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PRAEMIO ORNATUM

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PLACITORUM SCRIPTORES INSUNT

AETII DE PLACITIS RELIQUIAE (PLUTARCHI EPITOME, STOBAEI EXCERPTA)
ARII DIDYMI EPITOMES FRAGMENTA PHYSICA
THEOPHRASTI PHYSIC. OPINIONUM, DE SENSIBUS FR.
CICERONIS EX L. I DE DEORUM NATURA
PHILODEMI EX L. I DE PIETATE
HIPPOLYTI PHILOSOPHUMENA
PLUTARCHI STROMATEON FR.
EPIPHANII VARIA EXCERPTA
GALENI HISTORIA PHILOSOPHA
HERMIAE IRRISIO GENTILIUM PHILOSOPHORUM

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Tardi ingeni est rivulos consectari, fontes rerum non videre

CICERO

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HERMANNUS DIELESIUS HERMANNO USENERO S.

Non mirabere, praeceptor carissime, a Tuo nomine quod auspicatum volo hoc Doxographorum volumen. Tuum enim est quod iam Tibi reddo neque id uno nomine Tuum. nimirum fata sua habet et hic libellus, quae enarrare neque iniucundum videtur et certe utilius quam quod solent de ratione sua et instituto prooemiari. Tu igitur cum ante viginti et quod superest annos Theophrasti causa Placita attigisses spretisque priorum somniis primus veram eorum indolem perspicere coepisses, salutare iniisti consilium colligendi quidquid istarum litterarum superesset, unde et origo aperiretur et per temporum decursum propagatio. accessit socius consilii C. Wachsmuthius, qui Laertio et Biographis idem se auxilium laturum pollicebatur. qui cum paulo post in Italiam profectus esset, egregium conlatorum codicum apparatum congessit. sed mox cum in alium uterque studiorum campum vocaretur, factum est ut pristini consilii ardor paulatim refrigesceret. ac metuendum erat, ne eo difficilior fieret quo magis procrastinaretur labor. quare Tu quidem vicarium circumspicere coepisti et cum ante XI *annos philosophorum Bonnensium ordo more maiorum ad certamina adulescentes invitaret, auctor fuisti, ut Placitorum memoria explicanda proponeretur. interim mihi ut periculum facerem facile persuasisti. nam etsi quam impedita esset quaestio haud quaquam me celaveras, tamen ipsa difficultas iuvenilem ardorem excitavit et effecit, ut intra perexiguum spatium totum illarum litterarum orbem peragrarem et extrema quaestionis lineamenta recte plerumque adumbrarem. sed festinata ista studia etsi nec Tibi nec ordini displicuere, quantum a perfectionis laude abessent, optime ipse intellexi. nam utendum mihi erat editionibus vulgaribus, quae quam fallaces essent, Wachsmuthii schedis edoctus eram. itaque postquam insigni Galeni exemplo incredibilem illam corruptionem etiam publice sum testatus, iam editionem Placitorum ad optimam codicum fidem exigendam mihi proposui. quem ad finem dum aut ipse perambulo bibliothecas aut amicos precibus fatigo, ecce programma adfertur ab Academia litterarum Berolinensi m. Iulio a.* MDCCCLXXIV *propositum:*

> „Plutarchi qui feruntur libri περὶ τῶν ἀρεσκόντων τοῖς φιλοσόφοις quomodo et quando scripti sint, inquiratur, quae ratio inter eam compilationem similesque alias intercedat, exponatur, qui auctores qua ratione a compilatore adhibiti sint, determinetur.“

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quo nuntio quid mihi tum exoptatius potuit accidere? quod diu moliebar, idem fere illic praescriptum vidi. igitur nihil moratus in novum illud certamen descendi, et cum nec Tuum nec ceterorum amicorum auxilium petenti deesset, saepe etiam ultro offerretur, Placitorum corpus cum Prolegomenis assiduo labore maturatum statuta die a. LXXVII *summatibus illis viris traditum est, quibus Academiae mandatu iudicium erat ferendum. qui cum probassent ac praemio dignum iudicavissent opus typis describi coeptum.*

Tu vero ne tum quidem Placitorum fuisti immemor. nam luctanti per biennium cum preli monstris, quantum quidem per valetudinem ac negotia vacares, numquam mihi defuisti neque ullam fere plagulam remisisti, quin aut emendando aut dubitando me egregie adiuvares. quodsi non omnia tam perfecta vides et perpolita, quam et exspectare poteras et ipse cupiebam, memineris velim quod haud raro sum expertus Hesiodeum 'ἄλλοτε μητρυιὴ πέλει ἡμέρη, ἄλλοτε μήτηρ'. *ceterum si quid novercae invidia damni inlatum observaram, in Addendis correxi, reliqua corrigent quibus id curae erit. nihil enim vehementius opto, quam ut alii veniant in partes, qui agro olim horrido, nunc sane cultiori suam velint impendere operam. inprimis autem C. Wachsmuthio gratum fecisse cupio Stobaei eclogas diu expectatas, diutius agitatas edituro. qui si non inutiliter praelusisse me iudicaverit, gratiarum quas illi debeo maximas aliquid saltem rettulisse videbor. nec tacenda est hoc loco officiosa amicorum voluntas imprimis Ivonis Brunsii Berolinensis, Maximiliani Bonnetii Parisiensis, Friderici de Duhn Gottingensis, Benedicti Niesei Marburgensis, Hieronymi Vitellii Florentini, qui codicibus excutiendis optime sunt de Doxographis meriti. deinde gratissima memoria prosequor Eduardum Zellerum, virum summum, qui studia nostra tam publice quam privatim benevolentissime semper adiuvit.*

Tibi vero, Usenere, cum debitam meritamque gratiam agere instituo, haesitare me sentio et rubore subfundi. adeo me praegravat beneficiorum Tuorum vel quaesitorum vel oblatorum multitudo. quodsi verum iudicas, quod aiunt quidam, turpe esse vinci beneficiis, desperandum mihi esse video. sin vero, qui rebus non potest, animo aequare liberaliter conceditur, ne ego faciam ut nunquam desideres amorem nostrum vel pietatem. interim qui liber Tuae fuit propensissimae voluntatis testis, eundem voti nostri accipe sponsorem gravissimum. vale.

SCR. BEROLINI KAL. OCTOBR. MDCCCLXXIX

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