

YALE UNIVERSITY
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MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 779

Italy, s. XV^{med}

Flavio Biondo, *Roma instaurata*

1. ff. 1r-2v Rubrice primi libri omnium qui continet primo: Urbis situs, capitulo 1. Nomen eius a quo folio primo, capitulo 2 ... [f. 2v: Libri secundi rubrice incipiunt] ... Orti Salustiani, 28. Quid fuerit in Quirinali colle, 29. //

Table of Contents of art. 2, referring to the Book and chapter numbers. Incomplete due to the loss of two (?) leaves after f. 2. There are several important corrections.

2. ff. 3r-98v *Blondi Flavii Forliviensis urbis Rome instaurate, rerum Romanarum potius quam edificiorum que nunc cernuntur, liber.* [prologue:] Urbis Romę rerum domine, ruinarum potius quam hedificiorum, que nunc cernuntur, notitiam pro viribus innovare, Eugeni pontifex sanctissime, multa mihi suadent ... Sed iam immenso operi manum apponamus. [f. 4r, text:] Liber incipit Roma instaurata feliciter [instruction for a not executed heading]. *Urbis situs.* Romam in Latio ad Tiberim amnem sitam et quintodecimo ab Infero Mari passuum miliario <distare> maiores scripsere. Nomen eius a Romulo conditore M. Varro et T. Livius Patavinus Salustiusque affirmant ... Ad ipsas urbis hedificiorum reliquias redeundum esset, si plurium quam hucusque descripsimus indicavimusque per omnia urbis loca a nobis dimissorum certiore dare notitiam possemus. Deo gratias. ff. 99-102 blank

Flavius Blondus (Flavio Biondo, 1396-1463), *Roma instaurata*. A. Raffarin-Dupuis, ed., Les Classiques de l'Humanisme (Paris, 2005-). The editor describes (v. 1, pp. CXLVII-CLXIX) 45 manuscripts transmitting the text (not including the Beinecke manuscript). The text originally was written continuously, making a break only at the beginning of a Book (I, f. 4v; II, f. 38r; III, f. 76r); the subdivision into chapters was made afterwards by another hand, writing chapter numbers and headings in the margins.

Paper, ff. I (parchment) + I (paper) + 102 + I (parchment), 215 x 150 mm. 4° folding. Watermark ...

I⁴ (- 3, 4; ff. 1-2, original structure unclear), II¹⁶ (ff. 3-18), III¹² (ff. 19-30), IV-VI¹⁶ (ff. 31-78), VII¹² (ff. 79-90), VIII¹² (-12, ff. 91-102). Vertical catchwords written alongside the inner bounding line, very close to the text area.

Frame-ruling in lead for one column of script, 25-28 lines, 135 x 78 mm. The Table of Contents (art. 1) is written in one column without any ruling and was added afterwards.

The text (art. 2) is copied by a single hand writing a rapid Humanistica Semitextualis Libraria. The Table of Contents (art. 1) was copied in contemporary rapid Humanistica Cursiva Libraria. The first line of the Prologue and the first word or second letter of the three Books are written in Capitalis.

Rather carelessly written headings in purplish red ink, added posteriorly at the beginning of the Prologue and of each Book, not corresponding to the instructions for the rubricator written in the margins by the scribe (no such instruction is visible on f. 3r). White vinestem initial (5 lines) and border in the same style in the upper and inner margins at the head of the Prologue (f. 3r). The Books open with 2-3-line plain initials (Capitalis) in blue; a similar 2-line initial was planned (and executed) at the beginning of what would be chapter 3 ("Ambitum", f. 4v), but this practice was afterwards abandoned. Guide letters for the initials in the margin.

S. XV/XVI Italian binding: brown goatskin over wooden boards, both covers blind-tooled with frame and centre-piece, the latter in the shape of a cross composed of small rhomboid stamps showing some remnants of gold. Remnants of one clasp attached to the front cover, with a brass catch fixed with three nails to the rear cover.

According to Govi the manuscript has many features in common with Ferrara, Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea, MS II.180, dated 1463; the white vinestem initial and border are indeed similar, but size of the manuscript, quire structure, ruling and script are different (I thank Prof. Stefano Zamponi and Dr. Corinna Mezzetti for sending me a description and photographs of the Ferrara manuscript). Sold by Alberto Govi, Modena to Fred K. Schreiber, New York. Purchased from Schreiber on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R 13.04.10

Albert Derolez