

planned at /

A) The Seneca index is one of a series of group projects ~~which~~ on which a number of us were engaged at the University of Illinois under the general supervision of Prof. W. A. Oldfather before the Second World War. After the ~~sudden~~ sudden death of Prof. Oldfather in 1945, I was next in line to take the responsibility of ~~seeing~~ trying to bring these works to completion. During 1947 and 1948, after a year ~~xxxx~~ and six months spent at Illinois in organizing the materials and supervising such research assistance as I could get, I transferred all the MSS, research materials and those collections of material which had not been put into typescript to Columbus. Since that time I have had the benefit of a part-time research assistant each year for some ten years until 1959, when the Cicero Index, ~~xxxxxx~~ (now published), the Seneca Index and two other projects (one now in its final draft) were verified and ready for final editing. By this time the senior editors had died or retired and I was left alone to try to get the work done. The Seneca index is now in typescript and the references have been verified. The typescript runs to a little over 6000 pages and is now basically sound. On the other hand the thousands of ~~xx~~ corrections which have had to be entered, inconsistencies in the original composition, and occasional unweariness/^{on the part} of my research assistants, have left the text in such shape that it has to be revised for form and checked for accuracy page by page. After a long series of tests for inclusiveness and precision had shown me that the text was in fact basically sound, I began the final rewriting last summer, which I spent at the University of Cambridge to have a solid library at my disposal. The work proceeds slowly, as does the retyping into final form of rather difficult copy, and what is now needed is to be able to spend uninterrupted stretches of time day after day to put it in form for the press. ~~The University of Illinois Press~~ The University of Illinois Press will probably undertake publication, but neither they nor I will make a final decision until the text is ready for publication and an accurate estimate of the costs can be made. (Professor W. R. Jones and I have edited a volume of about a thousand pages on Avianus in the Middle Ages

at Index Verborum - Open Court
Nov. 18, 1964

~~XXXXXXXX~~ I SHOULD SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I HAVE TAKEN
THIS SUBJECT ONLY BECAUSE AN INDEX VERBORUM TO CICERO'S
RHETORICA WAS WHAT I WAS WORKING ON UNTIL IT WAS PUBLISHED
AT THE END OF THE SUMMER, AND AN EVEN LARGER ONE TO
SENECA'S PROSE WORKS IS WHAT I AM WORKING ON AT PRESENT.

THESE AND SEVERAL OTHER BOOKS NOW DONE OR IN PROCESS
ARE WHAT REMAINS OF THE PROGRAM WHICH STARTED AT ILLINOIS
WELL BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD-WAR OF UNDERTAKING AS A GROUP
THOSE THINGS WHICH ~~NEEDED~~ BADLY NEEDED DOING BUT HAD NOT
BEEN DONE BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO EXTENSIVE FOR ANY ONE
MAN TO ~~DO~~. *Count on accomplishing* GROUP PROJECTS ARE NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF THE

HUMANITIES, AND NO DOUBT THE HISTORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO

THESE WOULD GIVE *some clues as to* AN INDICATION WHY THEY ARE NOT POPULAR.
This history I omit but will merely say that
IN ANY CASE FOR THE LAST YEARS OF THESE, I WAS LEFT NOT

ONLY AS THE SOLE SURVIVING EDITOR BUT AS THE SOLE CREW
MEMBER ~~ALSO~~. *As well.*

AS TO THE INDEX VERBORUM, THEN, ANYONE CAN SEE AT A
GLANCE THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF LABOR CONNECTED WITH
IT, AND THAT NO ONE WOULD UNDERTAKE IT JUST FOR ~~THE~~ FUN OF
~~IT~~ OR OUT OF SELF-INDULGENCE. BUT WHAT AN INDEX VERBORUM

are questions which

IS AND WHAT IT IS FOR CAN BE EXPECTED TO ARISE INSTANTLY
 TO THE MIND OF ANYONE WHO HAD NEVER HAD OCCASION TO PUT
 ONE TO USE. THAT IS TO SAY, IN GENERAL, THESE QUESTIONS
 WOULD NATURALLY OCCUR TO ~~ANYONE~~ ALMOST ANYONE WHO IS
 NOT A PROFESSIONAL CLASSICIST. WORD INDEXES DO OCCUR IN
 THE CASE OF SOME MODERN AUTHORS, BUT THEY COULD HARDLY BE
 CALLED ESSENTIAL RESEARCH TOOLS AND I AM NOT SURE THAT THEY
 ARE EVEN WIDELY USEFUL. IN FACT ONE DONE, ~~NOT BY OUR GROUP,~~ ^{at all.}
 TO MILTON SOME 30 YEARS AGO HAS NOT, SO FAR AS I HAVE
 NOTICED, EVER BEEN PUBLISHED. ~~IN ANY CASE~~ ^{But in the / of Latin Cicero in part.} THE NEED FOR
 RELIABLE DICTIONARIES TO ~~CICERO~~ ^{as long ago as} WAS FELT ~~DURING THE~~
 RENAISSANCE, AND ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE ONES REALLY ADEQUATE
 FOR THE USE OF ADVANCED STUDENTS OF CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY
~~HAVE FINALLY CULMINATED~~ ^{been brought to completion} IN OUR INDEX TO CICERO'S LETTERS
 IN 1938 AND IN THE PRESENT INDEX TO THE RHETORICA FINALLY
 OFF THE PRESSES IN 1964.

^{First}
~~FIRST THEN~~ THE QUESTION OF WHAT AN INDEX VERBORUM

IS CAN BE ANSWERED EASILY ENOUGH. IT IS A COMPLETE INDEX
 OF EVERY WORD OCCURRING IN THE TEXT OF AN AUTHOR OR CITED
 IN THE MSS OR PROPOSED BY AN EDITOR OR TEXT-CRITIC AS

no word in the index

Yet why it is nec. for the classicist to work in

3

belonging in the text. EACH FORM IS ENTERED UNDER ITS
 DICTIONARY FORM, i.e. ~~ALL~~ ALL FORMS OF "TO BE" UNDER SUM, *law*
 AND THERE CLASSIFIED AS TO FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE SENTENCE,
 BY GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS
 I.E. CASE AND NUMBER IN THE CASE OF NOUNS, CASE GENDER NUMBER
 FOR ADJECTIVES ⁺ PRONOUNS, PERSON, TENSE, NUMBER AND MOOD
 OF VERBS. ONCE THIS IS DONE AND MADE AVAILABLE THE MEANS
 ARE AT HAND FOR AN ANSWER TO ANY AND EVERY KIND OF QUESTION
 ABOUT CICERO'S USE OF LATIN, THE MEANING OF HIS EXPRESSIONS
 AND THE EVIDENCE FOR THE TEXT THAT IS OR MAY BE PRINTED.
 NOW OF COURSE FOR THE MORE OR LESS ELEMENTARY STUDENT, WHO
 NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT CICERO IS SAYING, AND THAT OVIS, FOR
 INSTANCE MEANS 'SHEEP', AND INDEX VERBORUM IS ABOUT AS USEFUL
 AS A COMPUTER WOULD BE TO THE CHILD WHO IS LEARNING THAT
 TWO PLUS TWO MAKES FOUR. BUT WHEN HE REACHES THE STAGE
 IN WHICH HE NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT CICERO MEANS BY WHAT HE
 SAYS, AND WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING, IF ANY, OF SUCH TERMS

AS GLORIA, HONOR OR THE LIKE, OR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
 APPARENT SYNONYMS ~~APPARENTLY~~ MEANING "SAFE AND SOUND",

AN INDEX VERBORUM IS THE MEANS TO ^{find} AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTIONS.
 There by controlling the context he can see that ~~dissof~~ apparently loose abstract terms do have discernible content and that many apparent synonyms are by no means interchangeable.

on which Eng. Lat. or Eng. German
 dict. will give a rather
 confusing list of suggested
 translations

Yet only it is nec. for the classicist to work in
that kind of way will hardly be so simply ⁴
answered. For this there are two principal reasons.
To take an example for contrast with which was once
~~it is still true, to be sure, that in, say, French lit.~~
familiar

OF THE 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES, A SERIES OF SUBJECTS
~~WITH WHICH I WAS ONCE FAMILIAR,~~ THE AMOUNT OF CONTEMPORARY
MATERIAL AS BACKGROUND FOR THE LITERARY TEXTS STILL IN EXISTEN^{CE}
IS PRACTICALLY LIMITLESS AND THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO FIND IT
AND THEN HOW TO SELECT FROM IT. THE STUDY OF THE CLASSICS
IS IN A DIFFERENT SITUATION, NOT FROM ANY CHOICE OF OURS,
IN THAT ~~THE~~ A RATHER RUTHLESS BUT NOT ALTOGETHER UNDISCRIMINAT
ING ~~THE~~ SELECTION HAS BEEN MADE FOR US, AND A VERY GREAT
AMOUNT OF MATERIAL HAS SIMPLY BEEN LOST, NOT ONLY BY FIRE,
PILLAGE, SIMPLE THEFT AND SOME DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION BY
CHRISTIANS OF PAGAN WORK, BUT MOSTLY BY THE SIMPLE FACT THAT
RECORDS WERE KEPT AND BOOKS WRITTEN ON PERISHABLE MATERIALS.
PAPYRUS, (A VARIETY OF PRIMITIVE PAPER MADE FROM PRESSING
AND LAMINATING AND GLUING THE PITH OF AN EGYPTIAN REED,
a general choice in but a most unfortunate choice
WAS ~~A MOST UNFORTUNATE CHOICE~~ FOR PUBLICATION OF BOOKS ~~OUT~~
SIDE OF EGYPT, BECAUSE PAPYRUS WILL NOT STAND DAMPNES AND
EVENTUALLY SIMPLY CRUMBLES AWAY. DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD
OF THE SECOND TO THE ~~XX~~ FOURTH OR FIFTH CENTUREES A.D. WHEN
WORKS WERE BEING COPIED OFF FROM PAPYRUS ^{scrolls} ~~ON~~ ^{Books} INTO PARCHMENT,
our greatest losses occurred.

variants

BETWEEN "FAST, QUICK, SPEEDY ON THE ONE HAND OR I WISH I WAS

AND I WISH I WERE, THE EDITOR OF A CRITICAL TEXT MUST MAKE

A CHOICE AND HE NEEDS TO MAKE IT ON THE BASIS OF THE COMPLETE

MATERIAL FROM THE PARTICULAR WORK, THE PARTICULAR AUTHOR AND

THE PARTICULAR PERIOD. FOR THIS HE NEEDS A CRITICAL INDEX,

WHICH MAKES ANY FEATURE OF THE AUTHOR'S USAGE, HABITS, AND

CHOICES, INCLUDING NOT LEAST WHAT HE LEAVES OUT, AVAILABLE

FOR STUDY. CONSEQUENTLY MOST RECENT STUDIES OF WORDS AND

IDEAS ^{WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO} BEGIN WITH INDEXES/AND GO ON WITH TEXTS.

AS TO THE METHOD WE HAVE PURSUED IN CONSTRUCTING OUR

INDEXES, THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT NEED BE SAID. WE ^{begin} ~~BEGAN~~ WITH

BY COLLECTING EACH WORD OF THE ^{standard critical} TEXT ON A 3 x 5 CARD WITH

ITS ~~XXXX~~ CLASSIFICATION AND ~~LINE~~ REFERENCE. THESE CARDS

ARE THEN ALPHABETIZED UNDER THE ^{ACCEPTED} DICTIONARY HEADING AND

SUB-CLASSIFIED AS TO FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE ORDER OF

THE CASE OR VERB SYSTEM. THE INDEX IS THEN COMPOSED IN

TYPESCRIPT IN THE GENERAL FORM IT IS TO TAKE WHEN PRINTED.

IN THE NEXT STEP, THE INDEX NOW IN TYPESCRIPT IS VERIFIED

WORD BY WORD AGAINST THE BASIC TEXT USED AND THE FORMS

VERIFIED ARE UNDERScoreD IN THE BASIC TEXT. WHEN THIS

a very fruitful field in recent years

the text - ?
ic text - ?

PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WORDS NOT UNDERScoreD IN THE
TEXT TO BE INDEXED HAVE PRESUMABLY BEEN OMITTED AND ARE
GATHERED UP AND ENTERED IN THEIR APPROPRIATE PLACES. NEW
MATERIALS WHICH HAVE COME OUT SINCE THE PUBLICATION DATE
OF THE BASIC TEXT ARE SEPARATELY COLLECTED, EDITED AS
A SPECIAL PRELIMINARY SECTION CALLED AN ADDITAMENTUM AD
just a supplement
to the critical materials
APPARATUM CRITICUM AND THEN ENTERED IN THE BODY OF THE
INDEX IN DOUBLE BRACKETS TO BRING THE COMPLETED WORK AS
FAR AS POSSIBLE UP TO DATE. WHEN ALL THESE HAVE BEEN DONE,
FINAL EDITING IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AS MUCH CONSISTENCY
AS POSSIBLE INTO THE INDEX AND TO MAKE THOROUGH CHECKS
ONCE AGAIN AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE PREVIOUS OPERATIONS.
THERE ARE PROBLEMS AT EACH STAGE, OF COURSE, WHICH I HAVE
to the Rhetorica they
DEALT WITH FULLY IN MY INTRODUCTION AND NEED HARDLY DETAIN
US HERE. IT IS, HOWEVER, WORTH OBSERVING THAT PRECISE
CLASSIFICATION, WHICH THIS KIND OF WORK REQUIRES, IS A
DELICATE AND DEMANDING JOB AND THE ONLY PRELIMINARY PARTS
OF IT WHICH CAN SAFELY BE ASSIGNED TO GRAD. STUDENTS -
WHEN THERE IS ANY MONEY TO PAY THEM - CAN BE ASSIGNED ONLY
those who are
TO RELATIVELY ADVANCED GRAD. ~~STUDENTS~~ WHO HAVE SUFFICIENT

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO WORRY A GOOD DEAL. I MENTION
 THIS BECAUSE SOMEONE IS SURE TO ASK WHETHER OUR METHOD IS
 THE ONLY REASONABLE ONE ^{OR} AND WHETHER IT CAN BE DONE BY ^{with less effort}
^{using} MACHINE. THE ANSWER IS THAT IT CAN BE DONE BY SOME KINDS
 OF DATA PROCESSING MACHINES AND IS BEING DONE AT THE NEW
 CENTRE FOR STATISTICAL STUDY OF ANCIENT TEXTS ESTABLISHED
 BY THE GOVERNMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE IN BELGIUM.
 THEY ARE WORKING AT SENECA ^{by their method as} ~~JUST AS~~ WE HAVE BEEN WORKING
^{for a longer period on ours} ON SENECA. AT THE TIME WHEN WE STARTED MAKING OUR COLLECTIONS
 BEFORE THE WAR, NO CHOICE WAS AVAILABLE TO US AND OF
 COURSE IT WOULD BE FAR TOO LATE NOW FOR A WORK WHICH IS
 IN THE LAST STAGE OF EDITORIAL REVISION. I HAVE NOT, THAT
 IS, HAD OCCASION OR OPPORTUNITY TO TRY DOING IT BY MACHINE,
 AND ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM THOSE IN CHARGE
^{what I have} AT LIEGE AND SEEN OF THEIR WORK. ONCE ALL THE MATERIAL
 IS PROPERLY ASSEMBLED, OF COURSE, ^{their} THE INDEX CAN BE PRINTED
 OFF DIRECTLY FROM THE CARDS, WHICH SAVES TIME AT OUR STAGES
 OF ASSEMBLING AND COMPOSING, AND IS OF COURSE EXTREMELY
 ACCURATE FOR THE CARDS AS THEY ARE. AND OF COURSE ONCE THE
 CARDS ARE AVAILABLE, A NUMBER OF STATISTICAL OPERATIONS

CAN BE EASIDY ACCOMPLISHED WHICH ^{would} MIGHT TAKE MORE TIME WITH AN INDEX. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THE BASIC PROBLEM OF PROPER COLLECTION AND COMPLETE VERIFICATION IS NOT CHANGED. IN SENECA, FOR INSTANCE, ON MY CALCULATION, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE FOR SENECA ~~SOME~~ MORE THAN 203,000 CARDS, ON EACH OF WHICH THEY WILL HAVE PUNCHED FROM 50 TO 75 ITEMS. ALL THIS CLASSIFICATION REQUIRES HIGHLY-TRAINED PROFESSIONAL CLASSICIST AND EVEN AT THAT, A NUMBER OF HUMAN ERRORS WILL OCCUR IN PREPARING THE CARDS AND AT SOME STAGE THEY WILL HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY VERIFIED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BELGIUM HAS A NUMBER OF WELL*TRAINED YOUNG PH.D.'S WHO CAN BE GOT RELATIVE* LY CHEAPLY, BUT CERTAINLY IN THIS COUNTRY, ~~ALTHOUGH WE ARE~~ ^{THIS IS BY NO} MEANS ~~SO~~. BY EITHER THEIR SYSTEM OR NOW BRINGING OUT AN ADEQUATE NUMBER, THEY ARE BY NO MEANS OURS, HOWEVER, ~~CHEAP. NOR CAN YOU, AS A MATTER OF FACT, ENTRUST MUCH OF~~

~~THE WORK TO BE DONE TO ANY BUT THE VERY BEST AND MOST IMAGINA* TIVE OF YOUNG SCHOLARS. FOR ONE WHO IS NOT CONSTANTLY ALERT~~ ^{and many irregularities & inconsistencies are bound} ~~A NUMBER OF ERRORS ARE CERTAIN TO OCCUR, AND ONCE THEY HAVE~~ ^{to turn up. In either case, then, a painstaking} ~~OCCUREN, NOTHING REMAINS EXCEPT TO REVISE THE WHOLE TEXT~~ ^{time-consuming revision must be made. One other} ~~time-consuming revision must be made. One other~~ ^{point is the need for keeping the index as compact} ~~POINT IS THE NEED FOR KEEPING THE INDEX AS COMPACT~~ ^{as possible. The present sample from Mega with} ~~ONSELF, WHICH IS WHAT I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO DO WITH~~ ^{its 252 ppi represents a Latin text of only 31 pp. Since} ~~AS POSSIBLE. THE PRESENT SAMPLE FROM MEGA WITH~~ ^{THE INDEX TO THE RHETORICA IN THE PROOF.} ~~ITS 252 PPI REPRESENTS A LATIN TEXT OF ONLY 31 PP. SINCE~~ ^{Seneca's complete prose runs to 1516 pp. the} ~~THE INDEX TO THE RHETORICA IN THE PROOF.~~ ^{standard text, it may take them 50 times the} ~~SENECA'S COMPLETE PROSE RUNS TO 1516 PP. THE~~ ^{present work to complete Seneca on their} ~~STANDARD TEXT, IT MAY TAKE THEM 50 TIMES THE~~ ^{scale. Our method, by using much more precise} ~~PRESENT WORK TO COMPLETE SENECA ON THEIR~~ ^{scale. Our method, by using much more precise} ~~SCALE. OUR METHOD, BY USING MUCH MORE PRECISE~~

By their coding
which is even at that
sometimes less exact
than ours

classification than
Delatte attempts and
consequently less
space, still runs to
5651 ppi. in typescript,
which is quite large
enough but can be
got quite handily
in to other volumes
when published. Once
this is done we can finally
get reliable texts for
Seneca + thereby the present
substate of Senecan studies
which runs to 1516 pp. the
standard text, it may take them 50 times the
present work to complete Seneca on their
scale. Our method, by using much more precise