

**GALATEO, OF MANNERS
AND
BEHAVIOURS IN FAMILIAR
CONVERSATION**

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Galateo, of Manners and Behaviours in Familiar Conversation by Giovanni Della Casa

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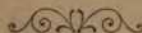
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GIOVANNI DELLA CASA

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GALATEO,
OF MANNERS AND BEHAVIOURS
In Familiar Conversation

BY
GIOVANNI DELLA CASA
ARCHBISHOP OF BENEVENTO



*A Faithful Reproduction of the English Translation made
by ROBERT PETERSON of Lincoln's Inn
in the Year 1576*

EDITED BY
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PRIVATELY PRINTED,
1892

PROEM.



THE first English version of the *Galateo* of Maister Iohn della Casa was published in 1576, the 18th year of Queen Elizabeth, by Raufe Newbery, "in Fleetestreate a litle aboue the Conduit," Robert Peterson, of Lincolnes Inne, being the translator.

The volume is now very rare, and appears to have been unknown not only to several so-called translators of a later period, but also to the majority of bibliographers; Watt, who records it without mentioning the price, and Lowndes, being exceptions. That the *Galateo* is now almost forgotten, may be offered as sufficient justification for the reproduction of what is virtually a sixteenth century "Book of Etiquette." The contents are of curious interest, being in effect plain spoken exposures and criticisms, both of the rude and uncultured habits prevalent in society at the period, and of its offensive and indecorous forms of speech.

Giovanni della Casa, an accomplished Italian writer, was born at Florence in

1503, and educated both there and at Bologna, his instructor in the art of poetic diction being one Ubaldino Bandinelli. In 1538 he became clerk of the Apostolic Chamber, and in 1544, Archbishop of Benevento. As Papal Nuncio to Venice, several important negotiations were entrusted to him, until the disgrace of Cardinal Alexander Farnese compelled his retirement from politics. Upon the accession of Pope Paul IV. he returned to Rome, spending in literary pursuits the remainder of his life, and dying there in 1556-7. The *Galateo* is generally accepted as his most celebrated work in Italian prose, but he was held in high repute among his contemporaries as a graceful and eloquent writer, both in the Latin and Italian tongues. The esteem in which the *Galateo* was held caused it to be frequently reprinted, and translated more than once into almost every European language before the close of the sixteenth century.

It has been asserted that some indiscreet or improper publications in his early youth militated against the author's elevation to the Cardinalate, but since these, whatever they may have been, did not prejudice his rise to a certain eminence in the Church, it is not improbable there were other, and more potent reasons for his being denied the higher preferment.

The earliest editions of the *Galateo* we have met with in the original Italian were published at Milan in 8vo, in 1559, and at Florence in 8vo, in 1560: this latter edition being a choice specimen of the typography of the place and period. There is a Venetian edition dated 1562, and another issued at Padua in 1728. The first edition in the French language seems to have been issued at Paris in 8vo, 1562, and bears the dedication of Jean de Peyrat to Prince Henry of Bourbon. The *Galateo* was again issued in Italian at Lyons in 8vo, 1573 and 1598, Florence in 12mo, 1574, and Rome, a Latin version in 8vo, 1595, by Chytræus, afterwards reprinted at Hanover, 1603, and Oxford, 1630 and 1665.

The choicest editions are, polyglots in 16mo, by Jean de Tournes, Geneva 1598, having the text in Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish in parallel columns upon a double page, and in 1609 in 12mo, a German translation replacing the Italian.

The foregoing are a few of the principal, but by no means all of the editions known. There are many others in various languages and of various dates which do not call for particular remark.

The *Galateo* has been repeatedly paraphrased in English, and may be so found in *The Epitome of Good Manners*, contained in the *Rich Cabinet* in 8vo, 1616,

and again in *The Refined Courtier*, printed for Royston in 12mo, 1663, a very inferior production, no whit more refined than the original, notwithstanding that it was professed all coarse language had been eliminated. This volume was dedicated to the Duke of Monmouth, as was also another in 12mo edition published by Matthew Gilliflower at the Spread Eagle and Crown in Westminster Hall, which has for frontispiece a portrait of the Duke by Van Houe.

We are aware of but two other English renderings, Newbery's edition of 1576 excepted. One of these is the far from accurate or complete so-called translation for which the notorious Bernard Lintott made himself responsible. This was issued in 8vo, 1703, the "translator" offering apology in his preface for any errors, adding complacently, "I was not a little discouraged by the badness of the Latin." Yet no allusion is made by him to the original, or to the numerous translations and paraphrases in various languages previously made, which might have, and probably did, in a measure assist him. It is, moreover, scarcely credible that he could have been so completely in ignorance respecting Peterson's translation and the other English renderings mentioned above, as he wished his readers to believe. The other so-styled

translation is by the Rev. Richard Graves, London, 16mo, 1774. A copy of this, together with Newbery's edition, was included in the bequest in 1834 of Francis Douce to the Bodleian Library, and inserted in his copy is a note to the effect, not only that Mr. Graves was unaware (page 7) Peterson had already translated the *Galateo*, but that Graves' work was only a paraphrase of the original and had no claim to be described as a translation, a perfectly warrantable statement.

The first and only complete translation into English is therefore Peterson's, which, in marked contrast with his imitators, bears internal witness to the care bestowed by him upon it, and of his efforts to render into the English language Della Casa's expressions, without destroying their originality or identity. Against this unfortunately, must be set the book itself, and of its production there is nothing to be said in praise. It appears to have been both hastily and carelessly put together, and cannot be termed even a fair example of the printing of the period. With the present reproduction many blemishes in the original will not be apparent, for while reproduced page for page, line for line, and without alteration of a single contracted word, punctuation or signature, the original table of errata has been utilised and typographical errors