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Italy (Florence), s. XV<sup>2</sup>

**Humanistic Miscellany**, in Latin and Italian

1. ff. 1r-34r [C]aro signor, per cui la vita mia / Tra molte pene lieta si contenta, / Sol chella donna, ch'el mio cor dixia, / Veder alchuna volta mi chonsenta ... Falla piatosa amen poi che suo sono. / Allei mi racomando, allei mi dono. Finis.

Ghigo Brunelleschi (c. 1353-s. XV<sup>in</sup>) and Domenico da Prato (c. 1389-1432/1433), *Geta e Birria*. This is an Italian adaptation in "ottava rima", in 186 strophes, of the Latin poem *Geta* by Vitalis Blesensis (Vital of Blois, middle of the twelfth century), itself an adaptation of Plautus' *Amphitruo*. Strophes 1-161 are by Brunellesco, strophes 162-186 are attributed to Domenico da Prato. C. Arlía, ed., *Geta e Birria. Novella riprodotta da un'antica stampa e riscontrata co' testi a penna da C. Arlía*. Scelta di curiosità letterarie, 169 (Bologna, 1879) [not seen]. On Domenico da Prato, see *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, v. 40 (1991), pp. 661-663.

2. ff. 34v-35v [prologue] *Nicolaus Peroctus Bartholomeo Troiano Veronensi salutem dicit*. Hodie forte, inter versandum nonnullos libellos meos, codex quidam Hippocratis mihi in manus incidit, philosophi medicique ut antiquissimi, ita optimi ... saltem sententiam effinxi, quo ut tu, ita per te ceteri qui medicine dant operam quales esse debeant. Vale. *Hippocratis iusiurandum incipit foeliciter*. Testor Apollinem medicum et Esculapium Higieamque et Panaciam, Esculapii filias ... transgredienti vero atque periuro contraria omnia eveniant. *Finis*.

Nicolaus Perottus (Niccolò Perotti, 1429-1480), Latin translation of the Oath of Hippocrates, with his introductory letter to Bartolomeo Troiano of Verona. Bertalot, *Initia, Prosa* 8867 and 23186. Cessi, ed., *Giornale storico della letteratura italiana*, 60 (1912), pp. 78-79, after Padua, Seminary MS 92, f. 130v. See G. Mercati, *Per la cronologia della vita e degli scritti di Niccolò Perotti*. Studi e Testi, 44 (Vatican City, 1925), p. 25, n. 3.

3. ff. 36r-39v *Nicolaus Perottus Iacobo Constantio Fanensi salutem plurimam d(icit)*. Decrevi posthac omnis non solum actiones [*corr. from nationes*], verum et cogitationes meas tecum communicare, quod et tua erga me pietas et officium meum requirere videtur ... Hęc omnia ad te micto, ut una et de instituto vite mee et de meis operibus quid sentias ad me scribas. Vale. [f. 39r:] *Epigramma Ptolomei a Nicholao Perotto traductum*. Mortalem vitam perituraque membra dedere ... Ingenio cursus dum noto sydereos. *Aliter*. Imperio quamvis subsint mea fata sororum ... Cum Iove perpetua perfruor ambrosia. *Aliter ab Helio Perotto traductum in Latinum*. Mortales nati mortalem ducimus auram ... Astrorum celeres dum peto mente vias.

Nicolaus Perottus, Letter to Iacobus Constantius (Jacopo Costanzi of Fano), written in his 25<sup>th</sup> year (1454), describing his life and how he has given himself entirely to the *studia litterarum*.

Sends him three Latin translations in verse (quatrains) of the epigram on or epitaph of the geographer Ptolemy (*Anthologia Palatina* 9.577), by himself and by his brother Elio. Bertalot, *Initia, Prosa* 4573; *Poesie* 3412, 2631 and 3415; Walther, *Initia* 11282. The letter is ed. by A. Mai, *Classicorum auctorum e Vaticanis codicibus editorum tomus* 3 (Rome, ...), pp. 303-307 [not seen]; the first epigram in *Codex Perottinus*, ed. C. Jannellius (Naples, 1809), 257 [not seen]; the two others in Mercati, *Per la cronologia*, p. 26, n. 1.

4. f. 39v *Nicolaus Perottus Helio Perotto fratri salutem plurimam dicit. Difficilem sane rem ac perobscurum a me petis, ut ad te duo contraria scribam ... Igitur sic habeto: avaritiam nunquam senescere, quam celerrime senescere beneficium. Vale.*
5. ff. 39v-40r *Nicolaus Perottus Helio Perotto fratri salutem plurimam dicit. Quod de me nescio quem clanculum mole dicere ad me scribis non tam doleo quam admiror ... Nam si id nos scire intellexerit quod nunc clam facit, posthac palam faciet. Vale.*
6. f. 40r-v *Nicolaus Perottus Helio Perotto fratri salutem plurimam dicit. Litterę tuę uno tempore et lacrimas mihi excusserunt et incredibilem attulerunt animo voluptatem ... atque hec non mala esse, sed stimulum tibi ad virtutem vel quoddam testimonium tuę laudis existimes. Vale, dulce decus meum [?].*

Artt. 4-6. Three letters by Nicolaus Perottus to his brother Aelius (Elio Perotti). Art. 6 (Bertalot, *Initia, Prosa* 10908), ed. Mercati, *Per la cronologia* (see art. 2), pp. 147-148.

7. ff. 40v-41r *Nicolaus Perottus Iacobo Schoppo Veronensi salutem plurimam dicit. Petiit a me quidam nuper, utriusque nostrum familiaris, differretne quicquam serpentem alere atque in hominem improbum ingratumque beneficium esse ... Peto igitur abs te in maiorem modum, ut tuam de hac questione sententiam ad me scribas. Vale. Bononie, III<sup>o</sup> Nonas Martias [5 March]. f. 41v blank*

Nicolaus Perottus, Letter to Iacobus Schioppus (Giacomo Schioppo), written from Bologna.

8. f. 42r *Amor fe ardito in Cicarea [l. Citerea] Parissi, / Amor fe umile el possente Sansone ... Amor fe i Cholchi lasciare a Medea, / Amor fe ucider Didon per Enea. f. 42v blank*

8 verses recording historical examples of the power of Love, added on a blank page. The text is strophe 184 of art. 1, which is already seen on f. 34r.

9. f. 43r-v *Sonetti del Petrarca contro alla pompa della corte di Roma. [1] Fiamma da cielo sulle tue trecce piova / Malvagia che dal fiume e dalle ghiande ... Ma nuda al vento et scalza fra gli stecchi: / Or vivi s' ch'a Dio ne venga il lezo. [2] L' avara Babilonia a colmo il saccho / D'ira di Dio et di vitii empi et rei ... Terranno il mondo; et poi vedrem lui farsi / Aureo tutto, et pien' dell'opre antiche. [3] Fontana di dolore, albergho dira, / Scuola d'errori et templo d'iresia ... Richezze tante? Or Costantin non torna; / Ma tolgha il mondo tristo che'l sostenne.*

Franciscus Petrarca (Petrarch, 1304-1374), *Canzoniere*, 136, 137 and 138. R. Ramat, ed., Francesco Petrarca, *Rime e Trionfi*. I Classici Rizzoli (Milan, 1957).

10. ff. 44r-57v *Persii Flacci prefatio satirarum incipit*. [N]ec fonte labra prolui caballino,  
/ Nec in bicipiti somniasse Parnaso / Memini me, ut repente sic poeta prodirem ... Quod si  
dolosi spes refulxerit nummi, / Corvos poetas et poetridas picas. / Cantare credas per  
Pegaseum melos. [added in the margin in vertical sense:] Corvos quis olim concavum  
salutare. *Prima satira*. [O] curas hominum, quantum est in rebus inane! / Quis leget hec?  
min tu istud ais? Nemo, hercle. Nemo? ... [f. 56r:] *Sexta satira* ... Iam decies redit in rugas:  
depinge ubi sistam. / Inventus, Crisippe, tui signator acervi. *Explicit obscurus per totum  
Persius orcus* [l. orbem?]. [other hand:] *Finis. Deo gratias*.

Aulus Persius Flaccus (34-62), *Satirae*; W. Kissel, ed. (Heidelberg, 2007), pp. 18-62. Unevenly spread interlinear glosses.

11. ff. 58r-62v *Saphos poetissa*. [E]cquid ut [corr. from ubi] aspecta est studiose lictera  
dextre, / Protinus est oculis cognita nostra tuis? ... O saltem misere crudelis epistola dicat, /  
Ut mihi Leucadie fata petantur aque. *Finis*.

Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid, 43 B.C.-A.D. 17), *Heroides*, 15 (*Sappho Paoni*). Schaller-Könsgen 4248. H. Bornecque, ed. (Budé, 1965), pp. 92-99.

12. ff. 63r-89r *Prefatio Poggi Florentini ad Cosmam Medicem Luciani* [?]. Poggius plurimam salutem dicit Cosmo de Medicis viro insigni. Cum eum quondam qui de asino aureo inscribitur Appulei librum legissem ... Leges igitur hoc opusculum laxandi animi gratia, cum eris ociosus domi et vacuus a rei p(ublice) curis. Vale. [f. 64r, text:] *Asinus Luciani*. Cum in Thessaliam, ubi quedam mihi paterne rationes erant cum eius gentis viro, proficiscerer, in Thessalos quosdam forte incidi ... ac in templo dona suspendi, non quidem ex canis podice, ut vulgo aiunt, sed ex longa asini peregrinatione, ac vix tandem in patriam redierim salutem consecutus.

Ps.-Lucianus Samosatensis, *De asino aureo*, Latin translation by Poggio Bracciolini (1380-1459), with introductory letter of the latter to Cosimo de' Medici. Bertalot, *Initia, Prosa* 3182 and 3388. Printed in Poggius Florentinus, *Opera omnia* (Basel, 1538), v. 1, pp. 138-155. See about the authorship E.P. Goldschmidt, "Lucian's 'Calumnia'", in D.J. Gordon, ed., *Fritz Saxl 1890-1948. A Volume of Memorial Essays from his Friends in England* (London, 1957), pp. 228-244 (p. 242).

13. ff. 89v-91r Mai non vo' più cantar com'io soleva, / C'altri no m'intendeva, ond'ebbi scorno ... Che mi fa morto et vivo, / Chi'n un punto m'aghiacca et mi rischalda. ff. 91v-92v blank

Franciscus Petrarca (Petrarch), *Canzoniere*, 105. R. Ramat, ed., Francesco Petrarca, *Rime e Trionfi*. I Classici Rizzoli (Milan, 1957).

14. ff. 93r-110v *Incipit liber \*\*\*\* eticorum Aristotelis \*\*\* in Latinum traductus a domino Leonardo Aretino poeta clarissimo. [P]ost hec consequens est de amicitia tractare. Est enim virtus quedam vel cum virtute ... Nam bene accipere multi volunt, facere autem fugiunt ut inutile. De his igitur eatenus dictum sit. Finis. Deo gratias.*

Aristoteles, *Ethica Nicomachea*, Book 8, in the Latin translation by Leonardus Aretinus (Leonardo Bruni, c. 1370-1444). Printed from 1469 onwards (GKW 2359, 2360, 2367-2374). F. 106v is blank, but no text is missing.

Paper, ff. I (parchment) + 110 + I (parchment), 215 x 145 mm. In-4° folding. Parchment stays in the center of the quires. Early foliation up to f. 24 (quires I-III)

I-IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1-32), V<sup>10</sup> (ff. 33-42), VI<sup>4</sup> (ff. 43-46), VII-XI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 47-86), XII<sup>6</sup> (ff. 87-92), XIII<sup>10</sup> (ff. 93-102), XIV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 103-110). Horizontal catchwords at right.

Four prickings both in the upper and lower margins and a full vertical row of prickings in the outer margins; hard-point ruling for one column of 24 lines above top line. In quires I-V the prickings in the outer margins are not all at the same distance from each other, but are arranged in three groups of 8, with a larger distance between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> and between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> lines. The ruling follows the pricking as far as art. 1 goes (three strophes of 8 verses per page), but becomes hesitant for the artt. 2-8 which are in prose. In quires VI-XIV pricking and ruling are normal. Ruling type 31, 148 (quires I-V) or 140 (quires XVI-XIV) x c. 60 mm.

Copied by one rather uneven hand writing Humanistica Textualis in varying levels of execution.

Red or pale red headings (sometimes extremely pale), in minuscules or in capitals; pale red capitals at the opening of each strophe in art. 1. Space for initials of various sizes (with guide letters) is provided at the beginning of the various texts. Contemporary drawings have been executed in the margins on the following pages: on f. 4v: a hand (in red crayon); on f. 7v: two large facing heads, in profile in red crayon, of high quality: a man's head on the edge of the leaf, forehead, nose and mouth only are preserved; and a lady's head; above the latter; a later hand has drawn a clumsily executed profile head in ink; on f. 11v: a clumsily executed face of a bearded saint, in ink; on f. 44r: a winged putto with a round hat, in ink and wash, of the same high quality and probably by the same hand as the heads on f. 7v; on the blank f. 92r: persons in a vaulted church interior, in red crayon; on the rear flyleaf recto a caricature of a man's head traced in red crayon and another one, by an inexperienced hand, in ink, both probably s. XVI.

Italian quarter binding (repaired): wooden boards (the front board only is original) and reddish brown leather, spine with three broad raised bands. Remnants of two red leather clasps attached to the front board. On the spine a paper label with the handwritten s. XVII title: "Alcune opere / di / Diversi". On the front board, a pressmark in black ink in large characters: "J 7".

The manuscript consists of four sections, all with approximately the same layout and by the same hand. On an inserted paper leaf a s. XVII Table of Contents in Italian. On the lower half of f. 42r, at the end of the first section, the s. XVII ownership inscription of a Florentine tailor and second-

hand dealer: “Questo libro è di maestro Giovanni detto Penello, sarto et rigatiere, buono maestro; chi lo truova lo renda pro \*\* (Christo?) e buono compagno in Firenze”.

<u>Quires</u>	<u>Folios</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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VI-VIII	43-62	artt. 9-11
IX-XII	63-92	artt. 12-13
XIII-XIV	93-110	art. 14

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Albert Derolez