

# **A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES**

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A Brief Outline of the History of Libraries by Justus Lipsius

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**JUSTUS LIPSIUS**

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OF THE HISTORY OF  
LIBRARIES**



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THE HISTORY OF  
LIBRARIES

BY

JUSTUS LIPSIUS

TRANSLATED FROM THE  
SECOND EDITION

(ANTWERP, THE PLANTIN PRESS  
JOHN MORETUS, 1607)

THE LAST FROM  
THE HAND OF THE AUTHOR

BY

JOHN COTTON DANA



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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

**F**EW of the biographers of Justus Lipsius have devoted their attention to that part of his writings which, in an English translation by John Cotton Dana, is here offered to lovers of libraries. They have found matters of greater importance to the world at large in the chief things of his life,—his theological, historical and literary writings. Mr. Peter Bayle, in his famous *General Dictionary*, which first appeared in 1697, and afterwards Englished, in 1710, says in this connection, as an introduction to his own contribution to Lipsius's biography:

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“I might relate a great many curious particulars concerning him; but as others\* have already collected them, and have not even omitted what relates to his education and his early learning, I am obliged to confine myself to such particulars as they have not mentioned.” These particulars related to one of Lipsius’s greatest faults, for which he was chiefly censured,—his inconsistency with regard to religious beliefs,—and they take on an additional interest when treated by Bayle, who was himself given

\* *Teissier, Additions aux Éloges de M. de Thou, ii. 381, 432; Bullart, Académie des Sciences, ii. 190; Balliet, Enfants Célèbres, 184.*

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to tasting of religion at all its different founts. With gossipy pen, he briefly summarizes the facts in Lipsius's stormy theological career, which to a sixteenth-century mind, and even to one of the eighteenth century, must have seemed as important as it was chequered.

The theologian of a century or so ago undoubtedly found that Lipsius had contributed something to religious thought, but to us, in this century of freedom in such matters, Justus Lipsius is chiefly a subject for antiquarian curiosity, just as he was to Bayle. It would be idle to speculate on the present-day value of his *Diva Virgo Hallensis*, or