

Mason Tung: *Variorum Edition of Alciato*.

For this emblem and its English translation on the *Alciato at Glasgow* website, click [here](#).

## Emblem 138.

1546	15	1577	461f
1551	149f	1583	456f
1567	(17)	1621	592

### XII<sup>1</sup> certamina Herculis A'λληγορικῶς.<sup>2</sup>

Roboris<sup>3</sup> inuicti superat facundia laudes:<sup>4</sup>  
Dicta Sophistarum<sup>5</sup> laqueosq̄; resoluit inanes:<sup>6</sup>  
Non furor,<sup>7</sup> aut rabies uirtute<sup>8</sup> potentior ulla<sup>9</sup> est:<sup>10</sup>  
Continuum ob cursum sapienti opulentia cedit:<sup>11</sup>  
Spernit auaritiam<sup>12</sup> nec rapto<sup>13</sup> aut fœnore gaudet:<sup>14</sup>  
Vincit,<sup>15</sup> fœmineos spoliatq̄; insignibus astus:<sup>16</sup>  
Expurgat sordes, & cultum mentibus addit:<sup>17</sup>  
Illicitos odit coitus, abigitq̄; nocentes:<sup>18</sup>  
Barbaries<sup>19</sup> feritasq̄; dat impia denique pœnam:<sup>20</sup>  
Vnius uirtus<sup>21</sup> collectos dissipat hostes:<sup>22</sup>  
Inuehit in patriam externis bona plurima ab oris:<sup>23</sup>  
Docta per ora uirum<sup>24</sup> uolat<sup>25</sup> & non interit unquam.<sup>26</sup>

#### Textual Variants

<sup>1</sup>51,67,77,83,21]Duodecim <sup>2</sup>51,21]Herculis. / A'λληγορικῶς. 67]Herculis. / A'λληγορικῶς. 77,83]Herculis. <sup>3</sup>21]ROBORIS <sup>4</sup>21]laudes. <sup>5</sup>67,21]Sophistarum, 77,83]sophistarum, <sup>6</sup>51,67,21]inanes. <sup>7</sup>77,83]furor <sup>8</sup>67,77,83,21]uirtute <sup>9</sup>67,77,83,21]vlla <sup>10</sup>51,21]est. <sup>11</sup>51,67,21]cedit. <sup>12</sup>51,67,77,83,21]auaritiam, <sup>13</sup>21]rapto, <sup>14</sup>51,67,21]gaudet. <sup>15</sup>67,77,83,21]Vincit <sup>16</sup>51]actus. 67,21]astus. <sup>17</sup>51,21]addit. 67]addit, <sup>18</sup>51,67,21]nocentes. <sup>19</sup>51,67]Barbaries, <sup>20</sup>51,67,21]pœnam. <sup>21</sup>67,77,83,21]uirtus <sup>22</sup>51,67,21]hostes. <sup>23</sup>51,21]oris. <sup>24</sup>67,77,83,21]uirus <sup>25</sup>51,77,83,21]uolat, <sup>26</sup>67,77,83,21]vnquam.

#### Commentary

**TEXT source:** The Greek Anthology, XVI.93. **PICTURE variant:** 46 depicts a nude Hercules standing with the club over his left shoulder and the lion skin wound around his right arm. 51 has Hercules in the foreground, dressed in lion skin, chopping off the hydra's heads and searing the necks with fire to prevent them from generating new heads; in the background three scenes are depicted: in the middle, the conquering of the Nemean lion; upper right, the shooting of the Stymphalian birds, and lower right, the strangling of Anteus which is not one of the twelve labors. 67 reuses the cut from emblem 51, *Litera occidit spiritus vivificat* (see emblem 186 of this Edition for description). 77 shows Hercules in lion skin cloak, sitting on a boulder, right hand resting on his knee and left hand holding the club; to his left the hydra with two heads remaining, and to his right in the background, his conquering of the Nemean lion. In 83, he is leaning against a tree, his club on the ground, and a staff is in his left hand; the hydra is to his left and the Nemean lion to his right in the background. 21 pictures as many of the twelve labors as possible around the center standing figure of Hercules: from top left down, lion, hydra, boar, birds, stag; top right down, Hercules's funeral pyre (not one of the labors), Hesperides, Geryon, Amazons, Cretan bull, and Cerberus. Two missing labors are the recovery of Diomedes's mares and the cleaning of the Augean stables.

Emblem 138.	Duodecim certamina Herculis.	12 labors of Hercules.
		
1531 (nonexistent).	1534 (nonexistent).	1546, f. 15r.
		
1547 (nonexistent).	1551, p. 149.	1567, n. 17, p. 17.
		
1577, n. 137.	1583, n. 137, p. 456.	1621, n. 138.

