

Harry M. Hubbell

Selected Works Of Cicero (1948)

Harry Hubbell

Harry Mortimer Hubbell

1881–1971

Gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche

HARRY MORTIMER HUBBELL received his formal education in New Haven, Connecticut: a graduate of Hillhouse High School, he entered Yale to win his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. But his progress to the doctorate was interrupted by periods of teaching in New York State and New Jersey. A combination of teaching and administrative authority in these positions is reflected in his career at Yale, where he was appointed in 1911; here, whether as instructor or Talcott Professor, a full teaching program never blunted his readiness to undertake academic committee work and finally the chairmanship of his department. It is not surprising that his delight in interpreting the values of classical literature led him in 1924 to introduce a course in Classical Civilization designed to interest those who had little or no Latin and Greek in the achievements of the ancient world. In this he was a pioneer, for few classical scholars at that time, not excepting colleagues, found such a program congenial or significant. He remained actively interested in this field throughout his life, and the proliferation of similar or derived courses in this country and elsewhere bears out his judgement. A man of such quiet energy as his could not settle into inactivity. On his retirement in 1950 a Visiting Professorship in the University of California at Berkeley was followed by a Fulbright Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome; he was one of the first John Hay Whitney Professors, joining the faculty at Goucher College, Maryland, where his enthusiasm raised a class of six to forty students. There were other appointments: at Princeton, Albertus Magnus, and in 1962 at Yale.

His special interest lay in Greek and Latin rhetoric; it showed itself in books, translations, and numerous articles on Isocrates, Cicero, Philodemus, St Chrysostom. But his wide-ranging mind could also investigate Ptolemy's Zoo, horse-sacrifices in antiquity, or a Christian liturgy found in an Egyptian papyrus; his knowledge of meteorology and astronomy could be valuable to such as

HUBBELL, Harry Mortimer



- **Date of Birth:** August 30, 1881
 - **Born City:** Belvue
 - **Born State/Country:** KS
 - **Parents:** Mortimer Barnett & Hannah Virginia Buzzard H.
 - **Date of Death:** February 24, 1971
 - **Death City:** Branford
 - **Death State/Country:** CT
 - **Married:** Alice Pendleton Clark, 5 Apr. 1916.
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- **Education:**
B.A. Yale, 1902; M.A., 1905; Ph.D. 1913.
 - **Dissertation:**
"The Influence of Isocrates on Cicero, Dionysius and Aristides" (Yale, 1913); printed (New Haven, 1914).
 - **Professional Experience:**
Asst. princ. Waterville (NY) HS, 1902-3; mstr. Pingrey School, 1904-7; dean Pennington (NJ) School, 1907-10; instr. to prof. Lat. & Gk. Yale, 1911-34; Tallcott prof. Gk., 1934-50; editor, YCS, vols. 11-13 (1950-2) & co-editor of others through vol. 17 (1961); vis. prof. U. California, Berkeley, 1950; ann. prof. AAR, 1950-1; pres. CANE, 1932-3.

- **Publications:**

"Isocrates and the Epicureans," *CP* 11 (1916) 405-18; *The Rhetorica of Philodemus*, *Conn. Acad. Arts & Sc.* 23 (1920); "Chrysostom and Rhetoric," *CP* 19 (1924) 261-76; "Why Study Latin," *CP* 24 (1929) 482; "Horse Sacrifice in Antiquity," *CJ* 25 (1929-30) 393; "Ptolemy's Zoo," *CJ* 31 (1935-6) 68-76; Cicero. *The Orator* (trans.) in Cicero. *Brutus and Orator*, LCL (Cambridge & London, 1939; 5th impr. rev., 1962); Cicero. *De Inventione, De Optimo Genere Oratorum, Topica*, LCL (Cambridge & London, 1949); "A Christian Liturgy from Egypt, P. 488 Yale, Sixth C.," *YCS* 19 (1966) 171-86; "οὐκ εἶμι," *Studies Caplan*, 160-4.

- **Notes:**

Beginning with his doctoral dissertation, Harry Hubbell's chief scholarly interests were in ancient rhetoric and oratory, as evidenced by his valuable Loeb. His interests also extended to Greek composition, which he regularly taught at Yale. Students began writing different styles of Greek prose and ended writing iambic verse. He was known as "Teacher" for his devotion to students and his availability both for those needing remedial as well as for those desiring advanced work. In the words of Christopher Dawson, "He was, as one of his favorite authors might have said, not only σοφός, but φιλόσοφος, a wise man still seeking for knowledge. In temperament he was, as many testimonials attest, genial: one is reminded of Aristophanes' complimentary reference to Sophocles—εύκολος."

- **Sources:**

Christopher M. Dawson, *YCS* 22 (1972) vii-viii; *WhAm* 5:353.