

THE COMET O
ITS PLACE IN THE
OF ASTRONOMY.

BY
CLARISSE DORIS HELLMAN, M. A.

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN THE
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PREFACE

THIS book has been in preparation for nearly fourteen years, which accounts for any variation in the style of writing.

At the time the work was begun, the problem of citing titles seemed best met by quoting exactly the source of the information. Following this plan has led to apparent inconsistencies. However, in the case of books not available, it has relieved me of considerable responsibility.

Much of the material gathered could not be used to its best advantage in this book. I am looking forward to writing more on the same subject and on others closely related to it in the future.

My thanks are due to the many scholars and librarians who have helped me. It is possible to mention only a few of them by name, but each individually has my gratitude. The entire Columbia University Library staff and the faculty of political science at Columbia University all have been most helpful.

I am especially grateful to the late Professor Frederick Barry who guided me closely for almost twelve years, and to Professor Lynn Thorndike, whose suggestions and criticism have been so important both for the details and the general plan of the book. Dr. George Sarton, editor of *Isis*, gave the work its original impetus and by his continued creative encouragement greatly influenced my thought.

Many of the readers of my bibliography on the comet of 1577, published in 1934 at the suggestion of Dr. Sarton, have furnished valuable material. This is especially true of Professor Quido Vetter of Prague, who also aided me in locating copies of many of the tracts summarized. Mrs. Carl Goldmark Jr. informed me of the tracts available in Vienna. Professor Jan Schilt and Dr. Carl Boyer focused my attention on some of the astronomical and mathematical problems which needed clarifying. Dr. Alexander Pogo has been most obliging in obtaining information for me from the Harvard College Library.

Last but not least I want to extend my thanks to my own family;—to my father, Dr. Alfred M. Hellman, who first aroused my interest in the history of science, and who made it possible for me to buy the much needed photostats and books; — to my mother, who has always been ready to take over the care of my household or my children when the need arose; — and to my husband, Morton Pepper, who read the entire book in manuscript and smoothed out many awkward passages, and who, if he were not on active duty as a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve, would now be reading proof.

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