

YALE UNIVERSITY
BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 723

Italy, s. XVII

Girolamo Morlini, *Novellae*

1. f. 1r [title page:] Morlini Novellae [frontispiece] cum gratia et privilegio Cesareae Maiestatis et Summi Pontificis decennio duratura.
2. f. 1v Petrus Gravina ad lectorem. Perlege, nec pigeat geniales volvere lusus Salvator Piccolus ad lectorem. Nec spernas lusus nec verba tegentia sensus ...
3. ff. 2r-3v Hyeronimi Morlini Parthenopei novum novellarum opus incipit. H. Mor(linus) ad lect(orem) s(alutem) d(icit). Egregie spectabilisque vir, nimis eleganter Marcus Cato ille Censorius vitam hominum ferro comparavit ...
4. f. 3v Autor ad quendam invidum garrulumque de se male meritum. Est quidam, est quidam, quidam quem dicere nolo ...
5. ff. 4r-80v [text:] § Clerici Salvatoris a falconibus invasi novella prima. Eximius ac spectabilis Parthenopeus patricius, Vesuvii montis turre praesul ... [f. 79v:] § De tribus mulieribus quae reperient [*sic*] pretiosam margaritam novella LXXX ... lectoribus dimisit. § Novella indicat mulieres talia et maiora fastitare.
6. ff.[81r]-[83v] Epilogus operis [Table of Contents].
7. ff. [84r]-[85r] Errores [errata]. f. 85v blank
8. f. [86r] Morlinus ad lectorem. Si qui tibi, exquisitissime atque curiosissime lector, ... [at the end:] Finis. Neapoli in aedibus Ioan. Pasquet de Sallo .M.D.XX., die VIII. April(is). f. [86v] blank

Artt. 1-8. Girolamo Morlini (c. 1480-after 1528), *Novellae*. G. Villani, ed. (Rome, 1983), pp. 2-386. The manuscript is a line per line copy of the edition Naples, Giovanni Pasquet de Sallo, 1520. Except for the handwriting, it reproduces all the features of its printed model, including frontispiece woodcut, foliation and signatures. Soon after its publication the book was suppressed because of the obscenities many *Novellae* contain.

Paper, ff. II + 86 + II, 300 x 200 mm. Original foliation in Roman numerals (Capitalis); numerous pages are damaged by the acid ink.

I-X⁸ (ff. 1-80), XI⁶ (ff. [81]-[86]). Signatures of the type "A, Aii, Aiii, Aiiii", from "A" to "K" and "+".

Invisible ruling for one column of 25 lines, c. 197 x c. 140 mm.

Copied by one hand in clear Humanistica Cursiva; titles in Capitalis.

2-line initials (Capitalis) in black ink. Renaissance initial in pen and ink on f. 2r; space for an initial, with guide letter, on f. 4r. The frontispiece is a pen-and-ink copy of the original woodcut, showing the author in his study, seated at his desk, with a clock and an armillary sphere, under a starry sky with sun and moon (see M. Sander, *Le livre à figures italien depuis 1467 jusqu'à 1530*, v. 6 [Milan, s.d.; reprint Nendeln/Liechtenstein, 1969], pl. 839).

Paper (or thin parchment) binding over pasteboard; on the spine gold-tooled bordeaux leather label with the title "MORLINI. / NOVEL.". Mark of a red seal on the rear cover.

The Table of Contents was originally followed on the lower half of f. 83v and the upper half of f. 84r by a similar table of contents of Morlini's *20 Fabulae*, not copied in our manuscript. This text has been pasted over with pieces of paper. A long s. XIX note in Italian, written on the front pastedown by the then owner of the manuscript, discusses the rarity, the owners and the prices of the surviving printed copies. On the facing page is written in pencil "Lilly 1847". Collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps, MS 22347. Purchased 1989 from H.P. Kraus (New York) on the Mrs. Lathrop Colgate Harper Fund in memory of Lathrop Colgate Harper, litt. d.

R 19.02.09

Albert Derolez