

[\[Lasena's lecture 'La Nepente'\]](#)

ENTRY TYPE

Manuscript

Manuscript Details

CURRENT LOCATION

Biblioteca Comunale
Treviso
Italy

SHELFMARK

2806

RELATED TO PETRARCH'S

RVF 58

CREATOR

[Pietro Lasena](#)

DATE

1616

COPYIST

[Pietro Lasena \(?\)](#)

TITLE PAGE

LA NEPENTE | DISCORSO | DEL | D. P. LASEYNA [*sic*]

MODE OF EXEGESIS

[Lecture](#)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: FORMAT

193x132 mm; 51 (unnumbered 2-52) fols.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: TEXTBLOCK

paper; seventeenth-century script; prose text (within which quotations from Petrarch are set in script type).

INTERNAL DESCRIPTION

fol. 1: missing;

fol. 2r: title page followed by a quotation from Seneca by a later hand;

fol. 2v: blank;

fols. 3r-4r: list of quoted authors ('Autori citati et osservati');

fol. 4v: blank;

fols. 5r-6v: Lasena's address to readers ('A chi legge', <inc> Tolomeo quel famosissimo Re del egipto, cognominato Filadelfo che col gouerno de' Popoli trattò lo studio delle buone lettere; <exp> se lo stile ti parrà rozzo: ti piacerà la materia. se no[n] loderai la scienza, celebrerai almeno la pietà; uiui lieto);

fol. 7r-7v: blank;

fols. 8r-50v: Lasena's lecture ('Discorso intorno alla uera inteligenza della uirtu dell'herba Nepente, descritta da Omero nel 4 del Olisseade, col occasione del Son: del Petrarca la guancia che fu gia. Sopra de qua' luoghi sono questi poeti osseruati, dichiarati, et illustrati, fuor del opinione de' particolari Com[m]entatori', <inc> Quel diuino scrittore e gra[n] miracolo della Grecia Omero da cui come da copioso e limpidissimo fonte derivarono a molti antichi le cognitioni tutte delle scienze e delle storie racconta nel Olisseade che nascesse a quel gran pastor de popoli Menelao un figliuolo; <exp> da buon filosofo appre[n]dei a praticar questa mirabil ricetta della Nepente, che si come mi uien insegnata da quel gra[n] esculapio d'Omero: così senza fallo si è ~~in quella~~ la uera, et unica medicina di questi mali. P[ri]^{mo} di 9bre 1616);

fols. 50v-51r: several scattered words by the same hand on the Nepenthes;

fols. 51v-52v: blank.

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NOTES

Lasena's work deals with the herb nepenthes, its virtues and uses, and then lists those authors who referred to it, including its use in literature. Fols. 11r-13r focus on *RVF* 58 and here Lasena explains, against previous commentators, that the herbal juice that Petrarch invites the addressee of the sonnet to take drink ('col terzo bevete un suco d'erba', l. 9) that is made out of the herb nepenthes. Lasena focuses on other content-related aspects of the sonnet, too; and he continues to argue against the views of previous unspecified exegetes who maintained that the three objects mentioned in Petrarch's sonnet as gifts sent to its dedicatee were a clock, a breviary, and a potion. Lasena believes that Petrarch most likely sent his friend a book of Plato, or Seneca, or even his own book of rhymes.

Reference is made, among others, to Aristotle, Ateneans, Cicero, Diogenes Laertius, Epictetus, Heraclitus, Homer, Macrobius, Philostratus, Pindar, Plato, Pliny, Plutarch, Seneca, Theophrastus, Virgil.

This work might be the Italian version of *Homeri nepenthes, seu de abolendo luctu* (Naples, 1621).

Scattered marginal annotations by the same hand either add some words (or sentences), or correct the main text, or else refer to a quoted passage, pointing out the source it is drawn from.

Fol. 1 is missing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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