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Italy, s. XV<sup>2</sup>

**Claudianus**

1. ff. 1r-26v *Claudianus poetae clarissimi Alexandrini de raptu Proserpinae liber primus incipit. Prohemium incipit.* [I]nventa secuit primus qui nave profundum / Et rudibus remis sollicitavit aquas, / Qui dubiis ausus committere flatibus alnum / Quas natura negat, praebuit arte vias ... *Incipit Claudianus de raptu Proserpine.* [I]nferni raptoris equos afflataque curru / Sydera Tenareo [corr. from Tenacreo] caligantesque profundae ... Antra procul Scyllea petit canibusque reductis / Pars stupefacta silet, pars nondum exterrita latrat. Τέλος. *Claudianus poetae Alexandrini clarissimi de raptu Proserpine explicit feliciter M<sup>o</sup> CCCC<sup>o</sup> XXIII* [the date added by a later hand].

Claudius Claudianus (s. IV/V), *De raptu Proserpinae*. Schaller-Könsgen 8071, 8279. Th. Birt, ed., MGH, Auctores Antiquissimi, v. 10 (1892), pp. 350-393. In the margins numerous variant readings and corrections in black and notes in very pale red ink.

2. f. 27r-v *C. Plinius Secundus de Naturali Historia libro decimo naturam phoenicis pulchre descripsit. Ethiopes atque Indi discolores maxime et inenarrabiles ferunt aves, et ante omnes nobilem Arabiae phoenicem ... allatus esset in Urbem Claudii principis censura anno Urbis octingentesimo et comitio prepositus, quod in actis testatum est, sed que falsa esse nemo dubitarit* [the last word in paler ink]. Τέλος.

Plinius Maior (23-79), *Naturalis Historia*, C. Mayhoff, ed. (Teubner, 1906 ff.), 10.3-5: note on the phenix, as an introduction to art. 3.

3. ff. 27v-29v *Claudianus poetae Alexandrini clarissimi de phoenicis natura liber incipit.* [O]ceani summo circumfluis equore lucus / Trans Indos Eurumque viret, qui primus anhelis / Sollicitatur equis vicinaque verbera sentit / Humida roranti resonantur cum lumina curru ... Edomita tellure manes: non stamina Parce / In te dira legunt, non ius habuere nocendi. Τέλος.

Claudius Claudianus, *Phoenix (Carmina minora 27)*. Schaller-Könsgen 11140. Th. Birt, ed., pp. 311-315.

4. f. 29v Epitaphium Claudiani poetae. Aegypto genitus [*l. genitum*] nova me florentia civem / Legibus agnovit magis [*l. magnis*] iam digna poetis. / Infernos raptus cecini pugnasque deorum, / Cæsarias laudes necnon Stilicones honores.

Fictitious epitaph of Claudius Claudianus. Th. Birt, ed., p. II, after our manuscript.

5. f. 30r *Ovidius de thalamo Somni. Est prope Cimerios longo spelunca recessu, / Mons cavus, ignava domus et penetralia Somni; / Quo numquam radiis oriens mediusve cadensve / Phoebus adire potest. Nebule caligine miste ... Somnia vana iacent totidem quot messis aristas, / Silva gerit frondes, eiectas littus arenas.*

Publius Ovidius Naso (43 BC-AD 17), *Metamorphoses*, 11.592-615: description of the dwelling of the god Sleep.

6. f. 30v *Ad Bacchum. Salve, magnae [l. magne] parens divum suavissime, salve, / Liber et o nostris saepe colende modis ... Tu letas hominum mentes, convivium leta / Efficis, ac sine te gaudia cuncta silent.*

Titus Vespasianus Strozza (Tito Vespasiano Strozzi, 1424-1505), *Laus Bacchi* (poem in praise of wine). Schaller-Könsgen 14559; Bertalot, *Initia (Poesie)*, 5475. A. Riese, ed., *Anthologia Latina* (Teubner, 1906), 811; S. Prete, ed., *Studies in Latin Poets of the Quattrocento* (University of Kansas, 1978), p. 70.

7. f. 30v *Ambigitur an Claudianus Christianus fuerit, quoniam apud Paulum Orosium leguntur haec verba: "Unde poeta ille egregius, sed paganus pervicacissimus"; sed quoniam et de Christo quoque catholice locutus videtur, profecto Christianum fuisse videtur. Et hi sunt versus: Christe potens rerum, redeuntis conditor eevi, / Vox summi sensusque Dei, quem fudit ab alta ... Passus corporea mundum vestisse figura.*

Note on the question whether Claudianus was a Christian. A quotation from Paulus Orosius (d. after 418), *Historiae adversus paganos*, C. Zangemeister, ed., CSEL, v. 5 (1882), 7.35.2, followed by verses 1-5 of the poem *De Salvatore*, by or attributed to Claudianus (*Carmina minora*, 32): Schaller-Könsgen 2209; Walther, *Initia* 2703. Th. Birt, ed., p. 330. These are not the verses quoted by Orosius; for the latter, see art. 8.

8. f. 30v *Claudianus in maiori volumine de Theodosio imperatore. O, nimium dilecte deo, cui mittit ab antris / Eolus armatas hyemes, cui militat ether / Et coniurati veniunt in prelia venti. Τέλος.*

Three verses from Claudius Claudianus, *Panegyricus de tertio consulatu Honorii Augusti*, 96-98. Schaller-Könsgen 10958. Th. Birt, ed., pp. 144-145. A shortened version of this text is quoted by Orosius after his note on Claudianus recorded in art. 7.

9. f. 30v *Audiat hoc commune solum longisque carinis / Nota Pharos, flentemque attollit gurgite vultum / Nostra gemat Nilus numosis funera ripis. Videtur fuisse Egyptiacus secundum aliquos, et ipse testatur in predictos versus.*

Final three verses of Claudius Claudianus, *Deprecatio ad Hadrianum (Carmina minora, 22)*, 56-58. Th. Birt, ed., p. 300. Followed by a conclusion about Claudianus's nationality.

Paper, ff. I + 30 + I, 215 x 155 mm. In-4° folding.

I-III<sup>10</sup>. Vertical catchwords between inner bounding lines, decorated with dots or flourishes.

Board ruling for one column of 24 lines below top line. Ruling type 31, 145 x 78 mm. The impressions are on the verso of the first five leaves of the quires, on the recto of the last five ones.

Copied by one hand in Humanistica Cursiva Formata; artt. 7-9 in a more sloping and more rapid script.

Headings and explicit formulas in pale red; the heading of art. 5 in Capitalis. Space for 3- or 2-line initials reserved in art. 1. The first words of artt. 2 and 5 are written in pale red capitals.

Binding s. XIX: brownish mottled paper over cardboard. The preceding binding had wooden boards as appears from the worm holes in the first and final leaves.

Art. 1 is apparently dated 1423, but this date is not original. Collection of Thomas Thorpe (1791-1851); his *Catalogue of upwards of fourteen hundred manuscripts upon vellum and paper* (1836), no. 139. Collection of sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872), MS 9125. Sotheby sale, 21 March 1895, lot 184. Preston A. Perry; his sale, 21 April 1908, lot 267; cuttings from the printed sale catalogue, containing the description of our manuscript and, as lot 272, the description of another fifteenth-century manuscript from the Phillipps collection with works of Bernard of Clairvaux and Gerson, are inserted in the codex. Herman M. Schroeter, with his engraved bookplate dated 1913. Sotheby sale, ....., lot 66. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R.13.01.12

Albert Derolez