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Northern Italy, s. XV<sup>4/4</sup>

**Plutarch, Life of Lucullus**, in Latin

1. ff. 383r-386v *Leonardi Iustiniani Veneti viri patricii ad Henricum Lisignanum illustrem Galilee principum [sic] in Cimonis ac Luculli vitas proemium incipit foeliciter.* Cum permulta sint litterarum studia, Henrice princeps, que summum et decus et ornamentum claris hominibus afferre possunt, tu<m> maxime historiae iocunda cognitio his potissimum viris ... Neque dubito cum illustres [*corr. from* ilustres] Cimonis et Luculli vitas Plutarchique de utroque iudicium ab ipso fonte philosophiae profectum accurate perlegeris, fore ut hanc non iniucunde aut inutiliter positam a nobis operam iudices. *Explicit proemium foeliciter.*

Prologue to artt. 2-3 by the translator, addressed to Henry of Lusignan, Prince of Galilee (d. 1427).

2. ff. 387r-429r *L. Luculli vita incipit foeliciter.* Lucii Luculli avus fuit vir consularis; avunculus autem Metellus is qui Numidicus est cognominatus; parentum eius hic quidem furti damnatus est, Cecilia vero mater, amissa pudicitia, parum in Urbe glorie est consecuta ... Nec ipse ingenti fratris merore affectus multum deinceps temporis supervixit, sed bona cum eius etate atque gloria vita quoque pariter extincta est.

Plutarchus (c. 46-120), *Vita Luculli*, Latin translation by Leonardus Iustinianus (Leonardo Giustiniani, 1388-1446).

3. ff. 429r-432v Luculli mortem perbeatam maxime optimamque iudicandam arbitror ... Utrique tamen perspicuum est afflasse celeste numen premonuisseque Lucillum quidem que adoriri, illum que vero observare debuerit, et ambos deorum suffragiis in tam sublime glorie fastigium evasisse. *Finis.* f. 433 ruled but blank

Plutarchus, *Comparatio vitarum Cimonis atque Luculli*, Latin translation by Leonardus Iustinianus. This text follows without any interruption after art. 2.

Artt. 1-3: printed from 1470/1471 onwards as part of Plutarch's *Vitae parallelae*. See V.R. Giustiniani, "Sulle traduzioni latine delle 'Vite' di Plutarco nel Quattrocento", *Rinascimento*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ser., 1 (1961), pp. 3-59, spec. pp. 31-32, nos. 16 b and c (with a list of manuscripts). At the top and at the bottom of f. 425v a s. XVIII Italian hand has recopied the two bottom lines of the original text occurring on the same page.

Paper, ff. I + 52 + I, 210 x 150 mm. Parchment stays in the center of the quires. There is a s. XVIII foliation in the middle of the lower margins, from “383” to “432”, in which the leaf after f. 410 was skipped (f. 410 bis).

I<sup>4</sup> (ff. 383-386), II-V<sup>10</sup> (ff. 387-425), VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 426-433). In quires II-V vertical catchwords along the inner bounding line, between two groups of four flourishes. Remnants of tiny signatures, of the type “aI aII aIII aIII aV”, which ranged from “a” (quire II) to “e” (quire VI).

Rake ruling for one column of 28 lines below top line, the horizontal lines traced in pale brown ink, the vertical ones in lead. Ruling type 11, 132 x 90 mm.

Copied by one scribe in a broad Humanistica Textualis Formata of “typographic” character and marked by unusual features such as the occasional use of round *s* in medial position and long *i* in final position, and inconsistencies in the use of *ae/ē*, the form of final *s* and *m*, etc. Majuscules at the beginning of lines protrude into the margin. The explicit formulas on ff. 386v and 432v and the first line of the text following the initial on ff. 383r and 387r are written in Capitalis. Line fillers in the shape of expunged *i*.

Headings in pale red. Art. 1 opens with a 6-line initial in red with the pen drawing for unexecuted white vinestem decoration. The 6-line initial at the head of art. 2 is purplish red on a blue background delicately heightened with silver arabesques, extended in the margin with red and green acanthus leaves. At the bottom of the same f. 387r there was a coat of arms flanked by two fleur-de-lys and four balls in purplish red and blue and red ribbons; the coat of arms has been cut out and the page has been repaired with a piece of paper; on it a modern coat of arms accompanied by the initials *W* and *S* (Walter Sneyd) is drawn in pencil (see below).

Binding s. XIX: quarter brown leather (with corners) and reddish brown marbled paper over cardboard. Gold-tooled flat spine with inscription: “PLUTARCHI VITA LUCULLI LATINE M.S.”

This manuscript is the final part of a larger codex, probably containing more translations of Plutarch’s *Lives*. It is, however, noteworthy that the translator’s Prologue (art. 1) is written on a separate quire and deals with the lives of Cimon *and* Lucullus, while the Life of Cimon is missing in our manuscript, this personage appearing only again in the short art. 3. The breaking up of the original manuscript happened in or before the seventeenth or eighteenth century, as on a pasted-in leaflet there is the s. XVII/XVIII note: “n. 110. Leonardi Justiniani Veneti, viri patricii Vita L. Luculli [corr. from Lucelli]. ms. ca. an. 1500 [s. XIX corr. into 1470]”. The original owner of the manuscript is unknown, his coat of arms having been cut out. There are a few notes in Italian: (1) on the blank f. 432 r: “Laud” and “Era una vol<ta>” (s. XVI); (2) on its verso: “Videmus flavum Tiberim retortis deiectum \* violenter undis templaue Vestae [?]” (s. XVI, very rapid handwriting and doubtful reading); the text is a defective rendering of Horace, *Carmina* 1.2, verses 13-16: D.R. Shackleton Bailey, ed. (Teubner, 1995), p. 3.

A pasted-in cutting from an English auction catalogue (datable after 1924) describes the manuscript as being “probably prior to the first editions of Giustiniano’s [*sic*] translations”. In the upper margin of the first folio (383r) an altered (s. XVIII?) shelfmark of doubtful reading “IC-100”. The manuscript may have been part of the collection of Matteo Luigi Canonici (1727-

1805), a large part of which was bought by Walter Sneyd in the years 1833-1835. Sneyd's circular printed armorial ex-libris, with inscription "Ex + libris Gualteri + Sneyd" is pasted on the front pastedown. His coat of arms, featuring a scythe and a fleur-de-lys, appears also on f. 387r (see above). On Walter Sneyd (1809-1888) and his library, see A.N.L. Munby, *Connoisseurs and Medieval Miniatures, 1750-1850* (Oxford, 1972), pp. 107-119. At the top of the rear pastedown the initials "W.S.A." and the date 4 Dec. 1927. Acquired on the fund established by Charles J. Rosenbloom, Yale 1920.

R. 22.03.11

Albert Derolez