

Abstract

The publication comprises the first Czech translation of Clement of Alexandria's *Paedagogus* provided with detailed explanatory notes, which are the result of original research. The introductory study (Veronika Černušková, "Občané nebes tančící s anděly. Klementův spis *Vychovatel* a jeho teologické důrazy [Citizens of Heaven Dancing with Angels. Clement's writing *Paedagogus* and its theological emphases]", in: Klement Alexandrijský, *Vychovatel*, pp. 9–97) is also an original scientific work. The book contains index locorum (pp. 745–779), detailed index of terms and names (pp. 780–792) and, of course, a comprehensive bibliography (pp. 705–743).

Clement, a Greek Christian writer and presbyter, devoted himself to the teaching of catechumens and neophytes as well as to the spiritual guidance of more advanced Christians throughout his ca. twenty-year ministry in the Alexandrian Church. His *Paedagogus* is a three-book treatise dedicated to beginners in the Christian faith, especially among the wealthy Greeks of Alexandria. The writing is witty and cultivated and contains a huge number not only of quotations and allusions to biblical texts, but also of references to both older and contemporary Greek (and also Latin) literature, so as to be appealing to its addressees, who were often educated readers. The aim of Clement's writings is to prepare his audience, who have been reached by the Christian message, to enter more deeply into the knowledge of God. This preparation was mainly in the form of practical advice and recommendations on specific areas of life, making the work an important source of information on second-century Greek everyday life and culture. However, it is not just a set of practical instructions: the entire first book of *Paedagogus* consists of a general introduction to the Christian ethics.

At the end is added the *Hymn to Christ the Saviour*, which summarizes the main ideas of *Paedagogus* in poetic form. The hymn, which was probably intended as a song of praise to be sung at a Christian symposium, is original in form and language: it is written in a complicated metrum, without references to Scripture, using expressions alluding to ancient Greek poetry (Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and others). Translated into modern languages, this song still figures in the Christian liturgy in some countries.

The introductory study to Clement's *Paedagogus* first (pp. 9–45) gives a historical introduction to Clement's life, the origin and development of the Alexandrian ecclesiastical community, Clement's writings, and his work as an educator. Then *Paedagogus* is introduced as a teaching text and the probable contents of Clement's extant writings that are mentioned in *Paedagogus* are discussed. The second part of the introductory study (pp. 46–97) then traces the basic thematic line of *Paedagogus*, which is the interconnectedness of spiritual childhood, baptism, and the Eucharist.