

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

MS 849

Northern Italy (Mantua), s. XVIⁱⁿ

Giovan Francesco Suardi, *Amor fugitivus*

f. 1r blank

1. ff. 1v-2v *Ad illustrissimam et excellentissimam dominam, dominam Isabellam, Mantuae marchionissam, dominam suam colendissimam, Ioannes Franciscus Suardus iureconsultus.* Ecco, illustrissima et excelsa madama, signora mia colendissima, el mio Amore fuggitivo ... per la fede singular che io gli ho, deve esser singulare patrona, a la cui bona gratia sempre humilmente mi aricomando.

Prologue to art. 2.

2. ff. 3r-13v *Ioannis Francisci Suardi iureconsulti Amor fugitivus. Canto I.* Nel dolce tempo, quando el gran pianeta, / Che agli animali mena el novo giorno, / Riscalda i corni al Tauro e in lui se acqueta, / Et Zephir rivestisse lieto e adorno ... Tal fu dal dì ch'io nacqui la mia sorte, / Contra la qual in van movo le braccia. ff. 14-16 blank

Giovan Francesco Suardi (d. after 1540), *Amor fugitivus*. Poem in Italian in three cantos dedicated to Isabella d'Este (1474-1539), Marchioness of Mantua, and intended to be performed at her court. In the first canto the poet sings of his love, in the second he encounters Venus in search of Cupido who ran away, in the third he sadly returns home. There are a few corrections on erasure.

Parchment, ff. I (parchment) + II (paper) + 16 + II (paper), 210 x 135 mm.

I¹⁰ (ff. 1-10), II⁶ (ff. 11-16).

Written in one column without any ruling, 19-24 lines.

Copied by a single hand writing Humanistica Cursiva Libraria; thought to be autograph. Headings on ff. 1v and 3r in Capitalis.

Headings in red. Gold initials in Capitalis on ff. 1v (2 lines, art. 1), 3r (4 lines, decorated with twigs ending on leaves and flowers, art. 2, Canto 1), 6v (2 lines, Canto 2), 10 r (2 lines, Canto 3).

Original binding: brown leather over cardboard; both covers blind-tooled with a double frame inscribed with a lozenge containing the monogram “YHS”. The spine gold-tooled.

This is the dedication copy and the only manuscript containing this text. The composition of the text is perhaps related to two famous statues of a Sleeping Cupido in the art collection of Isabella d’Este, one by Michelangelo, acquired 1502, the other an antique sculpture attributed to Praxiteles, acquired after 1506. See S.J. Campbell, *The Cabinet of Eros. Renaissance Mythological Painting and the Studiolo of Isabella d’Este* (New Haven, London, 2004), pp. 91-102. The manuscript is recorded in the 1541 inventory of the late Isabella’s library as item 60: “Item il Giardino de Amore di Gio. Francesco Soardi, in quarto, scritto a mano in carta pergamena coperto di corame rosso”: A. Luzio, R. Renier, “La coltura e le relazioni letterarie di Isabelle d’Este Gonzaga”, *Giornale storico della letteratura italiana*, 42 (1903), pp. ... -111 (78). On the front pastedown, in a circle, the modern shelfmark “Ms.1”. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.