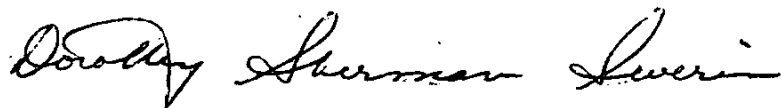


CELESTINESCA

PREFACE

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It was with some trepidation that I agreed to organize a volume of *Celestinesca* dedicated to Stephen Gilman, my mentor at Harvard, not because I have anything but the highest regard for the excellence of this invaluable newsletter and journal, but because I know of Steve's generally low opinion of festschriften and volumes of that ilk. Let me therefore hasten to assure him that this is not a 'proper' homage volume, but merely a slightly disguised issue of *Celestinesca* which gives the editor and a selection of his international board of advisors the opportunity to thank Steve for his unique contribution to *Celestina* studies. Because I know that it would embarrass him I will not say that without his *Art of 'La Celestina'* much modern criticism of this masterpiece (for example my own) would simply not have been possible, nor will I praise the unique contribution that *The Spain of Fernando de Rojas* has made to our knowledge of the fifteenth century. I will confine myself instead to the recollection of his introductory course to medieval Spanish literature which I attended over twenty years ago. His inspired teaching of this class confirmed me in my determination to concentrate on fifteenth-century Spanish literature. Nor am I the only disciple thus inspired, as my Harvard contemporaries George Shipley and Michael Ruggerio will attest. For Steve is a truly extraordinary teacher, one whose concern to communicate his love and understanding of literature shines out in every class. It is this dimension of his personality and contribution, one which his books can only hint at, that I wish to celebrate in this brief preface.



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FERNANDO DE ROJAS
Grabado de la Edición de Valencia, 1518 (M)