

PREFACE

For the general aims of the *Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum*, reference should be made to the Preface to Volume 1, by Paul Oskar Kristeller, which is reprinted below.

Various circumstances have delayed, unfortunately, the appearance of this volume; in the future we hope to publish volumes at shorter intervals.

Of the six articles that Volume 8 contains, five treat Greek authors and only one deals with a Latin author; this continues the trend noticeable in Volumes 1, 2, and 7, all of which contained more articles on Greek authors. As in the case of the seven preceding volumes, we are publishing in Volume 8 those contributions which happened to be completed at the present time. Although they represent disparate fields (natural science, geography, philosophy, and history), the articles sometimes complement each other, and four of the authors treated continue to exert in our own time the considerable appeal and interest noticeable in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

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Two articles concern scientific writers. Geminus (first century B.C.) compiled an astronomical survey (*Elementa astronomiae*). Several hundred years later Damianus (fl. between the fourth and the sixth centuries A.D.) wrote a treatise on optics (*Capita optiarum*). Both works were aimed at readers on an elementary level. But the number of surviving Latin translations and commentaries attest to the fact that Geminus enjoyed much greater popularity. The chief reason for this was the detachment in the fifteenth century of four chapters from his *Elementa astronomiae*, their rearrangement in a different textual sequence, and their subsequent attribution, under the title of *Sphaera*, to Proclus, the Neoplatonic philosopher of the fifth century A.D. Ironically, the *Sphaera* attracted far more interest (7 translations, 11 commentaries) than did the *Elementa astronomiae* (4 translations, 1 commentary) from which it had been excerpted.

The *Periplus* of Hanno the Carthaginian (fl. before 200 B.C.?) is of an altogether different character. This is an account of a voyage around the coast of West Africa made by Hanno, who, as the purported author, relates his discoveries of certain marvelous places. The references to the *Periplus* in earlier authors such as Pliny the Elder, Solinus, and Pomponius Mela kept knowledge of the work alive in the Middle Ages. With the Renaissance came the return to a direct acquaintance with Hanno's journey. Despite the scanty manuscript tradition (two witnesses) and the single Latin translation and commentary presently identified (both by Konrad Gesner in the sixteenth century), the *Periplus* appears to have exerted considerable interest and appeal: it has been regarded as a motivating factor behind the explorations of Vasco da Gama and Pedro Álvares Cabral, used as a source of information by mapmakers like Abraham Ortelius, and cited in controversies involving the Portuguese and Spanish claims to the coasts of Africa and America. The steady stream of editions and commentaries produced from the eighteenth century to our own time demonstrates that the *Periplus* has not lost its fascination.

Themistius (fourth century A.D.) represents still another area of inquiry. He paraphrased the treatises of Aristotle that dealt with logic, psychology, and natural science and wrote speeches consisting of official addresses to the emperor. These *Orationes*, of which thirty-three survive, did not circulate widely in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, but the *fortuna* of the paraphrases was quite different during these periods. Not a profound thinker himself, Themistius provided, nonetheless, a useful service to later students of Aristotle, especially since his expositions often contain fragments from lost commentaries. Any study of Themistius' influence has necessarily to consider other Aristotelian commentators. He was cited by his Greek counterparts (e.g., Simplicius) and translated into Arabic, Hebrew, and Syriac. References in Arabic sources to Themistius would ensure knowledge of this author in medieval Europe, and the first Latin translations of his works were made in the twelfth and thirteenth

centuries (respectively, his paraphrases of the *Posterior Analytics* and *De anima*). By the fourteenth century Themistius had achieved such stature that other paraphrases were wrongly attributed to him. Evidence from library inventories and commentaries shows that he continued to be copied, read, and used in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The University of Padua, of course, played a leading role. Hermolaus Barbarus, who had studied there, translated into Latin between 1473 and 1480 the three surviving Greek paraphrases (*Posterior Analytics*, *De anima*, *Physics*) as well as four spurious paraphrases. Interest in Themistius as a philosopher began to decline from the seventeenth century on just as his *Orationes* came into some prominence.

The articles on Thucydides and Sallust treat two influential and complementary historians. Sallust's imitation of Thucydidean style was clear to Antiquity and the Renaissance, and in both periods they were read and regarded as equals. Their fortunes diverge in the intervening centuries: Thucydides was known and used in the time of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, but in the medieval Latin West knowledge of his writings comes through intermediaries; for Sallust, the fifth and sixth centuries represented a period of comparative neglect after his status as a school author in Antiquity and his influence on such authors as Tacitus, but he came into his own again in the Middle Ages when his works began to be copied and used for purposes of teaching. Hence it is to be expected that Sallust, not Thucydides, was the subject of the earliest commentaries on either author. Apart from the mostly lost commentary of Aemilius Asper (fl. between the first and third centuries A.D.) on Sallust's *Historiae* (itself now fragmentary), the oldest surviving commentaries are those preserved in a late twelfth-century manuscript on the *Bellum Catilinae* and the *Bellum Iugurthinum*. Thucydides was not translated into Latin until the 1452 rendering of Laurentius Valla, and the commentary tradition begins in the sixteenth century, with the speeches attracting particular attention from translators and commentators. The interest that Thucydides and Sallust singly or collectively once generated in such diverse figures as Niccolò Machiavelli, Thomas More, and Thomas Hobbes has continued unabated down to our own time.

Within two years the *Catalogus* has lost its founding editors and most faithful supporters: F. Edward Cranz (†15 May 1998) and Paul Oskar Kristeller (†8 June 1999). Both read in typescript nearly all the articles that make up the present volume and offered learned, helpful suggestions much appreciated by the authors and the editors. Our indebtedness to Professor Kristeller was officially acknowledged in the dedication to him of Volume VII, and we now dedicate Volume VIII to the memory of Professor Cranz. The international academic community recognizes him as a great scholar; those of us who were associated with him on the *Catalogus* project were, of course, aware of this, but we also knew him as the best of editors and an exemplary colleague. It is a privilege to acknowledge, among Professor Cranz's many legacies, the unceasing kindness, gentleness, and generosity so integral to his character and so important for the success of the *Catalogus*.

Our second debt is to the Section Editors and other appraisers who kindly read the articles in this volume and made cogent suggestions for their improvement.

We express our gratitude once again for the continuing support of the Union Académique Internationale, under whose auspices the *Catalogus* is published. Running expenses for the project have been provided by the American Council of Learned Societies. The following scholarly organizations have given the *Catalogus* their moral support: in North America, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philological Association, the Medieval Academy of America, the Modern Language Association of America, and the Renaissance Society of America; in Europe, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the British Academy, and the Unione Accademica Nazionale. The Catholic University of America Press has supported the project from the beginning, and we are very grateful to the present director, Dr. David J. McGonagle, for publishing this volume without a subsidy.

In previous volumes we have recognized the help of many libraries as an essential factor in achieving the accuracy and completeness to which every *Catalogus* article aspires. This remains no less true

for the present volume. Librarians throughout the world have freely given of their time and expertise in answering many questions about the rare books and manuscripts in their charge, in providing information not otherwise accessible, and in supplying microfilms and photographs. We heartily thank them all. Instances of special help are included at the appropriate place in individual articles.

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For the Executive Committee
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