

◆ note critique

A NEW EDITION OF THE *ELENCHOS* OF PSEUDO-HIPPOLYTUS : DAVID LITWA'S *REFUTATION OF ALL HERESIES**

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The work entitled *Refutation of All Heresies* (in Greek : Ὁ κατὰ πασῶν αἱρέσεων ἔλεγχος) is definitely one of the most important Christian works that was transmitted to us by antiquity. It is also one of the most intriguing and mysterious. For more than a century and a half, several generations of scholars have scrutinized every aspect of the text although no definitive consensus has ever been reached. Despite notable achievements, current scholarship continues to bear witness to the vagaries of the research. There are, however, some good reasons to be less pessimistic and the publication I am reviewing here is one of them. Before getting to David Litwa's book, I first would like to offer a number of preliminary remarks.

The *Refutation of all Heresies* (I will come back to the title) had a hidden life before it was (re)discovered by nineteenth-century scholars, antiquarians and controversialists. As early as 1701, a publication by Jacob Gronov entitled *Origenis Philosophoumenon*^{sic} *fragmentum* (Leiden), followed by three others in the first half of the eighteenth century,¹ had made known a work with the title Ὁριγένους κατὰ πασῶν αἱρέσεων ἔλεγχος, "Refutations of all Heresies by Origen." In some of the five man-

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1. For a list of these editions, see M. MARCOVICH, *Hippolytus. Refutatio omnium haeresium*, Berlin, New York, W. de Gruyter (coll. "Patristische Texte und Studien," 25), 1986, p. XIV.