The unique copy of this "new comodye in englysh in manner of an enterlude" reposes at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. It appeared in a Malone Society facsimile reprint in 1908 and was printed that same year by H. Warner Allen (London: Routledge and Sons). Whether Rastell was or was not its author remains a matter for conjecture, but he was its printer (ca. 1525-20). The playlet freely adapts materials from the early acts of LC in order to demonstrate a moral point. A useful discussion of the two works' relationship to each other is Albert J. Geritz, "Calisto & Melebea (ca. 1530)," Celestinesca 4:1 (mayo, 1980), 17-29.

What follows is a summary of the presentation as it takes place on the recording. There is, first, a musical opening to set the period. Melebea, alone, is the first to speak and her words catch us by surprise. She speaks of her beauty in terms most direct, incorporating into her words parts of Calisto's scene I address from Celeatina. She notes the approach of an anguished Calisto, who proceeds to laud Melebea as an angel. Melebea, in this version, has already been pursued by Calisto before the onset of the action, and is pained by his attention here and rejects him, swearing she will nevermore appear to him. End of the first scene. Music.

In the following vignette, Calisto is with Sempronio. The swain, declaring he "serves a goddess," calls for a lute that he might sing his "unhappiness." The lute, untuned, is like his universe. The heretical terms he uses to praise his lost Melebea are picked up quickly by Sempronio, who incites the flames of Calisto's passion by condemning women as "devil's nets," artful dissemblers, vainglorious, painted, lusty souls. Calisto, new passion aroused, promises to Sempronio a "chain of gold" if he will help. Well, it happens that the wily servant knows a neighbor lady, a "mother of bawdry," who has mastered a thousand virgins. Calisto, in wonderment at this sudden hope given him, promises more rewards to Sempronio for speedy deliverance. The scene ends with a desperate Calisto,
aflame, urging Sempronio: "Go, speed, my Sempronio, to quench
the flames of this fire." Music.

Celestina opens the next scene and we are now before her
house. She speaks to the public, introducing herself and giv-
ing an account of what has gone before; she exalts her skills
by narrating how cleverly she solved the dilemma of Elicia, a
ward, who was with a certain Crito upstairs, when her lover
came by one day. Celestina's crackling glee is unmistakable:
she is happy and fulfilled in her profession.

Sempronio approaches and informs her of what matter he
has in hand and Celestina exclaims that she is as glad of this
as a surgeon. No time is wasted and in a flash we are again
at Calisto's door. Parmeno is allowed here only a brief dia-
tripe against the evils of the old bawd before the procuress
makes her entry. Calisto, thrilled, overexclaims his passion,
until Celestina must remind Sempronio to get Calisto to seal
a bargain. The passion vs greed comes across quite strongly
in this well-played scene.

Calisto goes off with Sempronio, leaving a priggish Par-
meno with the cagy Celestina. The recognition scene is swift
and Celestina, never in this version a waster of words, offers
money for the compliance of the servant in this little
venture. Parmeno is allowed to retain his innocence in this
scene, for his rejection if the bribe is quick and final. It
is only when Calisto has returned, given Celestina 100 pieces
of gold and sent her off to work her magic, that Parmeno sees
that his warnings, restated, are working against him and he
decides to seek henceforth his own advantage. Music.

Melebea, troubled, speaks of her hate for Calisto's de-
sire but also manages to convey her own warm feeling for the
fellow. Onto the scene bursts Celestina, with no Lucrecia or
Alisa to intervene. Why has she come, wonders Melebea, as she
recognizes the old woman as one who "lived by the riverside.
"Good works" is the bawd's reply. And she proceeds to tease
Melebea by hiding the name of the person whose need of Mele-
bea is great. When the fatal name is out, Melebea is might-
ily angered and shouts to Celestina: "Go hence in the devil's
way... Make amends to God." Celestina calms her with the
same toothache ruse of Rojas' original and Melebea softens by
acceding to all Celestina's wishes, asking her to return on
the morrow, secretly, for a prayer. She bids Celestina an.ac-
complice's farewell: "Tomorrow is a new day. I shall perform
that I have you promised."

The performance ends after Celestina—again alone—and
en route to Calisto's house, has another opportunity for self

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praise, in which she calls attention to her worthiness to bear the rank of "noble." In the text version of ca. 1530, the interlude ends with the sudden appearance of Danio, Melebea's father, and their discussions round out the moral lesson central to the adaptation. This has been excised from this recorded performance.

The main textual features of the Rastell text are conserved by the recording, although many other lines have been omitted also to compress further the action; music is added to evoke the passing of time. The rhymed couplets of the original are so nicely delivered that they are really only noted belatedly. The flavor and flow of the language is preserved and enhanced by fine performances by all the principals: June Tobin as Melebea, Peter Howell as Calisto, Manning Wilson as Sempronio and Vivienne Chatterton as Celestina.

Aside from its merits as recorded theatre, this English adaptation of Rojas' Celestina would be useful in a class or seminar whose principal focus was the continuing impact of LC in and out of Spain. The plot lines so skillfully articulated in the original novela dialogada are surely given, in this work, one of its earliest clearly theatrical forms. We ought to mention, in this regard, the 1513 Eclogue of Calisto & Melibea by Urrea, which adapts material from Act I of Celestina in the form of a verse-play, but we do not know that it ever was actually staged. The historical value of the interlude's place in the history of Celestina studies alone might justify its being used in the classroom, but it is a bonus to have so charming and well-performed a piece available. ¹

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¹ I express my gratitude to my colleague, Pedro Garay, of Presbyterian College (South Carolina), who made a special tape of this recording for me.
Celestina le trae a Calisto el cordon de su Melibe. En una ilustración a la traducción hungara [1979]. Artista: Gyula FELEDY.