

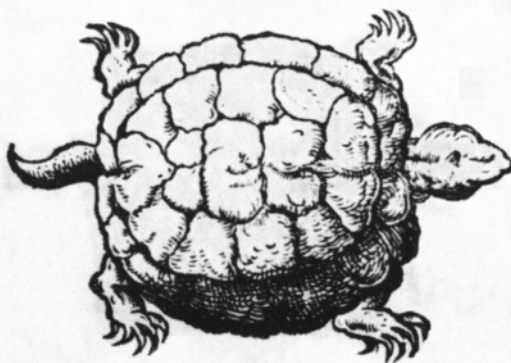
THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

RENAISSANCE TEXT SERIES, III

CALVIN'S COMMENTARY
ON
SENECA'S DE CLEMENTIA

 L. ANNEI SE-
NECAE, ROMANI SENATO-
RIS, AC PHILOSOPHI CLARISSI-
mi, libri duo de clementia, ad Ne-
ronem Caesarem:

Ioannis Caluini Nouiodunzi cōmentarijs illustrati.



TECVM HABITA.

Parisijs apud Ludonicum Cyaneum sub
duobus Gallis in via Iacobæa.

1 5 3 2

ACADLVED

CALVIN'S COMMENTARY ON SENECA'S DE CLEMENTIA

WITH INTRODUCTION, TRANSLATION, AND NOTES

BY

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With three facsimiles



Published for
THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA
by
E. J. BRILL, LEIDEN, 1969

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PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS

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PREFACE

It is the purpose of the present publication to introduce to a wider circle of readers the classicism of John Calvin on the eve of his conversion. What was originally planned was a small facsimile edition of the 1532 Commentary on the *De Clementia* of Seneca. It has grown into a threefold tome: introduction, text and translation, and notes. The editors hope that the volume will contain material of interest to a variety of persons; they have therefore spared no effort to present a comprehensive and accurate and independent study of the Commentary and of its background.

A commentary of this sort is a learned mosaic of hundreds of quotations, drawn directly or indirectly from dozens of writers. While certain themes are emphasized in the course of the Commentary, the reader will not find in the lushness and diffuseness of this early work the sustained style of the later Calvin or the economy of his Biblical commentaries. And because the author has drawn his quotations and his translations from such ancient and contemporary writers as were at hand, the editors have felt free to adapt various translations of classical writers in bringing forth an English version of Calvin's Commentary. The basis for the translation of the *De Clementia* is John W. Basore's rendering for the Loeb Classical Library (1928), used with the permission of the copyright holders, The Harvard University Press. Alert readers will, however, find countless places where, because of textual differences or the drift of the Commentary itself, Basore's renderings have been set aside. In like manner, the numerous short quotations from classical authors owe something to standard English translations. Yet, because of the great difference between 16th century classical texts, and the more modern scientifically determined texts upon which present-day translations are based, the reader will find here, too, many unexpected differences. Textual variants underlying these departures in translation are set forth in the apparatus to this edition, described below.

Dr. Hugo has assumed responsibility for the translation of the Dedicatory Epistle; Professor Battles for that of the short life of Seneca and of the Commentary as a whole. Each has, however, read and revised the work of the other.

The work has been executed from the 1532 edition, with study of

the Geneva (1611), Amsterdam (1667) and *Corpus Reformatorum* (1866) editions. Variant forms of the 1532 edition (in the Libraries of Wolfenbüttel and Leiden) have been collated. An exhaustive study of these variations may be published subsequently, based on these and additional exemplars in the British Museum and the Bibliothèque Nationale. Classical writers in editions contemporaneous with Calvin have been the basis of source criticism (these editions are noted in the Bibliography), but with reference in every instance to the corresponding Teubner or other modern text. The translation follows almost exactly the pagination of the 1532 edition; the two are printed on facing pages.

The apparatus of the Commentary is fourfold: (1) most citations or borrowings of Calvin are signalled in bracketed references within the text of the translation; (2) a detailed apparatus criticus (the work of Dr. Hugo) is provided for the text of Seneca's treatise; details of it are given in the Notice; (3) readings in Calvin's quotations of classical authors significantly variant from the Teubner or comparable modern text are cited in a second series of notes; (4) the third series of notes gives additional sources and provides a commentary. Line numbers have been inserted in the margins of the Latin text to make references easier; all references are to page and line.

Gratitude is to be expressed to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, through whose generous fellowship, 1962-63, and to the Hartford Seminary Foundation, through whose grant of sabbatical leave, Professor Battles was enabled to carry through most of the research for his portion of the present publication.

Credit must also be given to the following libraries where research was carried on: The Case Memorial Library, Hartford; the Library of Göttingen University and Lower Saxony, Göttingen, West Germany; the Bodleian Library, Oxford University, England; the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth; Trinity College Library, Hartford; and Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire. Valuable microfilms were supplied by Göttingen, Wolfenbüttel, and the University of Leiden, as well as by the British Museum (London) and the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris).

Persons who assisted Professor Battles with advice, encouragement and criticism include: the late Professor Otto Weber and his assistant, Frau H. Jahr, of Göttingen; Mr. Frank Jolles of Göttingen and London; Professor Brian Gerrish, formerly of McCormick Theological Seminary and now of the University of Chicago; Mrs. Clare

Boulter Baines of Burford, Oxon., England; Dr. Edward J. Furcha of Union College, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, and others. Special thanks go to the typists, Mesdames Berneice Sebold, C. Freeman Reynolds, Robert Wright, John A. Pilutti. Kindly assistance in arranging for typing was given by The Hartford Seminary Foundation and The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Xerox and multilith work was accomplished by Miss Margaret Parkhurst. Professor Walter Clyde gave his critical eye to the proof sheets. Lastly, the critical help and discriminating judgment of Professor Battles' wife, Marion, has made its impression on every page.

Dr. Hugo's first work on Calvin's Seneca Commentary culminated in his thesis, *Calvin en Seneca*, published by J. B. Wolters, Groningen, in 1957; to this firm both editors are indebted for introducing them to one another over thousands of miles of distance, in 1962. Since then, Dr. Hugo has continued his work on the Seneca mainly in Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa, but also briefly in Leiden and in Utrecht, where he and his family spent part of 1964. In the typing of his portion of the present edition he has been assisted by his wife, Hanneke. Much assistance and encouragement have been given by Professor Hendrik Wagenvoort of the University of Utrecht.

Especial thanks go to Professor Quirinius Breen of the University of Oregon, that pioneer scholar in the study of Calvin's classical period, for his constant help and generous good offices. Finally, to the Renaissance Society of America, through Professor George B. Parks, the editors are indebted for a willingness to undertake this rather large publishing venture.