

# ORACULA CHALDAICA

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## TRANSLATIONS OF THE ORACLES.

1. Marsilius Ficinus.
2. Jacobus Marthanus Pictaviensis.
3. Joannes Brixius.
4. Franciscus Patritius.
5. Federicus Morellus.
6. Joannes Opsopoens.
7. Otto Heurnius.

The knowledge we have of the Chaldean (Zoroastrian) Oracles, scant as it is, goes back to Michael Psellus of the eleventh century whose literary remnants include a commentary on the oracles and short expositions of the Chaldaic doctrines. These, plus numerous quotations, apparently stem ultimately from extracts of the commentary of Proclus on the oracles. In the fifteenth century, Georgios Gemisthos Plethon (ca. 1355-1452) attributed the oracles, formerly known only as Chaldean, to the ancient Persian sage, Zoroaster, and to the Magi, his followers. Plethon was the first to incorporate the oracles into a philosophical system supported by numerous ancient authorities, including Plato, Pythagoras, and the Neo-Platonists. The Oracles, really date from the second century A. D. and are attributed to Julian the Chaldaean and to his son, Julian the Theurgist. Made up of Platonic, Neo-Pythagorean, Stoic, Gnostic, and Persian elements, the Oracles were readily accepted by the members of the Florentine Platonic Academy as an important part of a philosophical-religious tradition of great antiquity which apparently confirmed Christianity. Even Plato's doctrine of ideas was traced to Zoroaster. The cosmology of the Oracles also supported the common belief in demonic spirits who controlled the world and man. Never as well

known or understood as the Hermetic tradition, the Zoroastrian Oracles gradually became less important, being retained, however, by those interested in natural religion, in the occult, in theosophy, and in esoteric knowledge. Cf. especially Joseph Bidez and Franz Cumont, *Les Mages hellénisés* (Paris 1938) I 158-163; II 251-263; W. Kroll, 'De oraculis chaldaicis,' *Breslauer philologische Abhandlungen* VII 1 (1894) 6-10, 66-72; Karl H. Dannenfeldt, 'The Pseudo-Zoroastrian Oracles in the Renaissance' *Studies in the Renaissance* IV (1957) 7-30; and Hans Lewy, *Chaldaean Oracles and Theurgy* (Publications de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Recherches d'Archéologie, de Philologie et d'Histoire 13 [Cairo 1956]). Some fragments found in the tradition deriving from Porphyry are attributed to the Chaldaic Oracles by Lewy (p. 10, 18, 21). These fragments were cited, with Latin translations, by Augustinus Steuchus, *De perenni philosophia*, Bk. III, Chaps. 14-16 (in his *Opera Omnia* [Venice 1591], vol. III, p. 55-57). Cf. also Gustav Wolff, *Porphyrii de philosophia ex oraculis haurienda librorum reliquiae* (Berlin 1856) 144 ff.

### 1. Marsilius Ficinus

The anonymous translation of Zoroaster found in the Laurenziana MS has been

identified for good reasons with the one which Ficinus reportedly completed in 1463. Cf. P. O. Kristeller, *Supplementum Ficinianum*, I (Florence 1937) cxlv. The translation remained in manuscript until published by B. Kieszkowski in 1936.

*Translation of the Oracles :*

[*Inc.*]: Quaere tu anime rivum, unde, quove  
[ordine,  
Corpori, cum serviveris, ad ordinem  
[a quo defluxisti  
Rursus erigas, sacro cum sermone  
[opus uniens...

[*Expl.*]: Neque in sua potentia intellectili  
[clauso proprio igni,  
Pater non terrorem incutit suadam  
[autem infundit.

*Bibl.*: Anonymous MS attributed to Ficinus by A. Bandini, *Catalogus II* (Florence 1775) 240; Arnaldo della Torre, *Storia dell' Accademia Platonica di Firenze* (Florence 1902) 544; Bogdan Kieszkowski, *Studi sul Platonismo del Rinascimento in Italia* (Florence 1936) 159-161.

*Greek source*: The sixty lines of Greek which Gemistus Pletho (1355-1450) first attributed to Zoroaster. Ficinus possessed a Greek MS of the Oracles with Plethon's exegesis. Cf. Florence, Biblioteca Riccardiana, 76, s. XV, fol. 187; 'Indice de' Codici Greci Riccardiani, Magliabechiani e Marucelliani,' *Studi italiani di filologia classica* 2 (1894) 524.

*Manuscripts :*

(\*) Florence, Biblioteca Laurenziana, 36, 35, s. xv, f. 26-26<sup>v</sup> (Bandini, *Catalogus II* 240).

(\*) Vatican City, Biblioteca Vaticana, Ottob. lat. 2966 (Reported by Paul O. Kristeller).

*Edition :*

1936, Florence, Sansoni. B. Kieszkowski, *op. cit.* 159-161. (ICU).

*Biogr. :*

Cf. above, Ps. Hermes Trismegistus under I 1.

## 2. *Jacobus Marthanus Pictaviensis*

The translation of the thirty-three oracles was completed in 1539 and appeared with the commentary of Gemisthos Plethon (1355-

1450) which was also translated into Latin by Marthanus.

*Preface* [*Inc.*]: Iacobus Marthanus D. Gaucherio Marthano patri, rei medicae iuxta politiorisque omnis literaturae absolutissima cognitione praedito. Zoroastri vetustissimi, si vel Plutarcho vel Plinio suffragamur, luculentissimique magiae scriptoris libellum, cui sit epigraphe *μαγικά λόγια* nuper à situ carieque assertum, impensissima cum mihi cura vertendum rogatu Conradi Neobarj viri mei enixissime studiosi duxissem, ad locos offendi plerosque, vitiatos an integros non ausim...pronunciare :... [*Expl.*]: Hoc operae tibi nuncupo, ut me intelligas, quamquam istud olim iam tibi persuasissimum est, huc propensissime spectare, amicitia ut nostra primum iure naturali, uinculo scilicet arctissimo contracta, tum deinde tuis officijs impendio confirmata, ab omni tandem ipsa senio sartatecta vindicetur. Vale.

*Dedication* [*Inc.*]:

Lodoicus Molinaeus Rupefortensis  
[Candido Lectori.

Siquid te iuvat alta Zoroastri  
Eruditio, lectita hunc libellum  
Unum, qui tibi plus erit terecentis,  
Quem lingua prius attica sonantem  
Nuper asseruit Latinitati,  
Donauitque phrasi nova venustum  
Marthani studium, uigilque cura...

[*Expl.*]: Nam quid congeries gravis librorum  
Obrutrix animi maligna prodest?  
Hic unus tibi plus erit trecentis.

*Translation of the Oracles :*

[*Inc.*]: Perquire animae ductum, unde,  
[quove ordine,  
Navata corpori opera, ad ordinem  
[unde manasti,  
Rursus erigaris, opere, verbis sacro-  
[sanctis adiuncto...

[*Expl.*]: Pater non metum, sed suasionem  
[admovet.

*Greek source*: Printed edition of Joannes Lodoicus Tiletanus, Paris, 1538 containing the Greek oracles which Plethon attributed to Zoroaster (Migne, *PG* 122, 1115-1122, where the oracles are placed under the name of Michael Psellus, eleventh century; cf. B. Kieszkowski, *Studi sul Platonismo* 157-158). There are two Greek MSS of Plethon's collection in Paris: Paris. gr. 2832, f. 23,

s. XV and Paris. gr. Suppl. 66, f. 28, s. XV-XVI.

*Manuscript:*

\*Milan, Ambr. D 389 inf., s. XVI, f. 12-12<sup>v</sup> (Reported by Paul O. Kristeller).

*Editions:*

1539, Parisiis (Paris): Joannes Lodoicus Tiletanus. *Jacobus Marthanus Pictaviensis, Magica Zoroastri oracula, Plethonis commentariis enarrata*. Brunet V 1540. BM; (DLC).

(\*) 1589, Parisiis (Paris): s.l. Joannes Opsopoeus, *Sibyllina oracula* 122-134. BN.

1599, Parisiis (Paris): s.l. Joannes Opsopoeus, *Sibyllina oracula* 122-134. Brunet V, 370; Graesse VI i 398. BM; BN; (DLC, IaU, ICN, InU, MdBJ, NIC, ViU).

1607, Parisiis (Paris): s.l. Joannes Opsopoeus, *Sibyllina oracula* 122-134. Brunet V 370; Graesse VI i 398. BM; BN; (DDO, DLC, MiU, NN, OCIW, OO, PPL-R).

(\*) 1659, Hamburgi (Hamburg): M. Piper. Petrus Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae*. BM; (MH).

1689, Amstelodami (Amsterdam): apud Hen. et viduam Theod. Boom. Servatius Gallaeus, *Sibyllina oracula* II 114-115. Brunet II 1456; Graesse VI i, 398. BM; BN; (CtY, DLC, IEN, MiU, NIC, NN-AS, OCU, PU).

1710, Lipsiae et Francofurti (Leipzig and Frankfurt): C. Liebezeit. Petrus Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae* 96-97. Brunet III 786-787; Graesse IV 84. BM; BN; (ICN, InU, MH, NN, NNC, PU).

1823, Parisiis (Paris): F. Didot (Gr.-Lat.). N. E. Lemaire, *Bibliotheca classica latina* 124, 414-419. BM; BN; (DLC).

*Doubtful editions*

(\*) 1558, Paris: Joannes Lodoicus Tiletanus (Michaud XLV 601).

(\*) 1589, Amstelodami (Amsterdam): apud Hen. et viduam Theod. Boom. Typographical error for 1689 edition, *Bibliothèque Nationale, Cat. Gen. des livres imprimés* 27, 521. Reported by M<sup>lle</sup> E. Brui, BN.

*Biogr.:*

Jacobus Marthanus (Jacques de Sainte-Marthe), son of Gaucher de Sainte-Marthe, was born at the Abbey de Fontevrault where his father was physician. Jacobus was a younger brother of Charles de Sainte-Marthe

(1512-55) and an uncle of Scévole de Sainte-Marthe. He became a physician, but was also versed in Greek, philosophy, and the liberal arts. Wrote a funeral oration for Gulielmus Budaeus, whose relative he was. Later Marthanus became Seigneur de Chandoiseau. Dates of his birth and death are unknown.

*Works:* In addition to the translation of the Oracles and Plethon's commentary, Marthanus published also *De Gulielmo Budaeo Parisiensi commentatiuncula* (Paris 1540).

*Bibl.:* C. Gesner I (1545) 358.

W. Bates, et al., *Vitae selectorum aliquot virorum qui doctrina, dignitate, aut pietate inclaruere* (London 1681) 282-283; Caroline Ruutz-Rees, *Charles de Sainte-Marthe* (New York 1910) 10, 12; 515-518; Scévole de Sainte-Marthe, *Gallorum doctrina illustrium...elogia* (Paris 1616) 176-178.

3. *Joannes Brixius*

This translation of the Greek oracles attributed to Zoroaster by Plethon was published in 1550 at Lyons with Brixius' Latin translation of Hesiod's *Opera et dies*.

*Dedication to both works [Inc.]:* Praeclarissimo atque Religiosissimo viro Iacobo Fabro Abbati Casaedi, Praesidique Parisiensi Joannes Brixius S. P. D. Cum omnes homines, qui egregiam operam Reipublicae suorum commodorum obliti navant, commendare, ac eorum nominis memoriam immortalem usurpare... iure debemus... [Expl.]: Tu autem, Praeses aequissime, qui et liberali doctrina et eximia virtute ingenioque prolixo et benefico es ornatus, hanc meam lucubrationem studiumque tua insigni autoritate praestantique dignitate illustrabis, gratamque, ut mihi persuasi, es excepturus, quod quidem studium qualecunque est, tibi ultro offéro et dedico. Vale. Tholosae quarto Idus Mart.

*Secondary dedications:* Ad clarissimum doctissimumque virum D. Antonium à Paulo senatorem Tholosatem tetrastichon Ioannis Brixij.

Nunc tua, Mecoenas, virtus, nunc  
[fama per orbem  
Sparsa relucet, nam pervolat Anti-  
[podas.

Filius ore referre patrem suevit, tua  
   [sed te  
 iam proles retulit moribus usque  
   [probis.  
 Ad Ioannem à Paulo eiusdem filium fausto  
   [sydere natum.  
 Incipe fortunate puer, firmare pa-  
   [rentis  
 Spemque animumque. Quid hoc?  
   [vincere namque potes.  
 Disce puer virtutem, verum disce  
   [laborem  
 Ex tanto patre. Cui te quoque  
   [necte virum.

*Translation of the Oracles [Inc.]:*  
 Divina Iudicia et Testimonia Zoroastris pri-  
   [mi magorum.  
 Conquire tu ipse animae viam, unde,  
   [aut quo ordine  
 Corpori operam dederis, et quomodo  
   [originem traxeris.  
 Rursus revivisces, qui sacro oraculo  
   [opus tuum accommodasti...  
 [Expl.]: Neque in sua potentia intelligentia  
   [praedita  
 Operuit proprium ignem.  
 Ne Pater in metum incurrat, suada  
   [eloquitur.

*Greek source:* Probably the Greek edition of the oracles which appeared with Hesiod's *Opera et Dies* in Paris in 1541 (Maittaire, *An. Typ.*, III, i, 329; Fabricius *BG* I 310).

*Edition:*  
 (micro) 1550, Lugduni (Lyons): Theobaldus Paganus. Joannes Brixius, *Utilis Docti Hesiodi Ascræi Opera et dies* 51-53. Graesse III 265. BM.

*Biogr.:*  
 Biographical facts unknown. Yet Ant. Verderius (*Supplementum Bibliothecae Gesnerianae* [Lyons 1585] 28) calls him 'Monsp. iuris utriusque interpres.'

#### 4. Franciscus Patritius

The translation, completed by August, 1591 at Ferrara, was dedicated to Pope Gregory XIV with a secondary dedication to Cardinal Enrico Gaetani. By drawing oracles from the writings of many ancient authors Patritius increased the number of ora-

cles to 324 and placed them under eleven general heads.

*Dedication [Inc.]:* Quinque hoc volumine, pias omnes, omnes Catholicae fidei consonas, Gregori Pater Beatiss. tibi afferimus philosophias... [Expl.]: Me vero, tam gloriosi, tam proficui operis apud te promotorem atque hortatorem, pro veteris erga te mei cultus ratione, pro praesentis tuae gloriae et futurae studio, in clientelam tuam, potes enim, suscipe. Ferrariae, Augusti die v, Anno MDXCI.

*Preface [Inc.]:* Francisci Patricii Zoroaster. Zoroastrem Magiae inventorem fuisse, satis apud Authores convenire scribit Plinius... [Expl.]: Sed ea in classes quasdam, intelligentiae clarioris gratia, redegimus xij, singulis tamen primam authoris nominis litteram praefiximus, ut cognoscatur unde ea sumpserimus.

*Translation of the Oracles:*  
 [Inc.]: Monas dyas, et trias.

Ubi paterna monas est...  
 [Expl.]: Collucentem saltatim totius per  
   [profundum mundi.

Audi ignis vocem.

*Bibl.:* Fabricius *BG* I 312-313; A. Jahn, 'Glossarium sive vocabularium ad Oracula Chaldaica a Clerico post Patricium et Stanleium sub falso nomine Oraculorum Zoroastris mendose edita, nunc vero fontium ope correctae,' *Revue de Philologie, de Littérature et d'Histoire anciennes* 23 (1899) 193-225; *id.*, 'Specimen commentarii critici et exegetici ex fontibus hausti ad Oracula Chaldaica,' *ibid.* 24 (1900) 169-192; W. Theiler, 'Die Chaldaischen Orakel und die Hymnen des Synesios,' *Schriften der Königsberger Gelehrten Gesellschaft* 18. 1 (1942).

*Greek sources:* Printed editions of the *Oracula* with other oracles drawn from the works of many ancient philosophers and historians (Damascius, Olympiodorus, Proclus, Simplicius, Synesius, and others).

#### *Editions:*

(\*) 1591, Ferrariae (Ferrara): Ben. Mamerellus (Gr.-Lat.). Franciscus Patritius, *Nova de universis philosophia*. Brunet IV 442; Graesse V 169. BN; (MH, PU).

1593, Venetiis (Venice): Robertus Meietus (Gr.-Lat.). F. Patritius, *Nova de universis philosophia*, fols. 8-11. Brunet IV 442;

Graesse V 169. BM ; BN : (CtY, MH, PU).

1593, Hamburgi (Hamburg) : s.f. F. Patrius, *Magia philosophica*, fols. 30-45. BM ; BN ; (DLC, ICU, MH, MiU, PU).

(\*) 1611, Londini (London) : Reprint of 1593, Venice edition of *Nova de universis philosophia*, appendix only (Gr.-Lat.). Fabricius BG I 55 ; Graesse III 250 ; W. Scott, *Hermetica* I 37 ; STC 13218.

1611, Francofurti (Frankfort) : M. Georgius Beatus. *Trinum magicum*, ed. Caesar Longinus, 494-520. (NIC).

(\*) 1614, Francofurti (Frankfort). *Trinum magicum*, ed. C. Longinus. Lynn Thorndike, *A History of Magic and Experimental Science* VI (New York 1941) 601. BM.

(\*) 1616, Francofurti (Frankfort) : Antonius Humius. *Trinum magicum*, ed. by C. Longinus. BM ; (IaU, NcD).

(\*) 1628, Londini (London) : Reprint of 1593, Venice edition of *Nova de universis philosophia*, appendix only (Gr.-Lat.). Fabricius, BG I 56.

1630, Francofurti (Frankfort) : Conrad Eiridus. *Trinum magicum*, ed. by C. Longinus. BN ; (ICJ, MH, NNE, OCIW).

(\*) 1659, Hamburgi (Hamburg) : M. Piper (Gr.-Lat.). Petrus Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae*. BM ; (MH).

(\*) 1661, London : H. Moseley and Thomas Dring (Gr.-Lat.-Eng.). Thomas Stanley *Chaldaick Oracles of Zoroaster*. (MH, NRU, OCIW).

(\*) 1663, Francofurti (Frankfort) : Ch. Gerlach and S. Beckenstein. *Trinum magicum*, ed. by C. Longinus. G. F. Freytag, *Adparatus litterarius* (Leipzig 1755) III 153-156. (OCIW, OUC).

1673, Francofurti (Frankfort) : Jacobus G. Seylerus. *Trinum magicum*, ed. by C. Longinus, 326-345. Graesse IV 251-252. BN ; (MdBj, NIC).

1687, London : T. Bassett, D. Newman, and T. Cockerill (Gr.-Lat.-Eng.). T. Stanley, *The History of Philosophy*. Brunet V 508 ; Graesse VI 1 478. (CoD, DFo, ICN, IEN, MdBP, MH, MiU, MWA, NjP, NN, OCIW).

1690, Amstelodami (Amsterdam) ; apud viduam Swart (Gr.-Lat. ; translation modified by J. Clericus). T. Stanley, *Historia philosophiae orientalis* 134-155. Graesse VI 478. BM ; BN ; (CLU-C, MH, NNC).

1698, Amstelodami (Amsterdam) : G. Gallet (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus version). J. Clericus, *Opera philosophica* 370-399. BN ; (ICN MH, NN, PU).

1700, Amstelodami (Amsterdam) : G. Gallet (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). T. Stanley, *Historia philosophiae orientalis* 370-399. (NNC).

1701, London : for W. Battersby (Gr.-Lat.-Eng.). T. Stanley, *The History of Philosophy*, Part XIX 41-51. Brunet V 508 ; Graesse VI 1 478. BM ; BN ; (CLSU, CSmH, DLC, ICJ, ICN, IEN, MA, NIC, NN, OCU, OrU, OU, ViU).

1704, Amstelodami (Amsterdam) : J. L. de Lorme (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). J. Clericus, *Opera philosophica* 324-345. Graesse IV 137. BM ; BN ; (CtY, DLC, ICU, MB, MiU, PPRrop).

1710, Amstelodami (Amsterdam) : J. L. de Lorme (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). J. Clericus, *Opera philosophica*. Graesse IV 137. BN ; (DLC, NjP, OOC, ViU).

1710, Lipsiae (Leipzig) apud T. Georgi (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). J. Clericus, *Logica* 370-399. BN ; (ICU, PPAmP, PU).

1710, Lipsiae et Francofurti (Leipzig and Frankfurt) ; C. Liebezeit (Gr.-Lat.). P. Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae* 97-106. Brunet III 786-787 ; Graesse IV 84. BM ; BN ; (ICN, InU, MH, NN, NNC, PU).

1711, Lipsiae (Leipzig) : Thomas Fritsch (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). T. Stanley, *Historia philosophiae* 1178-1191. Brunet V 508-509 ; Graesse VI 478. BN ; (IEN, MH, NjP, NNC, NNUT).

(\*) 1722, Amstelodami (Amsterdam) : apud R. et G. Westenios (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). J. Clericus, *Opera philosophica*. Graesse IV 137. BN ; (MH, NjP).

(\*) 1726, Nordhusae (Nordhausen) : J. H. Grossius (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). J. Clericus, *Opera philosophica*. BN ; (PPLT).

(\*) 1731, Venetiis (Venice) : S. Coletius (Gr.-Lat. in Clericus' version). T. Stanley, *Historia philosophiae* ; Graesse VI 478. BN ; (MiU).

1743, London : A. Miller (Gr.-Lat.-Eng.). T. Stanley, *The History of Philosophy* 803-810. Brunet V 508 ; Graesse VI 478. BM ; (DLC, MeB, OCL, PU).

*Doubtful edition :*

(\*) 1594, Hamburg, Fabricius *BG* I 55.

*Biogr.*: See above under Ps. Hermes Trismegistus I 3.

### 5. Federicus Morellus

This translation into forty-four oracles was completed in 1597 and appeared in Paris in Morellus' *Zoroastris, seu Magorum, qui a Zoroastre prodierunt, Oracula Heroica*.

*Dedication*: Ad C. V. D. Phillippum Portaeum Tyronii Abbatem eruditissimum...

Ut similem ad similem ducit Deus,  
[inquit Homerus,

Quisque paremque suum semper  
[amare solet:

En Persae tibi doctrina et pietate  
[micantis

Mitto oracla viro quem decet omnis  
[honos.

Oracla haec fateor possent Aenig-  
[mata dici:

Ast Oracla Dei clara minus Clarij.

*Translation of the Oracles*:

[*Inc.*]: Perquiras Animi riuum, unde et quo  
[ordine moli

Corporeae addictus, vitales rursus  
[ad auras

Antiquam et seriem adduces, re dic-  
[ta probante...

[*Expl.*]: Diripuit sese pater et dedit omnia  
[nobis.

Nec mentis propria vi clusit Numi-  
[nis ignem.

Suadelam infundit pater, haud ter-  
[rore quatit cor.

*Greek source*: Basically the Greek oracles which Plethon attributed to Zoroaster and which Morellus published in Greek in Paris, 1595.

*Editions*:

(micro) 1597, Lutetiae (Paris): Federicus Morellus. F. Morellus, *Zoroastris, seu Magorum, qui a Zoroastre prodierunt, Oracula Heroica*. Brunet V 1540; Graesse VI 2, 518. BM.

(\*) 1722, Londini (London): William Bowyer (Gr.-Lat.). M. Maittaire, *Miscellanea Graecorum aliquot scriptorum carmina, cum versione latina et notis* 1-15. Brunet III 1755. BM; (IU, MH, ViLxW; reported by Dorothy M. Black, Assoc. Ref. Lib., IU).

*Biogr.*:

Federicus Morellus (Fédéric Morel) was born in Paris, 1552, the eldest son of a famous father, Fédéric the Elder (1523-1583), printer for the king of France, to which position the younger Federicus succeeded in 1581. He published excellent editions of many Greek works, from the Bibliothèque Royale, often with able translations. He married Isabella Duchesne, the daughter of the learned professor at the Collège Royal. His titles include: Typographus Regius, Regius Interpres, Professor utriusque Linguae et Eloquentiae, Architypographus, and Professorum Regiorum Decanus. About 1600 he associated himself with the press of his brother, Claude. He died June 27, 1630.

*Works*: Morellus was the author of *Alexander Severus*, a Latin tragedy. He translated into Greek metres portions of several Latin poets, annotated the works of Libanius, the Greek sophist and rhetorician, and the *Silvae* of Statius. His translations include works of St. Basil, Theodoretus, Xenophon, Philo, Synesius, Theophilus, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Cyril, and others.

*Bibl.*: Jean de La Caille, *Histoire de l'Imprimerie et de la Librairie* (Paris 1689) 167-168; Georges Lepreux, *Gallia typographica* (Paris 1911) I 427 ff; M. Maittaire, *Historia Typographorum* (London 1717) pars 2; C. H. Timperley, *A Dictionary of Printers and Printing* (London 1839) 481-482.

### 6. Joannes Opsopoeus

Opsopoeus' translation of thirty-three oracles appeared in the second part of his *ΣΙΒΥΛΛΑΚΟΙ ΧΡΗΜΟΙ, hoc est Sibyllina oracula*, Paris 1589. The whole work is dedicated to Jacobus Augustus Thuanus, the eminent French historian and statesman, with no separate dedication or introduction for the Zoroastrian Oracles.

*Preface* [*Inc.*]: Fuisse foeminas fatidicas, quas Chaldaei Sambethas, Graeci et Latini Aeolico more Sibyllas appellarunt, adeo certum est, ut nullus in dubium vocare possit aut debeat... [*Expl.*]: Quos viros omnes, ut et caeteros amicos mei studiosos Deus clementer in istis Gallicanis furoribus sal-

vos et incolumes praeferat, et ab iisdem cito liberet, imprimis eos qui me Lutetia abeuntem, his Ciceronis versibus prosequuti sunt. Dic hospes Spartaee, nos te hic vidisse iacentes, Dum sanctis patriae legibus obsequimur.

*Transiation of the Oracles [Inc.]*: Exquire animae viam, unde aut qua ratione, ubi corpori inservieris, eandem rursus in locum à quo fluxisti extolles, sacro sermoni opus adiungens... [*Expl.*]: Pater non metum immittit, sed obsequium infundit.

*Greek source*: The sixty lines which Plethon attributed to Zoroaster and which were first published by J. Lodoicus Tiletanus at Paris in 1538.

*Editions*:

(\*) 1589, Parisiis (Paris): s.t. (Gr.-Lat.). Johannes Opsopoeus, *Sibyllina oracula* 16-23. BN (verified by M<sup>lle</sup> E. Brin).

1599, Parisiis (Paris): s.t. (Gr.-Lat.). J. Opsopoeus, *Sibyllina oracula* 16-23. Brunet V 370; Graesse VI 1, 398. BM; BN; (DLC, IaU, ICN, InU, MdBJ, NIC, NNC, ViU).

1607, Parisiis (Paris): s.t. (Gr.-Lat.). J. Opsopoeus, *Sibyllina oracula*, 16-23. Brunet V 370; Graesse VI 1, 398. BM; BN; (DDO, DLC, MiU, NN, OCIW, OO, PPL-R).

(\*) 1659, Hamburgi (Hamburg): M. Piper (Gr.-Lat.). Petrus Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae*. BM; (MH).

1689, Amstelodami (Amsterdam): apud Hen. et viduam Thoed. Boom (Gr.-Lat.). *Sibyllina oracula*, ed. by Servatius Gallaeus, II 78-81. Brunet II 1465; Graesse VI 1, 398. BM, BN; (CtY, DLC, IEN, MiU, NIC, NN-AS, OCU, PU).

1710, Lipsiae et Francofurti (Leipzig and Frankfurt): C. Liebezeit (Gr.-Lat.). P. Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae* 94-96. Brunet III 786-787; Graesse IV 84. BM; BN; (ICN, InU, MH, NN, NNC, PU).

1889, Parisiis (Paris): Garnier Fratres (Gr.-Lat.). Migne, PG 122, 1115-1122.

*Doubtful edition*:

(\*) 1589, Amstelodami (Amsterdam). Cf. above p. 159.

*Biogr.*:

Joannes Opsopoeus was born July 25, 1556, in Bretten in the Palatinate. Received his early education at the Gymnasium at

Neuhaus under Fortunatus Crellius. Later attended the Collegium at Heidelberg where he attended lectures of Professor Zacharias Ursinus. Became a corrector for the printer Andreas Wechel of Frankfurt-am-Main in 1576, but two years later went to Paris. There he was at first imprisoned because of his religious views, but was released and devoted himself to the study of medicine. Became professor of medicine at Heidelberg, and died at the early age of forty, on September 23, 1596.

*Works*: His annotations on the *Sibylline Oracles* were printed in 1589, 1599, 1607, and 1689. He also edited some medical works including the *Hippocratis Coi iusjurandum* (Frankfort 1587), and wrote *Theses de partibus corporis humani* (Heidelberg 1595).

*Bibl.*: ADB 34. 407; Jocher III 1086; Nicéron, *Mémoires* XXXVII 402-405.

Melchior Adam, *Vitae Germanorum medicorum* (Heidelberg 1610) 325-326; Paul Freher, *Theatrum virorum eruditione clarorum* II (Nürnberg 1688) 1296-97; J. C. Zeltner, *Theatrum virorum eruditorum* (Nürnberg 1720) 397-400.

### 7. Otto Heurnius

In 1600 the oracles which Patritius had earlier collected were retranslated and published by Otto Heurnius in Leyden. The translation was criticized by Thomas Stanley in his *History of Philosophy* (London 1701, Part xix, p. 40), as having 'patch'd up and corrupted what Patricius delivered faithfully and sincerely.'

*Dedication [Inc.]*: Nobilissimis ac Amplissimis Holland. et Westphr. Ordinibus, Otto Heurnius, Ioannis filius, dedicat consecratque. Libros istos, quos de barbarorum philosophia scripsi, vobis dare, dedicare, mihi visum, Nobilissimi et Amplissimi Ordines. ... [*Expl.*]: Valet Ordines Potentissimi, ac ad verae Religionis tutelam, nostramque salutem, incolumes regnate aeternum. Ex Academia uestra Leyda in Batauis. Anno 1600.

*Prologue [Inc.]*: Plutarchus litterarum perennitati inseruit, fulgidissimum Graeciae lumen Themistoclem, socordiae tenebricosa nebula impeditum haesisse, donec Miltiadis

victoriae radiis illustratus, eam ineffabili quadam alacritate disiiceret.... [*Expl.*]: Haec ante rem, sed non abs re, monendus mihi fuisti Lector benevole, ob Aculeonum et in alienis rebus hoc aevo Curionum ubertatem, qui inscitiae suae hostorio vel eruditione stipatissima radere audent, ad quorum aversionem avertentia sacra nobiscum facias Invidiae et Pallori.

*Preface [Inc.]*: (p. 120) De Indorum philosophis tractatus. 1. De Zoroastro Bactrianorum rege, ac principe Magorum. Cap. 1. Soroastrum [sic] Magiam excoluisse satis inter auctores conuenire scribit Plinius.... [*Expl.*]: Nos illa Romana lingua donata et rigidiori lima expolita, ut clarius sententiarum lumen fulgeat, hic ponimus.

*Translation of the Oracles [Inc.]*: Zoroastri Bactrianorum regis, ac principiis [sic] Magorum, oracula Magica sincera. De Diuina Unitate, Dualitate, ac Trinitate. Cap. 1. Ubi est Unitas Paterna? Multiplicata est Unitas et generauit duo.... [*Expl.*]: Quando videris sine forma sacrum ignem collucen-tem saltim per totius Mundi profundum, tunc audi ignis vocem.

*Greek source*: The printed editions of Franciscus Patritius (1591, 1593) which he follows very closely.

*Editions*:

(micro) 1600, Lugduni-Batavorum (Leyden): Christophorus Raphelengius. Otto

Heurnius, *Barbaricae philosophiae antiquitatum libri duo* 124-140 BM; (HCL).

(\*) 1619, Lugduni-Batavorum (Leyden). Otto Heurnius, *Babylonicae, Indicae, Aegyptiae, ... philosophiae primordia*. BM.

(\*) 1659, Hamburgi (Hamburg): M. Piper. Petrus Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae*. BM; (MH).

1710, Lipsiae et Francofurti (Leipzig and Frankfurt): C. Liebezeit. P. Lambecius, *Prodromus historiae literariae* 107-112. Brunet III 786-787; Graesse IV 84. BM; BN; (ICN, InU, MH, NN, NNC, PU).

*Biogr.*:

Otto Heurnius (Van Heurn), son of the professor of medicine, Johannes Heurnius, was born in 1577 at Utrecht. Moved in 1581 to Leyden where he received his early education under Nicolas Stoch. On August 24, 1599, he received the M. A. at the University of Leyden and in 1600 became professor of philosophy there. On July 7, 1601, he became a Doctor of Medicine and on November 8 of the same year, professor of medicine. He died in 1662.

*Works*: Besides his *Antiquitatum philosophiae barbaricae libri duo* (1600), he edited the works of his father, Joannes Heurnius.

*Bibl.*: *ADB* 12. 334; Michaud 19. 393; Nicéron, *Mémoires* 37. 36-45.

Paul Freher, *Theatrum virorum eruditione clarorum* II (Nürnberg 1688) 1341-42.