

Scripta Antiquitatis Posterioris ad Ethicam REligionemque pertinentia

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For a long time, Greek and Latin texts from late antiquity (1st to 4th century AD) were in the shadow of the so-called "classic" epochs. There was however an abundance of works on philosophy, ethics and religion in Greek and in Latin during the first four centuries AD, and these works have not lost their relevance.

It is the goal of the *SAPERE* series (Scripta Antiquitatis Posterioris ad Ethicam REligionemque pertinentia, Writings in Late Antiquity on Ethical and Religious Issues) to make precisely these texts available in an innovative combination of edition, translation and interdisciplinary commentary in an essay form.

The name *SAPERE* is a deliberate link to the various connotations of the Latin verb. In addition to the intellectual aspect (which Kant in the translation of *sapere aude*, "Have courage to use your own understanding," used as the motto of the Enlightenment), the sensuous aspect of "taste" will also be given the attention it deserves: On the one hand, major sources for the discourse in various disciplines (theology and religious studies, philology, philosophy, history, archaeology...) are to be presented, on the other hand the texts dealt with are also meant to whet the readers' appetites.

Thus a careful scholarly examination of the texts which are explained from various angles in the essays will be combined with a linguistic presentation which does not lose sight of the relevance of the texts for the history of ideas and at the same time shows the importance of authors of antiquity for discussions on current issues.

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Band XVII: Polis – Freundschaft – Jenseitsstrafen. Band XVIII: Für Religionsfreiheit, Recht und Toleranz. Band XIX: Armut – Arbeit – Menschenwürde. Band XX: Über den Tod. Band XXI: Ägyptische Erzählungen oder Über die Vorsehung
Hrsg. v. Reinhard Feldmeier, Rainer Hirsch-Luipold u. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath

2017. 1530 pages.

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It is the goal of the SAPERE series (*Scripta Antiquitatis Posterioris ad Ethicam Religionemque pertinentia*, Writings in Late Antiquity on Ethical and Religious Issues) to make Greek and Latin texts from late antiquity (1st to 4th century AD) available in an innovative combination of edition, translation and interdisciplinary commentary in an essay form. A careful scholarly examination of the texts which are explained from various angles in the essays is combined with a linguistic presentation which does not lose sight of the relevance of the texts for the history of ideas and at the same time shows the importance of authors of antiquity for discussions on current issues.
For the first time, the paperback editions of the volumes XVII-XXI are available as a set at a special price.

Abrahams Aufbruch

Philon von Alexandria, *De migratione Abrahami*

Eingeleitet, übersetzt und mit interpretierenden Essays versehen von Heinrich Detering, Lutz Doering, Reinhard Feldmeier, Rainer Hirsch-Luipold, Heinz-Günther Nesselrath u.a., hrsg. v. Maren R. Niehoff u. Reinhard Feldmeier

Volume XXX
2017. XIII, 292 pages.
forthcoming in November

ISBN 978-3-16-153819-3
cloth 69,00 €

Philo's treatise *De Migratione Abrahami* offers an allegorical commentary on Gen 12. Abraham's migration from Chaldea to the Land of Israel is interpreted by Philo as the soul's migration from the world of the senses to God. The present edition of Philo's text includes a detailed introduction to his life and thought as well as a new German translation of his treatise with annotations and essays illustrating the text from the perspective of various disciplines. The accompanying essays initially place the work in the context of contemporary Judaism, both in Alexandria and the Land of Israel. This is followed by an appreciation of Philo as a representative of Middle Platonism in the imperial period. Two further essays focus on central themes of the Philonic treatise, namely knowledge of God and the experience of exile interpreted philosophically. Two concluding studies compare Philo's figure of Abraham to his image in the New Testament and in Thomas Mann's novel *Joseph and his Brothers*.

In Praise of Asclepius

Aelius Aristides, *Selected Prose Hymns*

Introduction, Text, Translation and Interpretative Essays by Christian Brockmann, Milena Melfi, Heinz-Günther Nesselrath, Robert Parker, Donald A. Russell, Florian Steger, Michael Trapp. Ed. by Donald A. Russell, Michael Trapp, and Karl-Heinz Nesselrath



Volume XXIX
2016. X, 164 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-153659-5
cloth 49,00 €

In the middle decades of the second century AD the acclaimed orator Aelius Aristides wrote a number of prose hymns to traditional Greek gods and thereby demonstrated that the cults of these gods had not yet become obsolete and were more than just a topic of backward-looking paideia. This volume presents four of these texts, specifically those that focus on the god of healing, Asclepius, together with a new edition of the Greek text, a new English translation with commentary, and a number of essays shedding additional light on these texts from various perspectives. All in all, the volume wants to show how in these texts of Aristides the author's rhetorical skills, his outlook on the world and his personal religiosity come together to form a remarkable whole.

Gegen falsche Götter und falsche Bildung

Tatian, Rede an die Griechen

Eingel., übers. u. mit interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Peter Gemeinhardt, Marie-Luise Lakmann, Heinz-Günther Nesselrath, Ferdinand R. Prostmeier, Adolf Martin Ritter, Holger Strutwolf u. Andrei Timotin. Hrsg. v. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath

Volume XXVIII
2016. X, 334 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-152821-7
cloth 79,00 €

Written after the middle of the 2nd century CE by an educated Christian, Tatian's "Address to the Greeks" is a powerfully eloquent and all-encompassing attack against both Hellenic culture and Hellenic gods. It is thus an important precursor of the vehement spiritual conflicts of the 4th century CE between traditional Graeco-Roman paganism and Christianity. The volume presents an introduction into the author and his writings as well as into the "Address" itself, followed by the original Greek text (which has been subjected to a thorough revision with regard to earlier editions), a new German translation with a thorough annotation elucidating the numerous details of content to be found in the work, and after that by a number of essays putting the "Address" in its theological, religious and generally "ideological" context and shedding light on its subsequent reception.

Sapientia Salomonis (Weisheit Salomos)

Eingel., übers. u. mit interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr, Walter Ameling, Folker Blischke, Mareike V. Blischke, Alfons Fürst, Rainer Hirsch-Luipold, Heinz-Günter Nesselrath u.a.

Volume XXVII
2015. XIII, 350 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-152808-8
cloth 79,00 €

The Sapientia Salomonis (Wisdom of Solomon) has been an accepted part of the Christian Bible since Late Antiquity and was transmitted as part of the Old Testament. The work has therefore deeply influenced the development of religious and philosophical traditions in the Christian world right up to the present day. The work was however originally derived from ancient Hellenistic Judaism, most likely from Alexandria around the beginning of the Common Era, making it a typical example of intensive interaction between biblical tradition and classical Greco-Roman culture. This can be seen in the reception of biblical and ancient oriental sapiential texts in the Wisdom of Solomon and their combination with topics, terms and forms of Greek philosophy. The ensuing Hellenistic blend had an important spiritual-cultural influence on the authors of New Testament writings.



Die Sextussprüche und ihre Verwandten

Eingeleitet, übersetzt u. mit interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Wilfried Eisele, Yury Arzhanov, Michael Durst u. Thomas Pitour. Hrsg. v. Wilfried Eisele

Volume XXVI
2015. XIV, 489 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-153657-1
cloth 99,00 €

In antiquity and the Middle Ages, collections of sayings were a popular form of everyday literature. As texts, they did not claim any high literary standard. That does not mean, however, that their content was always easy to understand. They often deal with densely written insights and admonitions which presuppose far more than they say. That opens up a wide field of interpretation and re-reading, which took place in the open form of the collection, above all through the proliferation, reduction or the regrouping of the material. The sayings attributed to the philosopher Sextus present a remarkable example of a revised Christian collection of Imperial Era sayings. They possess Pythagorean precursors and continued to have an effect in Christian monasticism via Evagrius of Pontus. This volume traces these lines of development.

Pyrrhonian Skepticism in Diogenes Laertius

Introduction, Text, Translation, Commentary and Interpretative Essays by Katja Maria Vogt, Richard Bett, Lorenzo Corti, Tiziano Dorandi, Christiana M.M. Olfert, Elisabeth Scharffenberger, David Sedley, James Warren. Ed. by Katja Maria Vogt

Volume XXV
2015. X, 202 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-153336-5
cloth 59,00 €

Pyrrhonian skepticism has gradually gained a stellar reputation. Rather than being dismissed as extremist and evidently implausible, as it often was in the past, it is now recognized as a philosophically sophisticated outlook, sympathetic to today's commitment to science as a long-term enterprise. Ancient skepticism is now seen as an important position in the history of philosophy and as addressing core questions in epistemology. It is worthwhile to be studied by anyone interested in the nature of investigation, knowledge, belief, language and action. Leading experts contribute to this volume, which offers a philosophical introduction, translation and commentary as well as scholarly essays on one of the most important texts about Pyrrhonian skepticism, Diogenes Laertius' report about Pyrrho and Timon in his *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*.

On Prophecy, Dreams and Human Imagination

Synesius, *De insomniis*

Introduction, Text, Translation and Interpretative Essays by Donald A. Russell, Ursula Bittrich, Börje Bydén, Sebastian Gertz, Heinz-Günther Nesselrath, Anne Sheppard, Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler. Ed. by Donald A. Russell and Heinz-Günther Nesselrath

Volume XXIV
2014. X, 208 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-152419-6
cloth 49,00 €

Synesius' essay *De insomniis* ('On Dreams') – written soon after 400 AD by a man who was not only a highly educated Greek intellectual but also (in the last years of his life) a Christian bishop of the city of Ptolemais (Cyrenaica) – inquires into the ways and means by which a human being, while sleeping and dreaming, may make contact with higher spheres, and it does so in the light of a clearly recognizable Neo-Platonic concept of the soul and its salvation. Synesius' thoughts are thus an important contribution of Later Antiquity on topics – the place of man within the universe and his means of communication with higher powers – that not only were of high concern for his contemporaries, but still are today for religiously- and philosophically-minded people. Besides introduction and translation (with notes), several essays shed light on the work from the perspective of various disciplines.



Cosmic Order and Divine Power

Pseudo-Aristotle, *On the Cosmos*

Introduction, Text, Translation and Interpretative Essays by Johan C. Thom, Renate Burri, Clive Chandler, Hans Daiber, Jill Kraye, Andrew Smith, Hidemi Takahashi, Anna Tzvetkova-Glaser. Ed. by Johan C. Thom

Volume XXIII
2014. X, 230 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-152809-5
cloth 49,00 €

The treatise *De mundo* (On the Cosmos), dated around the 1st century BCE, offers a cosmology in the Peripatetic tradition which draws also on Platonic and Stoic thought and subordinates what happens in the cosmos to the might of an omnipotent god. Thus the work is paradigmatic for the philosophical and religious concepts of the early imperial age, which offer points of contact with nascent Christianity. In line with the aims of the SAPERE series, this volume on *De mundo* is explicitly interdisciplinary by nature, bringing together contributions from scholars from a broad spectrum of disciplines and specialisations which focus on specific topics, each from its own disciplinary perspective. The volume contains a Greek text and translation of *De mundo* as well as interpretive essays on the language and style, geography, cosmotheology and the reception in or possible influence of *De mundo* in various intellectual traditions.

EPIKTET

Was ist wahre Freiheit?

Diatriben IV 1

Hrsg. v. Samuel Vollenweider. Eingel., übers. u. m. interpretierenden Essays
versehen v. Samuel Vollenweider, Manuel Baumbach, Eva Ebel, Maximilian
Forschner u. Thomas Schmeller

Volume XXII
2013. XI, 178 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-152366-3
cloth 49,00 €

Diatriben IV 1 *peri eleutherias* is one of the most compact (and at the same time one of the longest) of Epictetus' discourses (around 100 AD) which was handed down to us by the historian Arrian. This quintessential text not only combines many pivotal subjects taught by the Stoic but also demonstrates his remarkable art of persuasiveness. In addition to a detailed introduction, the text, the translation and a running commentary, the volume contains a series of essays which are based on passages in the text, and these reveal further Epictetian contexts as well as an analysis of the philosophical background and the contemporary environment. The authors deal with slavery and manumission, Epictetus' theory of freedom in relationship to the classical Stoic doctrine as well as Epictetus' theology and its relationship to the New Testament.

SYNESIOS VON KYRENE

Ägyptische Erzählungen oder Über die Vorsehung

Hrsg. v. Martin Hose. Eingel., übers. u. m. interpretierenden Essays
versehen v. Martin Hose, Wolfgang Bernard, Frank Feder u. Monika Schuol



Volume XXI
2012. X, 204 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-152259-8
sewn paper 29,00 €

Synesius of Cyrene (approx. 370–412 AD) can be seen as a representative of the Greek upper classes in the Roman Empire in late antiquity. He studied philosophy in Athens and Alexandria and held important offices, for example as a bishop, in Cyrene, as was the custom for members of the property-owning elite. As an intellectual, he was caught between the competing concepts of Christianity, pagan literary tradition (this could be described as “cultural Hellenism”) and (neo-Platonic) philosophy. His literary works, letters, hymns and tracts show how he was able to deal with this conflict productively. This volume provides the first German translation of a text by Synesius, “The Egyptian Tale,” since 1835 and also makes it accessible through essays on contemporary history, the form of the allegory and on Egyptian elements.

PS.-PLATON

Über den Tod

Eingel., übers. u. mit interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Irmgard Männlein-Robert, Oliver Schelske, Michael Erler u.a.

Volume XX
2012. XI, 224 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-151904-8
sewn paper 29,00 €

“Axiochus,” a dialogue attributed to Plato, presumably from the late first century BC, deals with the anthropologically timeless question of what happens to a human being after death: The philosopher Socrates is called to the deathbed of Axiochus, who is afraid of dying. Socrates is supposed to alleviate this fear and begins by using Epicurean arguments, which however do not convince Axiochus. It is not until Socrates uses Plato’s arguments that Axiochus finally succeeds in overcoming his fear of death and he even begins to look forward to dying. In this volume, the pseudo-Platonic dialogue “Axiochus” is integrated for the first time philologically and philosophically into the context of the so-called Middle Platonism and the intense reception of this “ars moriendi” in the early modern period is examined.

Armut – Arbeit – Menschenwürde

Die Euböische Rede des Dion von Prusa

Eingel., übers. u. m. interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Gustav A. Lehmann, Dorit Engster, Dorothee Gall u.a.

Volume XIX
2012. X, 276 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-151825-6
sewn paper 29,00 €

This volume contains a full translation and commentary of Dio of Prusa's Euboean Oration, of which generally only the first part, a short narrative about the life of a hunter's family in southern Euboea, is known. The second part of the speech, however, is at least of equal interest, because it presents a substantial social and economic program that is to ensure decent working conditions and a humane livelihood especially for the urban poor. This program is closely connected with Dio's lifelong engagement not only as a politician in his native city of Prusa, but also as a philosophical counsellor and orator in Rome. A number of essays illuminate the literary, archaeological, ethical and sociopolitical aspects of this work and thus make it possible (for the first time) to fully appreciate its contents.



LIBANIOS

Für Religionsfreiheit, Recht und Toleranz

Libanios' Rede für den Erhalt der heidnischen Tempel

Eingel., übers. u. m. interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Heinz-Günther

Nesselrath, Okko Behrends, Klaus S. Freyberger, Johannes Hahn, Martin Wallraff

u. Hans-Ulrich Wiemer

Volume XVIII
2011. XI, 276 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-151002-1
sewn paper 29,00 €

This volume contains the first German translation of a text in which Libanius, the greatest orator of late antiquity, appeals to the Roman emperor Theodosius to gain his support for the preservation of pagan temples which were threatened by fanatical Christians. Libanius appeals to the tolerance of the Christian emperor and stresses the importance of the temples for the culture and the identity of the surrounding regions. Following an introduction to the author and the work, the original text, the translation and detailed annotations, the volume presents a series of essays which describe the legal, cultural, religious and historical text of Libanius' oration and thus enable the first comprehensive appraisal of this oration.

SYNESIOS VON KYRENE

Polis – Freundschaft – Jenseitsstrafen

Briefe an und über Johannes

Eingel., übers. u. mit interpretierenden Essays vers. v. Katharina Luchner, Bruno

Bleckmann, Reinhard Feldmeier u.a.

Volume XVII
2010. XI, 243 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-150654-3
paper 29,00 €

ISBN 978-3-16-150655-0
cloth 49,00 €

Synesius of Cyrene (approx. 370–413 AD) was one of the most remarkable personalities of his time. Born into the local elite of the Cyrenaica, he became not only a philosopher-writer with a very personal perspective on Neoplatonism, but also defended his home town as a military commander in local wars and, finally, was made a bishop with multiple administrative and pastoral duties. Synesius' epistolographic work shows his literary erudition and sophisticated rhetorical skills, but also reflects the social, political, religious and intellectual climate of his age. This volume presents nine of his letters, all of which are addressed to or mention a person named "Joannes" (it is not known if this is always the same person). The longest piece (Ep. 43), an exhortatory oration in the form of a letter, enjoins "Joannes," who is said to have committed murder, to hand himself over to the judges. Here more popular religious beliefs are subtly combined with a superb blending of otherworldly images from Plato's dialogues. The volume addresses itself equally to readers seeking a first approach to the multifaceted letters of Synesius as to those already acquainted with Late Antique Literature. The literary, historical and religious background of the texts is discussed in 6 interpretative essays.



Mohr Siebeck

PLUTARCH

On the daimonion of Socrates

Human liberation, divine guidance and philosophy

Ed. by Heinz-Günther Nesselrath. Introduction, Text, Translation and Interpretative Essays by Donald A. Russell, George Cawkwell, Werner Deuse, John Dillon, Heinz-Günther Nesselrath a.o.

Volume XVI
2010. X, 225 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-150138-8
cloth 49,00 €

Plutarch's dialogue "On the daimonion of Socrates" is a unique combination of exciting historical romance and serious philosophical and religious discussion: A narrator from Boeotian Thebes tells his Athenian friend how Thebes was liberated from Spartan domination in a fateful night of midwinter 379/8 BC and connects this with the retelling of a fascinating philosophical discussion about the famous *daimonion* of Socrates in the afternoon and evening before. Besides presenting an introduction, a revised Greek text, and a new English translation (with copious notes), the volume offers a range of essays on themes providing further insights into this masterly literary piece: on the historical, religious and philosophical background and on thematic connections with other works by Plutarch.

Joseph und Aseneth

Hrsg. v. Eckart Reinmuth. Eingel., ed., übers. u. m. interpretierenden Essays
versehen v. Eckart Reinmuth, Stefan Alkier, Brigitte Boothe, Uta B. Fink,
Christine Gerber, Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr u.a.

Volume XV
2009. XI, 280 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-150162-3
cloth 49,00 €

The tale of *Joseph and Aseneth* gives an account of the love, conversion and preservation of Aseneth, the haughty daughter of an Egyptian priest, who married Joseph, son of Jacob (cf. Gen 41,45). This narrative of ancient Judaism is offered in a new translation on the basis of a recently revised Greek text. Besides its detailed introduction, the volume offers a wide range of essays on various themes connected with this tale: legal and economic conceptions, religious background, relations to the New Testament, narratological, ethical, psychological aspects and history of reception.

CORNUTUS

Die Griechischen Götter

Ein Überblick über Namen, Bilder und Deutungen

Hrsg. v. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath, eingel., übers. u. m. interpretierenden Essays
vers. v. Fabio Berdozzo, George Boys-Stones, Hans-Josef Klauck, Ilaria Ramelli u.
Alexei V. Zadorojnyi



Mohr Siebeck

Volume XIV
2009. X, 259 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-150071-8
paper 29,00 €

ISBN 978-3-16-150072-5
cloth 49,00 €

Lucius Annaeus Cornutus, who hailed from Leptis Magna in Libya, was a Stoic philosopher living in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Nero. Of his works (writings on rhetoric and philosophy; commentaries on works of the poet Virgil) only the *Epidromê tôn kata tēn Hellênikên theologian paradedomenôn* ('Outline of what has been handed down about the Greek Science of the Divine') has been preserved and is here presented together with a German translation for the first time. This treatise represents a unique (and at the same time rather peculiar) compendium of Stoic allegorical interpretation of the Greek gods. It provides etymological and allegorical analyses of names, epithets and attributes of each Greek deity, extending from Uranus to Hades and referring to various aspects of their myths, rites and imagery in a remarkable attempt to interpret classic ancient polytheism by means of a sophisticated philosophy.

PRUSA, DION VON

Der Philosoph und sein Bild

Hrsg. v. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath, eingel., ed., übers. u. m. interpretierenden
Essays versehen v. Eugenio Amato, Sotera Fornaro, Barbara E. Borg, Renate
Burri, Johannes Hahn u.a.

Volume XIII
2009. XI, 317 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-149440-6
paper 29,00 €

ISBN 978-3-16-149441-3
cloth 49,00 €

This volume presents some discourses (or. 54, 55, 70, 71 and 72) written by the orator and philosopher Dio of Prusa (about 40 – after 111 AD), who was also called Chrysostomos ("Golden Mouth"). Of these texts there have never been detailed commentaries up to now. They draw an image of the philosopher not as an abstract thinker but as a new Odysseus, Heracles, but also as a new Socrates or Diogenes, who purposely interferes in people's affairs and by his mere appearance and demeanour provokes them and prompts them to rethink and change their lives. They also outline an ideal of practical ethics to which Dio himself felt obliged; this ideal can still have an effect far beyond Dio's times and the diverse society of the Roman Empire.

EPHESUS, RUFUS OF

On Melancholy

Ed. by Peter E. Pormann. Introduction, Text, Translation and Interpretative
Essays by Philip J. van der Eijk, Vivian Nutton, Peter E. Pormann, Thomas Rütten,
Peter-Klaus Schuster, Simon Swain a.o.

Volume XII
2008. XV, 332 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-149760-5
cloth 64,00 €

Rufus of Ephesus' treatise *On Melancholy* represents perhaps the most influential medical monograph from the late first century AD, since his notion of melancholy links two diverse aspects: black bile as a cause for madness and depression and as a sign of intellectual genius. Rufus combines concepts of melancholy developed in the Aristotelian philosophy with concepts of famous physicians such as Hippocrates and Diocles. His ideas strongly influenced subsequent generations of physicians, and especially Galen, and dominated discourses on the topic during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Moreover, the reception of Rufus' concepts was not limited to the Western world; in medieval Muslim culture, in particular, his work enjoyed great fame and favor, and many intellectuals read it eagerly. In this volume, the Greek, Latin and Arabic fragments of this work, lost in the original, have been collected for the first time. Arabic sources in particular yield hitherto unknown fragments, thus allowing for new interpretations of this work. The English introduction, translation and commentary reconstruct the main arguments of this important treatise, enabling the interested scholar to obtain easy access to it. Leading scholars contributed interpretative essays which investigate Rufus and his ideas about melancholy in antiquity, the Middle Ages, the



Renaissance and the early modern period from different vantage points, including history, philosophy, literature, art history and psychiatry.

Survey of contents

Simon Swain: Social Stress and Political Pressure: Rufus' Melancholy Patients and Their Time – Vivian Nutton: The Medical World of Rufus of Ephesus – Philip van der Eijk: Rufus' On Melancholy and Its Philosophical Background – Peter E. Pormann: Melancholy in the Medieval World: the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Traditions – Peter-Klaus Schuster, Jörg Völlnagel: Dürer and Rufus: Melencolia I in the Medical Tradition – Peter Toohey: Rufus of Ephesus and the Tradition of the Melancholy Thinker – Thomas Rütten: Rufus' Legacy in the Psychopathological Literature of the (Early) Modern Period

Der apokryphe Briefwechsel zwischen Seneca und Paulus

Zusammen mit dem Brief des Mordechai an Alexander und dem Brief des Annaeus Seneca über Hochmut und Götterbilder

Eingel., übers. u. mit interpretierenden Essays versehen v. Alfons Fürst, Therese Fuhrer, Folker Siegert u. Peter Walter

Volume XI
2006. X, 215 pages.

ISBN 978-3-16-149131-3
cloth 54,00 €

In the second half of the fourth century, an unknown author created a correspondence between Seneca and Paul. The most striking characteristic of these fourteen brief letters is their lack of nearly any content. Their sole intention is to make Seneca a friend of Paul's. In doing so, the author underlined the affinity between the pagan philosopher Seneca and the Latin Christian theologians of the fourth century, inventing an apostolic tradition. This book contains a new German translation of these letters based on the current critical edition along with an introduction, notes and testimonies. Furthermore, two documents which are less well known but sometimes discussed in connection with these letters are presented, translated into German for the first time and provided with commentaries: a fictitious letter from Mordechai to Alexander the Great from a version of the novelistic tradition of Alexander and a letter from Seneca about pride and idols which is, in fact, a Christian apology from the fifth century. In the essays, the authors deal with key issues involving Stoicism and Christianity, the conception of god and ethics. They also discuss the reception of Seneca in the Middle Ages and in early modern times.

