

Nigel Hope
Supervisor: Prof. J. G. F. Powell

I am writing a commentary on Seneca the Younger's *De Constantia Sapientis*. At present there is no detailed English-language commentary on this work and it is my aim to fill this gap. The introduction to the commentary will cover the following topics: dating; the addressee, Serenus, and Seneca's plan for his moral progress (comparison with *De Tranquillitate Animi*, also addressed to Serenus, may be instructive here); the text; the philosophical position being advocated (the invulnerability of the Stoic *sapiens* to insult and injury and the moral psychology underlying it); argumentation (including the use of syllogisms and *exempla*, and the combination of logical and rhetorical forms of argument); the distinction between *iniuria* and *contumelia* (including the legal aspects of *iniuria*); language and style (including imagery); the reception of *De Constantia Sapientis*. The commentary itself will discuss individual passages in detail, including textual questions (e.g. the crux at 18.18-19). Particular attention will be given to the long narrative passages presenting the confrontation between the Megarian philosopher Stilbo and Demetrius Poliorcetes at the sack of Megara, and Caligula's persistent use of insult to provoke those around him, in particular the praetorian prefect Chaerea, behaviour which led to his assassination. Other matters of interest which will be discussed in the commentary include: Seneca's attitude to other philosophers and philosophical schools, in particular the Epicureans; social aspects, including attitudes to women, children and slaves.