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An International Project On The Pseudo-Quintilianic Declamationes Maiores

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An International Project On The Pseudo-Quintilianic *Declamationes Maiores*

In 1999 the University of Cassino launched a research project¹ on one of the most neglected fields of ancient Roman culture: the nineteen so-called *Major Declamations* falsely ascribed to Quintilian, the sole fictitious forensic speeches (*controversiae*) that classical Latin antiquity has handed down to us in their entirety.² The aims of the project were (and still are, as the enterprise is in progress):

- 1) a thorough revision of the text of the *Maiores*;
- 2) a re-edition of as many speeches as possible in individual volumes containing a critically revised Latin text, a translation, and a detailed commentary;
- 3) a fresh investigation of these texts both from a rhetorical and from a literary-historical point of view.

The project soon acquired international dimensions: whereas subventions from public institutions gradually decreased, the num-

¹PRIN 1999: "Le Declamazioni maggiori dello Pseudo-Quintiliano," co-financed by the University of Cassino and by the Italian Ministry of University. Funding for the project has been subsequently applied for (with varying success) in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007; the project has been coordinated in its various phases either by myself or by Oronzo Pecere (Cassino).

²Standard edition: L. Håkanson, ed., *Declamationes XIX maiores Quintiliano falso ascriptae* (Stuttgartiae: Teubner, 1982). For a recent survey (with bibliography) see my article cited in n. 4 below.

ber of collaborators joining from all over the *res publica litterarum* constantly increased, so that the group now counts thirteen members from seven different countries.³ Nine years after the launch, the results attained for each of the project's goals can be summarized as follows:

- 1) the textual revision of the *Maiores* (entailing both reconstruction of textual history and *constitutio textus*) has reached an advanced stage;⁴ the present writer will publish the revised text, together with a complete annotated Italian translation, in the "Classici Latini UTET" (Turin) collection;
- 2) a special collection of commentaries has been issued by Cassino University Press (Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino); each volume is thoroughly revised by one or two other members of the group, before being given its *imprimatur*. Seven volumes have appeared so far;⁵ one more is scheduled to be despatched to the press during 2009;⁶ others are in preparation;⁷
- 3) a considerable number of monographs and articles by members of our group have elucidated the *Declamationes maiores* both within the context

³Bé Breij (Nijmegen); Graziana Brescia (Foggia); Nicola Hömke (Rostock); Gernot Krapinger (Graz); Giovanna Longo (Bari/Cassino); Lucia Pasetti (Bologna); Oronzo Pecere (Cassino); Catherine Schneider (Strasbourg); Antonio Stramaglia (Cassino); Marc van der Poel (Nijmegen); Danielle van Mal-Maeder (Lausanne); Michael Winterbottom (Oxford); Thomas Zinsmaier (Tübingen).

⁴See meanwhile: C. Schneider, "Quelques réflexions sur la date de publication des *Grandes déclamations pseudo-quintiliennes*," *Latomus* 59 (2000): 614-632; A. Stramaglia, *Le Declamationes maiores pseudo-quintilianee: genesi di una raccolta declamatoria e fisionomia della sua trasmissione testuale*, in E. Amato, ed., *Approches de la Troisième Sophistique. Hommages à J. Schamp* (Bruxelles: Latomus, 2006): 555-588.

⁵A. Stramaglia, [*Quintiliano*]. *I gemelli malati: un caso di vivisezione* (Declamazioni maggiori, 8) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 1999); Id., [*Quintiliano*]. *La città che si cibò dei suoi cadaveri* (Declamazioni maggiori, 12) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 2002); C. Schneider, [*Quintilien*]. *Le soldat de Marius* (Grandes déclamations, 3) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 2004); G. Krapinger, [*Quintilian*]. *Die Bienen des armen Mannes* (Größere Deklamationen, 13) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 2005); Id., [*Quintilian*]. *Der Gladiator* (Größere Deklamationen, 9) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 2007); G. Longo, [*Quintiliano*]. *La pozione dell'odio* (Declamazioni maggiori, 14-15) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 2008); Th. Zinsmaier, [*Quintilian*]. *Die Hände der blinden Mutter* (Größere Deklamationen, 6) (Cassino: Edizioni dell'Università degli Studi di Cassino, 2009).

⁶By C. Schneider (with C. Urlacher) on declamation 10.

⁷The nearest to completion being B. Breij's on declamations 18-19 (a revised version of her 2007 Nijmegen dissertation); and L. Pasetti's on declamation 17.

of ancient rhetorical tradition, and regarding their literary and historical sources, meaning, "Nachleben."⁸

On the occasion of the XVIth ISHR Conference (Strasburg, 24-28 July 2007), we decided to present samples of our research on the *Maiores* in a panel entitled: "The *Major Declamations* falsely ascribed to Quintilian, between school and literature." The focus was on the "double nature" of these texts: they were of course conceived as school exercises, but at the same time they were deeply rooted in literary tradition, and were therefore received not only as training texts for (would-be) rhetoricians, but also as literary compositions worthy of appreciation for their own sake. The articles in this issue are edited versions of the papers delivered in the Strasburg panel, and give an overview of the different research paths that can be followed fruitfully when approaching these frightfully difficult, but equally rewarding texts. One thing only from the Strasburg conference cannot here be reproduced: it is the joyful *concordia amicitiaque* that these years of joint intellectual and human experience have raised among the members of our group.

⁸A complete list would exceed the scope of this brief introduction. I will only mention the monographs: N. Hömke, *Gesetzt den Fall, ein Geist erscheint. Komposition und Motivatik der ps. quintilianischen Declamationes maiores X, XIV und XV* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2002); G. Brescia, [*Quintiliano*]. *Il miles alla sbarra: tra retorica e costume (Declamazioni maggiori, III)* (Bari: Edipuglia, 2004); D. van Mal-Maeder, *La fiction des déclamations* (Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2007).