

Andújar's International Institute for German Culture (MAQUE)

Atelier for Philosophical Research

Seneca the Younger, *Moral Letters to Lucilius*

(*Epistulae morales ad Lucilium*)

7th November 2020 – 9th February 2021, On Saturdays, 11:30 – 13:00

Internationales Institut für deutsche Kultur Andújar (MAQUE)

Atelier für philosophische Forschung

Seneca der Ältere, *Briefe an Lucilius über Ethik*

(*Epistulae morales ad Lucilium*)

7.11.2020 – 9.,02.2021, Sa. 11:30 – 13:00

## **Seneca the Younger, *Moral Letters to Lucilius* (*Epistulae morales ad Lucilium*)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021, On Saturdays, 11:30 – 13:00**

(in English)

(Reading and discussion of the English translation of the work [by Richard Gummere, under consideration of new the translation by Margaret Graver and A.A. Long]), including a philosophico-philological analysis of some selected Latin passages)

**“A few are enough; one is enough; not even one is also enough”**

(*Satis sunt [...] mihi pauci, satis est unus, satis est nullus*)



Peter Paul Rubens, *The Death of Seneca* (c. 1612/13) (*Alte Pinakothek*, Munich)

Lucius Annaeus Seneca is one of the most important authors in the history of Philosophy. In 54 AD, Nero, who had just become Emperor of Rome, appointed him as advisor, and in 56 AD he attained the consulship, the highest position of political power in Rome. A good number of philosophical treatises as well as six tragedies by Seneca are extant, which have had an important impact in Western culture, even up to now. As it is well-known, Seneca was forced by Emperor Nero in 65 AD to commit suicide, after having unjustly been accused of involvement in an attempt to kill him.

Nevertheless, Seneca, who lives in Rome since he was (probably) five years old (from ca. 5 AD [maybe even earlier]), was himself – as it was the case of his father (Seneca the Elder) and his mother (Helvia) – born in Corduba, that is to say in the Roman province Baetica. In a certain sense, Seneca's philosophy is nothing but a, maybe failed, – attempt to 'survive' the dependencies characteristic of his Roman life: “For the highest good”, he wrote, “does not look for instruments outside itself. It is raised in one's own home, and is complete all by itself. If you seek any part of it from outside, it begins to be subject to fortune” (*Summum bonum extrinsecus instrumenta non quaerit. Domi colitur, ex se totum est. Incipit fortunae esse subiectum, si quam partem sui foris quaerit*) (*Epistulae IX*, 15).

Written over the two to three years before his death in the spring of 65 AD, “Seneca's *Moral Epistles to Lucilius* (*Epistulae morales ad Lucilium*) are”, as Margaret Graver and A.A. Long point out in his recent translation of the text, “their autor's most significant philosophical contribution”.

### Edition

- Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, *Ad Lucilium Epistulae morales*, edited by L.D. REYNOLDS, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1965 (2 Vols.) (*editio Oxoniensis*).

### Translations

#### English:

- Seneca, *Epistles*, translated by RICHARD M. GUMMERE, Cambridge, Mass./London 1917-1925 (3 Vols.) (Loeb Classical Library) (English / Latin).
- Seneca, *Letters to Lucilius*, translated by E.P. BARKER, Oxford 1932 (2 Vols.).
- Seneca, *Letters on Ethics to Lucilius*, translated by MARGARET GRAVER and A.A. LONG, Chicago 2015 (1 Vol.).

#### German

Seneca, *Epistulae morales ad Lucilium*, ed. and translated by GERHARD FINK, Düsseldorf (Artemis & Winkler) 2007-2009 (2 Vols.) (German / Latin).

- Seneca, *Briefe an Lucilius über Ethik*, translated by HEINZ GUNERMANN, FRANZ LORETTO and RAINER RAUTHE, Stuttgart (Reclam) 2014 (2 Vols.) (German / Latin).

#### Spanish

- Séneca, *Epístolas morales*, translated by FRANCISCO NAVARRO Y CALVO, Madrid (Luis Navarro) 1984.
- Séneca, *Epístolas morales a Lucilio*, translated by LORENZO RIBER, in: Séneca, *Obras completas*, Madrid (Aguilar) 1943; <sup>4</sup>1961.
- Séneca, *Cartas a Lucilio*, translated by J.M. GALLEGOS ROCAFULL, México 1951-1953 (2 Vols.).
- Séneca, *Cartas morales a Lucilio*, translated by JAUME BOFIL I FERRO, Barcelona (Iberia) 1955 (reproduction: Barcelona [Orbis] 1984) (2 vols.).
- Séneca, *Epístolas morales a Lucilio*, translated by J. AZAGRA, in: Séneca, *Tratados filosóficos, tragedias, epístolas morales*, Madrid (Edaf) 1977.
- Séneca, *Cartas a Lucilio*, translated by VICENTE LÓPEZ SOTO, Barcelona (Juventud) 1982.
- Séneca, *Epístulas morales a Lucilio*, translated by ISMAEL ROCA MELIÁ, Madrid (Gredos) 1986.  
(<https://archive.org/details/EpistolasMoralesALucilioTomo1/Ep%C3%ADstolas%20morales%20a%20Lucilio%20Tomo%201/page/n1/mode/2up>)
- Séneca, *Cartas a Lucilio*, translated by JERÓNIMO SAHAGÚN, Palma de Mallorca (Olañeta) 2003.
- Séneca, *Cartas a Lucilio*, translated by FRANCISCO SOCAS, Madrid (Cátedra) 2018; <sup>2</sup>2020.

### Texte in the Internet

- Latin text in Perseus.  
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A2007.01.0080####>.
- English Text by R. Gummere (Wikisource)  
[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Moral\\_letters\\_to\\_Lucilius](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Moral_letters_to_Lucilius)

### Videos

- Seneca, *Moral Letters to Lucilius* (Vox Stoica), English Text of the translation by R. Gummere)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a5jDHyXXDw&list=PLzKrfPkpj5om1kEBj7c80cwjJ1JS78FL7>.
  - Seneca, *Moral Letters to Lucilius* (The Rugged Pyrrhus), English Text of the translation by R. Gummere)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ig3az96qxc&list=PLWcCLgyLeUuyqQrLdF1lFnYp2V-WAEcKu>.
- Also:
- Seneca, *Moral Letters to Lucilius* (The Rugged Pyrrhus), English Text of the translation by R. Gummere)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rF06Kh0xGUU&list=RDCMUC4vus6cFpOZncGWJDbjE6\\_A&start\\_radio=1&t=](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rF06Kh0xGUU&list=RDCMUC4vus6cFpOZncGWJDbjE6_A&start_radio=1&t=)
  - *Epistulae morales selectae*. Read in Latin by Malone (*Epp.* 1-2 & 6-10 & 15-16 & 26-28 & 31 & 37-38 & 40-41 & 44 & 47 & 49 & 51 & 55 & 57 & 60-61 & 63 & 70-76 & 79 & 80)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hXvYsZPJWE&t=718s&pbjreload=101>

### Further Reading (on Seneca)

- DAMSCHEN, GREGOR/ HEIL, ANDREAS (eds.), *Brill's Companion to Seneca. Philosopher and Dramatist*, Leiden / Boston 2014.
- FUHRMANN, MANFRED, *Seneca und Kaiser Nero. Eine Biographie*, Berlin 1997.
- GIEBEL, MARION, *Seneca*, Reinbeck bei Hamburg 1997 (RoRoRo-Monographie)
- GRIFFIN, MIRIAM, *Seneca: A Philosopher in Politics*, Oxford 1976.
- MAURACH, GREGOR, *Seneca – Leben und Werk*, Darmstadt 1991.
- BARTSCH, SHADI/ SCHIESARO, ALESSANDRO (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Seneca*, Cambridge, Mass. / London (Cambridge University Press) 2015.
- VEYNE, PAUL, *Weisheit und Altruismus: Eine Einführung in die Philosophie Senecas*, Frankfurt a.M. 1993.
- VON ALBRECHT, MICHAEL, *Seneca: Eine Einführung*, Stuttgart (Reclam) 2018 (first as *Wort und Wandlung: Senecas Lebenskunst*, #####).
- WILSON, EMILY, *The Greatest Empire: A Life of Seneca*, Oxford 2014 (Paperback 2019).

### Further Reading (on the Epistles)

- ABEL, K., *Bauformen in Senecas Dialogen*, Heidelberg 1967.
- ABEL, K., »Das Problem der Faktizität der Senecanischen Korrespondenz«, in: *Hermes* 109 (1981), pp. 472-499.
- CANCIK, HI. *Untersuchungen zu Senecas Epistulae morales*, Spudasm. 18, 1967, esp. 1.88 and 138f.
- GRIMAL, P., »Les lettres a Lucilius. Chronologie. Nature«, in: id., *Séneque ou la conscience de l'Empire*, Paris 1978, pp. 441-456.
- GRIMAL, P., *Seneca: Macht und Ohnmacht des Geistes*, Darmsatdt 1978, p. 155 and pp. 315ff. (Chronology).
- HIJMANS, B.L., *Inlaboratus et facilis: Aspects of Structure in Some Letters of Seneca*, Leiden 1976, pp. 138-151.
- LEFREVRE, E., »Der Mensch und das Schicksal in stoischer Sicht (Sen. Epist. 52 und 107)«, in: *Der Altsprachliche Unterricht* 26,3 (1983), pp. 61-73.
- MAURAR, GREGOR, *Der Bau von Senecas Epistulae morales*, Heidelberg 1970, pp. 1-188.
- MAURAR, GREGOR, *Über ein Kapitel aus Senecas Briefcorpus, WdF 414, 2. Aufl. 1987, pp. 339-360*, Heidelberg 1970, pp. 1-188.
- MAZZOLI, G., »Le Epistulae Morales ad Lucilium di Seneca: Valore letterario e filosofico«, in: *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt* 2.36,3 (1989), col. 1823-1877.
- SETAIOLI, ALDO, »Epistulae Morales«, in: *Brill's Companion to Seneca: Philosopher and Dramatist*, hg. von GREGOR DAMSCHEN and ANDREAS HEIL, Leiden/Boston 2014, pp. 192-200.
- WILSON, M., »Seneca's Epistles to Lucilius: A Revaluation, on: *Ramus* 16 (1987), pp. 101-121.
- WILSON, EMILY, *The Greatest Empire: A Life of Seneca*, Oxford 2014 (Paperback 2019), pp. 183-205.

**Seneca the Younger, *Letters to Lucilius on Ethics (Epistulae morales ad Lucilium)***

**(Seneca der Jüngere, *Briefe an Lucilius über Ethik [Epistulae morales ad Lucilium]*)**

- 1. (7th November 2020)**
  - A General Introduction
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle IV, §§ 3-7
    - o Epistle VII, §§ 1-2; § 6; §§ 8-12
- 2. (14th November 2020)**
  - Seneca's Biography
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle IX, §§ 1-17
- 3. (21st November 2020)**
  - Seneca's Writings 1: Seneca's Works – Editions and Translations
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle XVI, § 7; § 9
    - o Epistle XX, §§ 1-3; §§ 5-8
    - o Epistle XXIII, §§ 3-8
- 4. (28th November 2020)**
  - Seneca's Writings 2: The ›Consolation‹-Books (c. 38-48 AD); *Apocolocyntosis* (54 AD)
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle XXXI, § 3; § 5; §§ 10-11
    - o Epistle XXXIII, §§ 7-11
    - o Epistle XXXVII, §§ 3-5
- 5. (5th December 2020)**
  - Seneca's Writings 3: The Middle Period 1: *On Anger (De ira)* (c. 42-49 AD); *On the Firmness of the Wise (De constantia sapientis)* (c. 41-55 AD); *On the Briefness of Life (De brevitae vitae)* (c. 48-55 AD); *Peace of Mind (De tranquillitate animi)* (c. 51-54 AD)
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle XLI, §§ 5-9
    - o Epistle XLIV, §§ 2-3; § 5
    - o Epistle LII, §§ 9-11; §§ 13-15
    - o Epistle LVIII, §§ 26-28
    - o Epistle LXV, §§ 21-22
- 6. (12th December 2020)**
  - Seneca's Writings 4: The Middle Period 2: *On Mercy (De clementia)* (c. 55-56 AD); *On the Happy Life (De vita beata)* (c. 55-62 AD); *On the Briefness of Life (De brevitae vitae)* (c. 48-55 AD); *On Benefits (De beneficiis)* (c. 56-62 AD) The Middle Period 2: *On Mercy (De clementia)* (c. 55-56 AD); *On the Happy Life (De vita beata)* (c. 55-62 AD); *On the Briefness of Life (De brevitae vitae)* (c. 48-55 AD); *On Benefits (De beneficiis)* (c. 56-62 AD)
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle LXVI, §§ 5-12; §§ 15-23; §§ 29-34
- 7. (19th December 2020)**
  - Seneca's Writings 5: Late Works 1: *On Leisure (De otio)* (c. 62-63 AD); *On Providence (De providentia)* (c. 62-63 AD)
  - Reading:
    - o Epistle LXVII, § 4; Epistle LXX, §§ 4-7; Epistle LXXI, §§ 4-5; §§ 7-8; §§ 16-22; § 24; §§ 29-31; §§ 32-33
- 8. (9th January 2021)**
  - Seneca's Writings 6: Late Works 2: *Natural Questions (Naturales quaestiones)* (c. 62-64 AD); *Letters on Ethics to Lucilius (Epistulae morales)* (c. 62-64 AD)
  - Reading:

- Epistle LXXII, § 4; § 7
  - Epistle LXXIII, § 12; § 16
  - Epistle LXXIV, § 1; § 6; §§ 17-18; § 21
  - Epistle LXXV, § 18
- 9. (16th January 2021)**
- Seneca's Writings 7: Tragedies
  - Reading:
    - Epistle LXXVI, §§ 6-19; §§ 21-22; § 24; §§ 30-32
- 10. (23rd January 2021)**
- Seneca's Writings 8: Fragmentarily Extant resp. Lost Works
  - Reading:
    - Epistle LXXXII, §§ 12-14
    - Epistle LXXXIV, §§ 7-8
    - Epistle LXXXVII, §§ 12-14; §§ 17-18; §§ 21-25; § 37
- 11. (30th January 2021)**
- Seneca's Writings 9: Pseudoepigraphicals
  - Reading:
    - Epistle LXXXVIII, §§ 1-2; § 20
    - Epistle XCII, §§ 2-5
    - Epistle XCIII, §§ 2-7
    - Epistle XCIV, § 11
    - Epistle XCVII, § 14
- 12. (6th February 2021)**
- Seneca's Influence on Western Culture 1
  - Reading:
    - Epistle XCVIII, §§ 1-2
    - Epistle CVIII, § 3
    - Epistle CX, § 14; § 18; § 20
    - Epistle CXIII, §§ 31-32
    - Epistle CXVIII, § 4
    - Epistle CXX, §§ 1-3; §§ 12-13
- 13. (13th January 2021)**
- Seneca's Influence on Western Culture 2
  - Recapitulation