

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

MS 856

Northern Italy, s. XV²

Humanistic miscellany (fragments)

I thank Prof. Wouter Bracke, whom I consulted about the interpretation of art. 1.

1. f. 1r ... // dedecus ac nostram perniciem scelestum Neronem querar obfuisse. Sed hunc unum, e cuius pectore omnia scaturiunt mala, omne dedecus, omnia eorum quos memoravi scelera evomuntur. Qui ignobilis, intemperans, libidinosus, temerarius, crudelis, impius, sacrilegus. Qui tanquam pestis totum orbem infectat. A quo nullum genus abest flagitii. Is me florentem ac felici statu summaque gloria exultantem precipitavit ... Imploremusque, si fieri potest, ut eum iustitię ac misericordię fontem, quo in omnes redundat, velit et nobis impartiri, hocque horribili monstro et nefaria humani generis peste totum orbem nosque ipsas a presenti infelicitate et ceteris imminentibus malis liberare. Vale. Finis. [other contemporary hand:] Dicitur hanc invectionem edidisse Calimachus quidam de Sancto Geminiano, quem ipse non novi.

Final page of a violent invective against a pope (Paul II, 1464-1471, or more probably Alexander VI, 1492-1503) by a woman (repeatedly referring to herself as “ipsa”) who had been badly treated by him; it is addressed to another woman. Here attributed to the humanist Filippo Buonaccorsi (“Callimachus”), born 1437 in San Gimignano, d. 1496, a member of the Accademia Romana, who was among the accused of a conjuration against the life of Pope Paul II and had to flee Italy.

2. ff. 1v-8v Francisci Petrasante Mediolanensis ad Philippum Maynerium theologum doctissimum de opibus Christianę religionis. Quanto gaudio atque letitia affectus sim hesterno die, quo disputatiunculam illam habuimus, humanissime pater, haud equidem facile dixerim. Nam et fructum non mediocre propter doctrinam percipere et familiaritatem tuam mire contigit, quibus ingenium meum doctius et vitam longe cultiorem futuram mihi persuadeo ... [f. 5v:] quas quidem res cogitanti mihi sepenumero et ceteras antiquissimarum universi fere orbis gentium religiones quemadmodum litteris proditum// ... [catchword: est animo repententi]

Francesco Pietrasanta from Milan, *De opibus Christianae religionis*, a treatise against the wealth of the clergy, addressed to the theologian Filippo Maineri. The folios are in disorder, the right order being: 1 2 3 8 6 4 7 5. Ends incomplete. Some names of authorities quoted in the text are repeated in the margins. Another manuscript of this text (quoted as *De operibus C. r.*) is Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vat. Lat. 5080, dated Milan, 1461 (Kristeller, *Iter Italicum*, v. 2, p. 369).

1. ff. 9r-10r ...//gati licentius agros cunctisque hostiliter vastatis atque incensis tandem copias reduxere, prelio quidem nullo contra Pisanos commisso, ceterum ea opinione et

alacritate hominum, ut hostes pro victis haberentur ob apertam detrectationem pugne ac patientiam fedissime vastitatis ... Quid enim tibi liberum fuerit ab his qui, si modo libeat, possunt absque iudiciorum metu in te//... [f. 10r:] ... // familia erat qui cedem fecerat circumstetit gentilesque et agnatos homicide persecutus extorres patria egit, edes diruit, predia vastavit ... magistratum qui urbi iustitieque preesset biennio Pisani deligerent non ex aliis civitatibus opidisve, quam que in societatem Florentinorum Lucensiumque fuissent ad bellum Pisis // f. 10v blank

Two fragments of a Latin history of Florence; no dates are mentioned, but the first one records the change in the constitution of that city, which happened after its victory over Arezzo (1289) and thanks to the leadership of Giano della Bella (“Janus Labella”), a *popolare* who incited the people against the supremacy of the magnates, resulting in the Ordinances of Justice (1293); the second one deals with the ending of the war with Pisa and the concluding of the peace in the same year, after which Guido of Montefeltro (“Guido Feltrensis”, c. 1220-1298) and his troops, who had defended Pisa, were dismissed. See F. Schevill, *History of Florence, from the Founding of the City through the Renaissance* (New York, 1961 [originally published 1936]), pp. 157-158; on Guido, C. Kleinhenz (ed.), *Medieval Italy. An Encyclopedia*, v. 1 (New York, London, 2004), pp. 472-473. As the author says that the new political regime which was created in 1293 after 130 years is still in existence, his work will have been written around 1420-1425. In the manuscript text is missing between the two leaves and it is strange that the history is not continued on f. 10v.

Paper, ff. 10, 290 x 215 mm. Folio folding. The paper of ff. 9-10 is more stained than that of the preceding leaves. In the upper outer corner of f. 1r the number (foliation?) “61” (s. XVII?).

The first quire (artt. 1-2) was originally most probably composed as follows: ff. 1 2 3 8 // 6 4 7 5. It now consists of a bifolium with parchment stay in its center (ff. 1-2), 4 singletons with stubs (ff. 3 8 6 7) and a singleton without stub (f. 5). What remains of quire II now consists of two singletons, ff. 9 (with stub) and 10 (with half of a parchment stay). Horizontal catchword right of the center on f. 5v.

Invisible ruling for one column of 28 or 29 lines (quire I), 30 lines (quire II), c. 210 x c. 140 mm.

Copied by two hands, both writing a similar Humanistica Cursiva under Gothic influence, Currens in artt. 1-2, Libraria in art. 3. The first hand wrote “Ihesus” in the upper margin of f. 1v before starting the copy of art. 2.

Space and guide letters for 2-line initials on ff. 1v and 2r, respectively at the beginning of the prologue and of the text proper of art. 2.

Collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley, CA, MS 164. Purchased from him

R.25.03.11

Albert Derolez