

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 of Volume VI do not represent a planned choice, and we are simply publishing those that have been completed at the present time. Nevertheless we hope that as the *Catalogus* continues, it will better and better illustrate, to use the phrasing of the first preface, "the impact which the literary heritage of ancient Greece and Rome had upon the literature, learning, and thought of those long centuries of western history known as the Middle Ages and the Renaissance."

The first article in the Greek section of Volume VI is devoted to the *Tabula* of ps. Cebes. Throughout the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the work was attributed to Cebes the Theban, a companion of Socrates, but it was actually written sometime during the first century after Christ. It had wide popularity in the Renaissance and through the sixteenth century and later, with at least fourteen translations and five commentaries. Though the *Tabula* is little read today, the article demonstrates once again that for the earlier history of the classical tradition we must turn to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance themselves and not impose nineteenth- or twentieth-century standards of excellence and importance.

Similarly, the *Hieroglyphica* of Horapollo is little studied by classicists of today, but it played an important role in the active hieroglyphic studies of the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as well as in the connected emblematic tradition. The work presents itself as a Greek translation, by an otherwise unknown Philip, of an Egyptian writing by Horapollo, and its authenticity was almost universally accepted through A.D. 1600. There were ten Latin translations of the *Hieroglyphica* and altogether thirteen Latin editions in the sixteenth century and fourteen in the seventeenth; in addition, there were two commentaries.

The third Greek author treated, Nemesius Emesenus, comes from the very different context of Christian theology of the fourth century, and his work *De natura hominis* was widely read both in medieval and in Renaissance periods. The article on Nemesius should be placed alongside two long articles which appeared in earlier volumes, on Gregorius Nazianzenus in Volume II and on Gregorius Nyssenus in Volume V. Taken together the articles throw a great deal of light on the fate of the Greek Christian writers in the Middle Ages, and here Nemesius was of particular importance. Further they demonstrate beyond a doubt that the humanists of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries worked actively on these authors in editing the Greek texts, in producing Latin translations and commentaries, and in interpreting their thought for a later age.

In the section of Latin authors, the article on Solinus stands as a parallel to that on Pomponius Mela in Volume V. Solinus was the chief Latin geographer from the late ancient period until the sixteenth century, when he was supplanted by Mela. A wealth of manuscripts and citations attest to the wide influence of his work in the Middle Ages. Even though his importance declined in the Renaissance, there were eight editions before 1500 and at least fifty in the sixteenth century as well as six commentaries and translations into the most important vernacular languages. In the case both of Solinus and of Mela, it is noteworthy how long the classical authors remained the standard textbooks of geography, sometimes in modernized editions, even after the tremendous explosion of new knowledge following the discoveries.

The article on Tacitus, by far the longest in the volume, excellently illustrates his central place in the political thought of the sixteenth century. Virtually unknown in the Middle Ages, Tacitus was rediscovered in the fourteenth century, though it was not until the early sixteenth century that Europe came to possess all the works that we now have. Of the minor works the *Germania* occupies a unique

position, and the course of a rising German nationalism can nowhere be better traced than in the commentaries and studies on it. The *Historiae* and the *Annales* soon became involved in the extraordinary development of political thought in the century following Machiavelli, and historians speak of one of the currents as "Tacitism." There were some twenty-four commentators, nine of whom commented upon the whole of the recognized corpus. The greatest monument of this scholarship is the series of editions by Justus Lipsius (1547–1606); the first appeared in 1574, and Lipsius was still working on the final edition at the time of his death.

The last article in the volume deals with Vegetius, whose *Epitoma rei militaris* was probably written toward the end of the fourth century after Christ. The *Epitoma* is the only complete classical treatise on military affairs which has survived, and from the Middle Ages into early modern times it has ranked as the standard textbook on the art of war. There were thirteen editions of the Latin text through the eighteenth century, and three learned Latin commentaries appeared during the late sixteenth century. Because this practical manual was of interest primarily to soldiers rather than to scholars or humanists, its widest influence was exercised not by the Latin tradition but through the many, and frequently printed, vernacular translations.

Finally, Volume VI contains two short *addenda et corrigenda* on Martianus Capella and ps. Theodolus (Volume II). In both cases, the original articles are brought up to date by the inclusion of new manuscript material which has come to light since their original publication.

It is once again a pleasure to thank those whose help has made the volume possible. As in the past, first place belongs to Professor Paul Oskar Kristeller, who did so much to bring the *Catalogus* into being and who has over the years never ceased to give it the benefit of his unflagging energy and erudition. Special thanks are due to Leicester Bradner, to whom the volume is dedicated; as Chairman of the Executive Committee he has as always provided the editors with good counsel and unwavering support. The Section Editors through their careful reading of the articles submitted to them have made important contributions to the scholarship of the volume. Finally, we are proud to welcome Dr. Virginia Brown, of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto, as Associate Editor of the present volume, and we are happy to announce that she will serve as Editor in Chief beginning with Volume VII.

We remain most grateful for the continuing support of the Union Académique Internationale, under whose auspices the *Catalogus* is published. The National Endowment and the American Council of Learned Societies have provided the running expenses for the project. And we continue to be indebted to the scholarly organizations that have given the project their moral support: in this country 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. Finally, we are indebted to the Catholic University of America Press for its long support of the *Catalogus*, and for Volume VI we have been honored by the grant of a publication subvention from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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 assisted 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. Particular thanks for the present volume are owed to Brian Rogers, Librarian, and to Helen Aitner and James McDonald of the Connecticut College Library as well as to Alan Tuttle, Librarian, and Rebecca Sutton of the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, where much of the work on the present volume was done. Further instances of special help are acknowledged in the individual articles.

Personally I am again indebted to Connecticut College for support over the years and to the National Humanities Center for the privilege of being a Fellow there during 1981–82.

Connecticut College
January 1985

For the Executive Committee
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