

# JANUARIUS NEPOTIANUS

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(Cornell University Libraries)

<i>Fortuna.</i>	251
<i>Bibliography.</i>	251
<i>I. Epitoma librorum Valerii Maximi.</i>	252
No commentary before 1600 A.D.	

## FORTUNA

The alphabet is arbitrary, and accordingly two epitomators of the last ancient author in this volume, Valerius Maximus, must precede him. For the same reason, Januarius Nepotianus precedes Julius Paris here. Neither attracted commentators, but they are included in this volume in order to illustrate more fittingly the enormous influence which Valerius Maximus exerted in his Fortleben.

The identity and date of Januarius Nepotianus have been often discussed. Proffered variously by modern scholars as the Nepotianus in a Latin inscription of the beginning of the third century, as a contemporary of Constantine or Julian, and as the grammarian and rhetorician Nepotianus to whom Ausonius dedicated a poem in the fourth century, he lived probably before the sixth century since Ennodius (473?-521) used him; that he was known also to Orosius we judge from that writer's recension of the *Historia Alexandri Magni de preliis*, and about the year 1000 Landulfus Sagax, as Droysen has demon-

strated, lifted numerous passages from him for the *Historia Miscella*.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### I. Editions.

Angelo Cardinal Mai edited the epitome in *Scriptorum veterum nova collectio*, III (Roma, 1828), pp. XXIII-XXVIII and (part 3) 93-115; the dedicatory letter had been published earlier by Philippus Labbeus in *Nova bibliotheca manuscriptorum librorum*, I (Parisiis, 1657), 669, as James M. Wells and Susan Dean have verified for me from the copy in the Newberry Library. Karl Friedrich Kempf, though he discussed the epitome in his first edition of Valerius Maximus (Berolini, 1854), did not publish its text. Karl Felix von Halm included it on pages 488-513 in his edition of Valerius (Lipsiae, 1865), printing the exempla missing from Valerius, however, not there but on pages 13-19 in place of the missing exempla, and Kempf followed suit in his second edition (Lip-

siae, 1888) on pages 13–21 and 592–624. I have used Kempf's text in quoting from the dedicatory letter.

## II. General Treatments.

Schanz-Hosius, *Geschichte der römischen Literatur*, 4th ed. (München, 1935, repr. 1967), II, 591–592, 593–594; Paul Wessner in Pauly-Wissowa, IX (1916), 698.

## III. Special Treatments.

Hans Droysen, 'Über den Codex Palatinus (No. 909) der *Historia romana* des Landolfus Sagax,' *Hermes*, XII (1877), 387–390 and 'Nachträge zu der Epitome des Nepotianus,' *ibid.*, XIII (1878), 122–132; Wilhelm Heraeus, 'Neue Beiträge zur Kritik des Valerius Maximus und des Nepotianus,' *Philologus*, N. F. XIII (1900), 416–440; Max Ihm, 'Zu Valerius Maximus und Ianuarius Nepotianus,' *Rheinisches Museum*, XLIX (1894), 247–255; Karl Friedrich Kempf, 'De Ianuario Nepotiano . . .,' pp. 67–69 in his first edition of Valerius Maximus (Berolini, 1854); Willy Morel, 'Zu spätlateinischen Prosatexten,' *L'antiquité classique*, XXVII (1958), 355–356; Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Müller, 'Zu Ianuarius Nepotianus,' *Neue Jahrbücher für Philologie und Pädagogik*, CXLI (1890), 713–720; Michael Petschenig, 'Zu Ianuarius Nepotianus,' *Philologus*, N. F. IV (1891), 92; Joseph Schnetz, *Neue Untersuchungen zu Valerius Maximus* (Würzburg, 1904), 29–39; Fritz Walter, 'Zu lateinischen Schriftstellern,' *Wiener Studien*, XLVIII (1930), 182.

### I. *Epitoma Librorum Valerii Maximi*.

As difficult as Ianuarius Nepotianus to identify is the 'adulescens' Victor to whom he dedicated his epitome. Victor was of course an exemplary young man, as indeed all those young men seem to have been to whom edi-

tions of Valerius Maximus were dedicated through the years. 'Impensius quam ceteri adolescentes litteris studes,' says Nepotianus, 'quo tantum proficis, ut exigas scripta veterum coerceri, mi Victor. Quod iudicium etiam in senibus rarum est, quia recte dicendi scientia in paucis,' and he proceeds to set forth his reasons for epitomizing Valerius Maximus and his method. 'Igitur de Valerio Maximo mecum sentis opera eius utilia esse, si sint brevia: digna enim cognitione componit, sed colligenda producit, dum se ostentat sententiis, locis iactat, fundit excessibus, et eo fortasse sit paucioribus notus, quod legentium aviditati mora ipsa fastidio est. Recidam itaque, ut vis, eius redundantia et pleraque transgrediar, nonnulla praetermissa conectam. Sed hoc meum *nec* nervum antiquorum habebit nec fucum novorum, et cum integra fere in occulto sint *et* praeter nos duo profecto nemo epitomata cognoscat, hoc tutius abutor otio tibi que pareo. † Heu, censor, piveteres, cave hic aliud quam breviter requiras, quam solam poposcisti. Cura, mi Victor, ut valeas.'

The work is truncated, breaking off in Chapter 21, at Book III, 2, 7, and it omits even within its brief compass many exempla of Valerius. It was relatively unknown to modern scholars until Angelo Cardinal Mai edited its text in 1828 from Vaticanus latinus 1321, s. XIV, ff. 147–154, a manuscript evincing errors which may show that it was descended from one in Beneventan script of the ninth or tenth century. The Latinity is good, but the outstanding merit of both it and the epitome of Julius Paris is that the exempla missing from Valerius I 1, ext. 4–4 ext. 1 are included and so preserve to us some semblance of his text there. The commentators naturally gravitated not to Nepotianus but to Valerius himself.