

**MACMILLAN'S LATIN
CLASSICS. SELECTED ESSAYS
OF SENECA AND THE SATIRE ON
THE DEIFICATION OF CLAUDIUS**

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Macmillan's Latin Classics. Selected Essays of Seneca and the Satire on the Deification of Claudius by Allan P. Ball & James C. Egbert

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ALLAN P. BALL & JAMES C. EGBERT

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MACMILLAN'S LATIN CLASSICS

EDITED BY JAMES C. EGBERT, PH.D.

Professor of Latin, Columbia University

SELECTED ESSAYS OF SENECA



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TORONTO

SELECTED
ESSAYS OF SENECA

AND THE
SATIRE ON THE DEIFICATION OF CLAUDIUS

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

ALLAN P. BALL, PH.D.

INSTRUCTOR IN LATIN IN THE COLLEGE OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

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PREFACE

THE present volume has been prepared in the belief not only that Seneca merits more attention than has usually been paid to him by American students, but also that his life and character are no less interesting than his works. This is the explanation, if any is due, for an edition of a group of his writings chosen with a view not primarily to the exemplary display of his philosophy or of his literary style, but rather to his personal connection with the history of his time. The longer essays here presented are those which have relation to the two emperors, Claudius and Nero, under whom Seneca made most of his external career.

At the same time, these pieces with a political bearing may give the reader just as typical an impression of Seneca's style and philosophic attitude as those in which he appears simply in the character of a man of letters. Even his unfortunate lapse into adulation of the Emperor — which is itself not without value as a document of the society in which he lived — does not prevent the Consolatory essay to Polybius from presenting the regular Stoic exhortations; and the essay on Clemency is a no less eloquent philosophic tract for being in a sense a state document addressed to Nero. The burlesque upon the deification of Claudius is obviously in some ways exceptional; its importance as a specimen of the Menippean satire is unique; but both historical and literary considerations relate it to the two essays between which it stands. The ten Letters included in the selection are more loosely attached to the same his-

tical thread. The *Epistulae Morales* are generally recognized as among Seneca's finest literary work; they certainly show his power of moral analysis at its best, and they help to reveal the intellectual background of his public life.

The text here given, with very few changes, which are listed at the end of the volume, is that of the current Teubner editions including the essay *Ad Polybium de Consolatione* by Hermes, the *De Clementia* by Hosius, and the *Epistulae* by Hense, and of the Weidmann edition of the *Apocolocyntosis* by Bücheler.

My thanks are due to the Columbia University Press for courteous permission to reproduce, at some points in the notes on the *Apocolocyntosis*, phraseology which had already been used in my more extended study of the same work published by the Press.

In particular I wish to express my obligations to Professor Egbert, Editor-in-chief of the present series, for his helpful counsel, and to Professor August Rupp of the College of the City of New York, who has very generously aided in reading the proof of the book, and made valuable suggestions.

A. P. BALL

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

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