

**GALATEO: OR, A TREATISE
ON POLITENESS AND
DELICACY OF MANNERS**

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Galateo: Or, A Treatise on Politeness and Delicacy of Manners by Giovanni de la Casa

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GIOVANNI DE LA CASA

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G A L A T E O:
OR,
A T R E A T I S E
O N
P O L I T E N E S S
A N D
D E L I C A C Y O F M A N N E R S.
A D D R E S S E D T O A Y O U N G N O B L E M A N,

FROM THE ITALIAN OF
MONSIEUR GIOVANNI DE LA CASA,
ARCHBISHOP OF BENEVENTO.

*De nugis opinetur quis me nimium verborum facere: sed
in hoc genere nugarum turpiter peccatur.*

CASELL. Proem.

L O N D O N:
Printed for J. DODSLEY, in Pall-Mall.
M.DCC.LXXIV.

T O
WILLIAM SKRINE,
ESQUIRE;
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
for CALLINGTON.

S I R,

I Beg leave to inscribe the following performance to your name: for to whom can I, with so much propriety, address, either a Treatise on Politeness, or a Translation from the Italian language, as to a Gentleman, who is so perfect a master of the one,

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and so complete a model of the other ?

Yet, Sir, though I am convinced your patronage would give no small importance to my work, I do not expect you to be answerable for the defects, either of the Translation or of the Original : but was willing to take this opportunity of thus publicly acknowledging my obligations to you, and of subscribing myself,

with great Esteem,

SIR,

Your obliged,

humble servant,

The TRANSLATOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE following Treatise is one of those, which, for its utility in regulating the manners of youth, the critics have pronounced "to be worth its weight in gold." It is *supposed* * to be addressed to

* The original says, in the character, "d'un vecchio ideata," an *imaginary* old man instructing his pupil: but, from several circumstances, he seems to have had some particular young Nobleman in view.

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a young Nobleman, and was written by the elegant Giovanni de la Casa, Archbishop of Benevento, in the sixteenth century, about the beginning of our Queen Elizabeth's reign; and shews to what a degree of refinement, both in manners and in literature, the Italians were arrived, at a period when we were just emerging from Gothicism and barbarity.

· It was soon translated into Latin by Chytræus, Professor of Poetry at Rostock; and into French, towards the end of the last century, by Monsieur Duhamel. But though the writers upon the art of Pleasing
in

P R E F A C E. vii

in Conversation, may have borrowed from it, I do not find that it was ever translated into English; and the Original being become scarce, besides the use it may be of to young people, it may be recommended to the public as a *literary curiosity* *.

Mr. Sterne † seems to speak of it as a romance, and calls it Galatea; an evident proof that he had not read it at least, if he had ever seen it. The Author gives it the

* The Translator could meet with it in only one public library at Oxford,—the elegant Codrington collection at All Souls College.

† Trist. Shandy.

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title of Galateo, in compliment to an old Courtier of that name, distinguished by his wit, learning, and politeness, in the palace of John Matthew Gilberto, Bishop of Verona; at whose request, and by whose encouragement (the Author tells us) he undertook this work.

De la Casa himself was a Florentine, and was made Archbishop of Benevento by Pope Paul III. who would also have raised him to the purple; but that he was accused of being "*furieusement debauché*;" furiously debauched, says a French writer. This, however, was justly considered by others, as a mere calumny: