts" (p. 130). The chapter devoted to the ablative absolute according to Alberic of Montecassino is more limited in scope, but still very perceptive. One can recommend this valuable contribution of Aldo Scaglione to the study of *Ars Grammatica* as a model combination of erudition and critical sophistication.

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David Orr. *Italian Renaissance Drama in England Before 1625*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1970. Pp. ix, 141. \$6.

Professor Orr is convinced that a reassessment of the major source-studies like those of Baldwin, Gregg, Muir, and others, examined collectively rather than separately, yields evi-