

FRITZ HOLLE'S 1911 EDITION OF THE *COMEDIA*

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Fritz Hölle's 1911 edition of the *Comedia de Calisto E Melibea* (Strasburgo, Bibliotheca Romanica, [1911]) is not a rare edition as rare editions go, but it has been long out of print and unavailable for first hand examination by students of *Celestina*; consequently, it has been largely forgotten.<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless, it is worthy of renewed attention since, so far as I know, it was the only edition of the sixteen-act version of Rojas' work to appear after the early editions of 1499, 1500 and 1501 and certainly the last serious edition with variant notes of this long neglected version until very recently (LCDB S182).<sup>2</sup> The opportunity that *Celestinesca* affords for supplying links (no matter how minor) in the textual chain which reaches back to the earliest form of the author's work justifies this brief note.

There are a number of interesting facts that should be indicated about Hölle's edition whose base text is the Burgos 1499 edition (LCDB 128). First of all, it was an attempt to provide a critical edition before the reappearance of the Toledo 1500 edition of the *Comedia* (LCDB 129). Without the variant readings that the latter text would eventually supply, Hölle could only observe (quite accurately) that the Seville *Comedia* differs frequently from the Burgos 1499 *Comedia* and from the Valencia 1514 edition of the *Tragicomedia*.

Besides the variant notes taken from Seville 1501, Hölle takes variants from a number of sixteenth and one seventeenth century Spanish editions of the twenty-one act *Tragicomedia*: Valencia (1514), Salamanca (1590), Antwerp (1595 and 1599), Seville (1596) and Madrid (1601). He makes use of the variants from the Krapf edition of 1900 (Vigo, Libreria de Eugenio Krapf, 1900. 2 Tomos) which includes Venice (1531), Salamanca (1570), Milan (1622), Rouen (1633), Madrid (1822, Amarita) and Barcelona (1842, Gorchs). In addition to this array of editions, Hölle consulted translations: an Italian translation (Venice 1525), and two modern editions (1894 and 1908) of Mabbe's 1631 English translation.

Further items of interest are found interspersed among the variant notes. Editor Hölle has anticipated Julio Cejador y Frauca's 1913 composite edition of the *Comedia/Tragicomedia* (practically the only edition of

*Celestina* to be used for the next fifty years by students and scholars) by putting in double brackets the additions to the sixteen-act version, including the added acts.

Hölle devotes fourteen introductory pages with bibliographical notes to discussing the traditional points of polemic that surround the work: authorship, dates of composition, editions, locale of the action, source of *Celestina*'s character, etc. He also discusses in some detail the continuations of the work.

The edition presents three apéndices. "Apéndice I" compares selected passages from *Celestina* with Mabbe's translation of them. "Apéndice II" is an unannotated printing taken from the 1526 Toledo edition of *Celestina* of the "Auto de Traso". "Apéndice III" is an unannotated printing of Pedro Manuel de Urrea's "Egloga de la Tragicomedia de Calisto y Melibea," of special interest since it may have been overlooked by more recent students of this interesting piece (LCDB S267).

Fritz Holle's edition with its introduction and apéndices remains interesting and, given the various lacunae in *Celestina* studies that were still to be filled in subsequent decades, it is surprisingly complete. Unfortunately, it has been overlooked in *Celestina* bibliographies--an omission that should be corrected given that it represents attention rarely paid to the *Comedia* and possesses, still, some scholarly merit: it was not simply one of the many commercial editions that would come out practically yearly as this century wore on. Had it not been superseded by Cejador's more completely annotated edition, it probably would have enjoyed more recognition and use by students of *Celestina*.



## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> José Simón Díaz tells us in his *Bibliografía de la literatura hispánica* (Madrid, 1960, tomo I) that Hölle published editions of two more Spanish works: Mateo Aleman's *Guzmán de Alfarache* in two volumes [n.d.], and Salas Barbadillos's *La hija de Celestina. La ingeniosa Elena*, [n.d.], both in the same editorial series as his edition of the *Comedia*, i.e., Bibliotheca Romanica, Strasburgo.

<sup>2</sup> [LCDB = "Un cuarto de siglo de interés en LC: documento bibliográfico," *Hispania* 59 (1976), 610-60. Numbers with an S-prefix are from supplements to LCDB which have appeared in successive nos. of *Celestinesca*.] Worthy of mention, however, are two somewhat unreliable reprints done by R. Foulché Delbosc of the Burgos 1500 and the Seville 1501 texts of the *Comedia*, published in 1902 and 1900, respectively (Madrid-Barcelona, Bibliotheca Hispanica). \_\_\_\_\_