

Michele Valerie RONNICK

The Quinquennium Mirabile of Cicero's  
*Paradoxa Stoicorum*, 1541-1564

The five year period from 1541 to 1546 forms a quinquennium mirabile as it were in the history and influence of Cicero's *Paradoxa Stoicorum*. For in this period were published two unusual books, the *Antiparadoxa* of Vitus Amerbach (Strassburg, 1541), and the *Antiparadoxon Libri Sex* of Marcantonio Maioragius (Lyons, 1546). The two works testify to the *Paradoxa Stoicorum's* long and influential history which stands in sharp contrast to its present state of neglect by modern scholars. Over 414 manuscripts of the *Paradoxa Stoicorum* spanning the years 800 to 1800 A.D. remain today. After the invention of the printing press, the *Paradoxa Stoicorum* was included in one of the most famous texts in the history of typography, namely the *De Officiis and Paradoxa Stoicorum* of 1465 designed and printed by Johann Fust and Peter Schoeffer in Mainz, Germany. My paper will attempt to explain the method and meaning behind Vitus Amerbach's and Marcantonio Maioragius's treatments of this small philosophical work written by Cicero in the last years of his life.