

PREFACE

For the general aims of the *Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum*, the reader is referred to the Preface to Volume I, by Paul Oskar Kristeller, which is reprinted below.

As in the past, the articles in Volume VII were not especially selected but are simply those that have been completed at the present time. The preponderance of Greek authors (four) treated here as opposed to Latin (one) reverses a trend apparent since Volume III and parallels instead Volumes I and II, in which articles on Greek authors were more numerous. Strikingly diverse in this volume are the broad classifications under which the various authors fall. Their contributions to so many different fields of learning and literature emphasize once again how important it is to illustrate their impact on the Middle Ages and Renaissance, for these periods of history have had an impact on succeeding centuries, even down to our own.

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The first article in the Greek section of Volume VII is devoted to Cleomedes, a Greek astronomer (*fl.* second century A.D.?), who is known only as the author of *De motu circulari corporum caelestium*. This work seems to have received little or no attention until it was cited by Byzantine scholars first in the eleventh century and later in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries during the revival of Byzantine interest in astronomy. Cleomedes' popularity was probably at its height in the fifteenth century; numerous manuscript copies were produced as were translations by Carolus Valgulius and Georgius Valla. The treatise, however, is not the sort that could establish itself as a handbook; hence, in the sixteenth century, it was supplanted by other astronomical texts that were easily available and better focused. Robertus Balforeus is responsible for the only commentary on Cleomedes (published in 1605).

Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons (ca. 130–ca. 200 A.D.), is much better known. Usually described as the most important Christian theologian of his time, he is earlier by nearly two centuries than the three patristic writers already treated in the *Catalogus*, Gregorius Nazianzenus (Volume II), Gregorius Nyssenus (Volume V), and Nemesius Emesenus (Volume VI). That our knowledge of his two surviving works (*Adversus haereses* and *Demonstratio apostolicae praedicationis*) is owing principally to translations is, of course, a strong reinforcement of arguments made elsewhere for the rationale behind the *Catalogus* itself. Although Irenaeus was often cited by both the Latin and Greek Fathers and later by Byzantine and medieval Latin writers, the most interesting uses of his writings are to be found in the religious controversies of the sixteenth century. Indeed, the tension between Erasmus and Luther was a factor in the preparation of the *editio princeps* of the *Adversus haereses* (Basel, 1526). Consequently, it is not surprising that the commentaries on, and other Latin translations of, the *Adversus haereses* are sixteenth century in origin as well. Religious differences are still the subject of discussion in our own time; now, as then, Irenaeus' deep concern with church unity is a point of focus for protagonists on both sides.

Greek philosophy is represented by Plotinus (A.D. 205–269/270), author of the *Enneads*. This work has experienced a strong resurgence of scholarly interest during the past decade. The large number of books and articles that continue to appear on Plotinus contrast sharply with his *fortuna* in the Middle Ages, when the *Enneads* were scarcely cited, and in the Renaissance, when humanists produced only two translations and one commentary.

Xenophon (ca. 428–ca. 354 B.C.) is the subject of the final and longest article in the Greek section of Volume VII. He is the author with by far the widest interests: his fourteen works cover philosophy, history, government, biography, panegyric, horsemanship, hunting, military strategy,

and estate management. Renowned in antiquity as a Socratic philosopher and admired for his so-called pure Attic style, he remained popular until the Middle Ages. He seems then to have become unknown in the West and, though still read (sometimes indirectly through compilations) in the East, he did not escape criticism. The early Italian humanists, however, took Xenophon's works as a basic text for the teaching of classical Greek. The *Hiero* was translated into Latin by 1403; by the end of the sixteenth century all of Xenophon's writings had been rendered into Latin several times each and commentaries produced on all but four of his works. Since then Xenophon has experienced several revivals of popularity. His works were often used as basic school texts in colonial America, being valued for their historical and moral instruction.

Catullus (ca. 82–ca. 52 B.C.) is the single Latin author to be treated in this volume. His poems circulated widely and were imitated in antiquity but fell into oblivion for the greater part of the Middle Ages, to be rescued near the end of the thirteenth or beginning of the fourteenth century when a manuscript copy of them emerged at Verona. This codex, now lost, soon found readers, and Catullus began to be studied and again imitated. He was, in fact, rediscovered with the Renaissance. Eventually humanist scholars were to make up for lost time, and they produced twenty commentaries on the entire corpus or smaller groups, as well as other commentaries on individual poems. Their findings regarding the transmission of the text are still important for modern editors. Catullus has today the status of a school author.

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As always, it is a pleasure to thank those whose help has made possible the publication of the *Catalogus*. In this regard it is a privilege to thank first Professor Paul Oskar Kristeller, to whom our volume is dedicated. All associated with the project are keenly aware of his multifaceted contributions. Volume VII, like its predecessors, is greatly indebted to his constant generosity and unflagging interest.

Special thanks are due to Berthe M. Marti, Chairman of the Executive Committee, whose support for the *Catalogus* has been unwavering since its inception. The Section Editors, through their careful reading of the articles submitted to them, have made important contributions to the scholarship of the volume.

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The *Catalogus* could not exist without the assistance and cooperation of countless libraries throughout the world, and we heartily thank the many librarians who have helped us, often far beyond the call of duty, by providing books, by supplying microfilms and xeroxes of their holdings, and by answering questions about rare books and manuscripts in their charge. Further instances of special help are acknowledged in the individual articles.

It is appropriate to conclude with an expression of personal gratitude to F. Edward Cranz, former Editor in Chief and Secretary of the *Catalogus*. Every article in Volume VII had the benefit of his penetrating yet gentle and encouraging scrutiny during his tenure of these offices, and he has replied with invariable courtesy to the many queries put by his successor. It is characteristic of his modesty that he has insisted on being designated here only as Associate Editor.

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For the Executive Committee
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