Photostats of the "Historia de preliis Alexandri Magni"

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Accessibility
NOTES

Photostats of the Historia de Preliis
Alexandri Magni (P)

As part of a project initiated by the late Professor Alfons Hilka of Göttingen to edit on the basis of all known manuscripts the three interpolated (I) versions of the Medieval-Latin Historia de Preliis Alexandri Magni, the writer undertook in 1930 the edition of recension I, in turn dependent on the previous preparation of an edition of P. Recension I was to be prepared by Professor Hilka, who likewise had in hand the edition of P.6

For aid in editing the Historia de Preliis Alexandri Magni, Recension I, the Corporation of Harvard University at its meeting of 26 January 1931 granted the writer an appropriation of $100.00 from the Fund for the Support of the Humanities. Thanks to this grant it was possible during the following years to collect photostats of all known manuscripts of this text, including many hitherto unidentified. It will be seen that these come from all over Europe, often from small and rather out-of-the-way libraries. In 1934, a list of photostat holdings for the three recensions was published in Speculum (IX, 84-85), Professor Hilka reporting for I and P, the writer for P.

The untimely death of Professor Hilka in 1939 resulted in an immediate and indefinite postponement of the final editing and publishing of Recension I, without which, as already suggested, no satisfactory edition of P is possible. Therefore, it has seemed wise to deposit in the Harvard College Library the photostats of the P manuscripts purchased with University funds. These are as follows:

P Berlin, Staatsbibl., MS lat. quarto 518, fol. 8r-133r.

2 Inedited. For early prints and reprints of the same, see Magoun, op. cit., p. 51, n. 3.
4 Something considerably in advance of his own edition, Der altfranzösische Prosa-Alexandernamen... nach dem lateinischen Original der Historia de Preliis (Recension P), Halle, 1910.

One can only hope that Professor Hilka's photostats of P and I, together with his manuscript materials of both texts, are deposited in the Göttingen University Library and available for study.

Here the writer takes the opportunity to report that he has in his possession a typed copy of Professor Hilka's text of P (without apparatus), constructed on the basis of the P manuscripts listed in Speculum, loc. cit., and three early P prints (two of Utrecht, one of Cologne). The inscription on the folder for the typescript reads: 'Historia Alexandri Magni (Historia de Preliis), Recension P; Kritischer Text nach sämtlichen Handschriften, hgg. von Alfons Hilka.'
Harvard Library Bulletin

B² Berlin, Staatbibl., MS lat. octavo 49, fol. 1°-94°.
Ba¹ Basel, Universitätsbibl., MS E. III. 17, fol. 117°-133°.
Be Bern, Universitätsbibl., MS 147, fol. 134°-174°.
Bo¹ Bologna, R. Bibl. Univ., MS 1551, 53 foll.
Bo² Bologna, R. Bibl. Univ., MS 2761, 49 foll.
C¹ Cambridge (Eng.), St John's College Lib., MS 184 (G. 16), fol. 1°-39°.
C² Cambridge (Eng.), Trinity College Lib., MS 946, fol. 1°-2°.
Co Cortone, Accademia Etrusca, MS 240, fol. 1°-56°.
Dr Darmstadt, Hessische Landesbibl., MS 231, fol. 48°-50°.
F Florence, Bibl. Laurenziana, MS Riccardi 522, fol. 19°-33°.
Gl Glasgow, University Library, MS Hunterian 84, 39 foll.
H Harvard Univ., Cambridge (Mass.), Harv. Coll. Lib., MS lat. 34, 12 foll.
Ho Holkham, Nf. (Eng.), Library of Lord Leicester, MS 457, fol. 1°-37°.
Ka¹ Karlsruhe, Bad. Landesbibl., MS Rheinm. LXIII, fol. 42°-70°.
Ka² Karlsruhe, Bad. Landesbibl., MS Rheinm. 134, fol. 11°-135°.
M¹ Munich, Bayer. Staatsbibl., MS lat. 1479, fol. 1°-78°.
Ma¹ Madrid, Bibl. Nacional, MS 10220, 16 foll.

(Göttingen, 1931). This text does not, however, take into account the following 1° manuscripts not listed in Speculum:

A Aberystwyth, Wales, The National Library of Wales (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru), MS Peniarth 481, fol. 30°-68°.
Me² Madrid, Bibl. Nacional, MS 9783 (formerly Ec 103).
Pª Prague, Oeffentl. u. Univ. Bibl., MS VI. C. 27.
Pª Prague, Bibl. Metropol., MS 1011, fol. 98°-112°.
Wª Vienna, Franciscan Monastery.

Mi¹ Milan, Bibl. Braidense, MS A.D. XIII, fol. 1°-55°.
Mi² Milan, Bibl. Ambrosiana, MS G. 218, fol. 3°-24°.
Mi³ Milan, Bibl. Ambrosiana, MS r. 64, fol. 1°-69°.
Mo¹ Modena, Bibl. Estense, MS a F. r. 17, fol. 8°-47°.
Pª Prague, Bibl. Metropol., MS 1596, fol. 180°-239°.
Pª Prague, Oeffentl. u. Univ. Bibl., MS 1871, fol. 69°-98°.
Rª Rome, Bibl. Casanatense, MS 274, 57 foll.
Sg St Gall, Stiftsbibl., MS 614, fol. 1°-71° (pp. 1-144).
T Turin, Bibl. Naz., MS H. IV. 12, 39 foll.
Vª Venice, Bibl. Naz. di San Marco, MS lat. X. 68 (3363), fol. 1°-69°.
Vª Venice, Bibl. Naz. di San Marco, MS lat. X. 130 (3655), fol. 20°-46°.
Vª Venice, Bibl. Naz. di San Marco, MS lat. XIV. 174 (4666), fol. 90°-126°.
Wª Vienna, National-Bibliothek, MS 3097, fol. 158°-194°.

If this list is compared with that published in Speculum, loc. cit., it will be noted that the photographs of Z (Zwieten, Saxony; Ratschulbibliothek MS 10, fol. 1°-49°) are missing; these were lost in 1937 on the occasion of
Notes

moving from one house to another.

Besides the photostats in question, the writer has also deposited in the Harvard College Library a typed transcript of MS B², received from Professor Hilka in 1936. A preliminary survey of the I³ manuscripts strongly suggested that B², together with P³, may well prove to form the best basis for a critical edition. Hence, Professor Hilka's transcript is likely to be of special convenience for some future editor of I³. There has further been deposited the writer's typed transcript of C³, a manuscript of no particular excellence, together with a handwritten trial apparatus for the characteristic Prologue and Chapters 1 and 2.

FRANCIS P. MACOUN, JR

Franchino Gafori and Marsilio Ficino

THE brilliant court of Lorenzo, the Magnificent, in Florence was rivelled in the last two decades of the fifteenth century in several other cities in the North of Italy. Not the least significant of these centers of Renaissance activity and humanistic culture was the court of Milan under the rule of Ludovico Sforza, commonly known as Il Moro. From 1481, when by an act of gross usurpation he supplanted his nephew, Gian Galeazzo Sforza (d.1494), he ruled Milan with an iron hand, cruel, vindictive, warlike, but also a patron of arts and letters, who invested his court with a splendor and with an atmosphere of culture entirely in keeping with the strange spirit of his age. His rule ended when he was captured by the invading French forces of Louis XII in 1500.

It was during The Moro's reign that Leonardo da Vinci, coming from Florence, lived for sixteen years (1483-1499) in Milan. It was during this period that the University of Pavia, some twenty-two miles from Milan, became the greatest Italian rival of the University of Padua. The art of music was cultivated by the Sforza dukes long before the reign of Ludovico. Ludovico's immediate predecessors had encouraged a lively musical activity at the court which was closely connected with the development of the art in the Cathedral of Milan.

In 1484 we find the first indication of the connection of Franchino Gafori (Gaffori, Gafurius, 1451-1522) with Milan. Engaged nominally as a singer, he assumed, either at once or very shortly, the office of Choirmaster of the Cathedral.¹ Gafori is recognized today, by the side of Johannes Tinctoris (ca. 1446-1511), as one of the greatest musical theorists of the Renaissance. With his duties as Choirmaster of the Cathedral he combined, for some years at any rate, the office of Professor of Music at the University of Pavia. He often signs his name as 'phonascus' and 'musieus professor.' He likewise composed music. A few manuscripts (masses, motets, etc.) are

¹The best account of the life of Gafori is to be found in the historical introduction of the facsimile of his Theoria Musica (Milan, 1931) edited by Gaetano Cesare (Roma, 1934).
CONTENTS

HAMILTON VAUGHAN BAIL, Views of Harvard to 1860: An Iconographic Study — Parts I-III 11, 185, 339

WILLIAM BERKHN, The Modern Language Center 396

JOHN H. BIRKS, The Story of Toby, a Sequel to Typhon 118

WILLIAM H. BOND, Nance Oldfield: An Unrecorded Printed Play by Charles Reade 386

WILLIAM H. BOND, Wordsworth's Thanksgiving Ode: An Unpublished Postscript 115

EDWIN G. BORING, The Library of the Psychological Laboratories 394

ETHEL B. CLARK, A Manuscript of John Keats at Dumbarton Oaks 90

I. BERNARD COHEN, A Lost Letter from Hobbes to Mersenne Found 112

ARTHUR H. COLE, The Business School Library and Its Setting 332

C. LESLIE CRAIG, The Earliest Little Gliding Concordance 311

Exhibitions, 1946 123

REGINALD FITZ, President Eliot and Dr Holmes Leap Forward 212

EVA FLEISCHNER, Napoleon to His Mother: The First Draft of a Letter Written from School 244

LOUISE B. GRAVES, The Likeness of Emily Dickinson 248

ELMER M. GRIEGER, The Collecting of War Agency Material at Harvard 121

Guides to the Harvard Libraries 323

The Harvard Keats Memorial Studies 323

The Harvard-Nowberry Calligraphic Series 262

PHILIP HOFER, The Graphic Arts Department: An Experiment in Specialization 252

PHILIP HOFER, A Newly Discovered Book with Painted Decorations from Willibald Pirckheimer's Library 66

WILLIAM A. JACKSON, The Carl T. Keller Collection of Don Quixote 305

WILLIAM A. JACKSON, The First Separately Printed English Translation of Horace 238

WILLIAM A. JACKSON, Humphrey Dyson and His Collections of Elizabethan Proclamations 76

HAROLD S. JANTZ, A Funeral Elegy for Thomas Danforth, Treasurer of Harvard 113

FRANK N. JONES, Harvard's Importation of Foreign Books since the War 256

OTTO KINCKELDEY, Franchino Gafuri and Marsilio Ficino 379

RUPERT B. LILLIE, The Historical Series of Harvard Dioramas 391

List of Contributors 127, 264, 399
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Little, The Thomas Wolfe Collection of William B. Wisdom</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Lovett, The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1877–1937</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip J. McNiff, Reading Room Problems in the Harvard College Library, 1942–1947</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis P. Magoun, Jr, Photostats of the Historia de Preliis Alexandri Magni (19)</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyes D. Metcalf, Foreword</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyes D. Metcalf, Spatial Growth in University Libraries</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyes D. Metcalf, The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765–1877</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Mongan, A Group of Newly Discovered Sixteenth-Century French Portrait Drawings</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Mongan, A Group of French Portrait Drawings — Addendum</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Catalogues of the Library of Congress</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie N. Nicholson, The Engineering Library at Harvard University</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxwell E. Perkins, Thomas Wolfe</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred N. Robinson, Celtic Books at Harvard: The History of a Depart-ment Collection</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyder B. Rollins, An O. Henry Cocktail</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adriana R. Salem, The Purchases of a Seventeenth-Century Librarian</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of Duplicate Books</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford K. Shipton, The Collections of the Harvard University Archi-ves</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford K. Shipton, The Harvard University Archives: Goal and Func-tion</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Activities</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Theatre Collection in New Quarters</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Van Lennep, The Earliest Known English Playbill</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Van Lennep, John Adams to a Young Playwright</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wolfe and Maxwell E. Perkins, The Last Letter of Thomas Wolfe, and the Reply to It</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>