ARISTARCHUS SAMIUS

by Francis J. Carmody
(University of California)

1. Georgius Valla.
2. Federicus Commandinus.

Author active about B. C. 280. See Pauly Wissowa 2.1, 873-876 ; Christ-Schmidt. Part II 1. 279-280 ; Susemihl I 718-720.

I. De Magnitudinibus et distantiis solis et lunae

Greek text edited by John Wallis (Oxford 1688 and 1699), III 569-594, with the Latin translation of Commandinus ; by Fortia d'Urban (Paris 1810) ; by E. Nizze (Stralsund 1856). An integral part of Theon's Alexandrine Corpus (see Theodosius, *De Sphaera*). See also Thomas Heath, *Aristarchos of Samos* (Oxford 1913).

1. *Georgius Valla*

Text: complete, based on the Greek.
Dedic. (to Ioh. Baduarus Venetus Patricius, orator [ambassador] to the King of Spain) :
[*Inc.*] : Cum sint in mathematicis res multae atque perpulchrae, Iohannes Baduare, pluribus ac eximiis autoribus...doctissime inspicito philosophe. Valeque aeternum.
Rubr.: Lunam a sole lumen admittere terram puncti ac centri habere rationem ad lunae globum.
[*Inc.*] : Cum luna dividua nobis apparuerit vergere in nostrum...
[*Expl.*] :...ad lunam maiorem quidem ratione habet quam quae 19712 ad 19507, minorem uero quam quae 6000 ad 6859.
Manuscript:
Oxford, Bodleian, Ind. Selden B. 8, s. XVI, folo 21. Madan II 1. 607-609, n° 3338).

Edition:
1498, Venetiis, per Simonem Papiensem dictum Bevilacquam (a volume of misc. translations by Valla, beginning with Blemmidas Nicephorus, *Logica*), fol. E5^v-F5$^\cdot$ H 11748 ; BM ; BN ; Klebs 1012.1 ; St N 33.
Biogr.:
See under Alexander XVI 1.

2. *Federicus Commandinus*

Text: complete, from the Greek, including a commentary and demonstrations by Pappus Alexandrinus ; some of the demonstrations are presented by Wallis as by Aristarchus.
Dedic. (to Alderanus Cibus Malaspina Carrariae Marchio) [*Inc.*] : Post Euclidis Elementa typis excusa...(references to the present edition)...Commandini tui non immemor, qui unice (sc. te) colit et observat. Vale.
Positiones. [*Inc.*] : 1. Lunam a sole lumen accipere. 2. Terram puncti ac centri habere rationem ad sphaeram lunae...
Introd. [*Inc.*] : Itaque colligitur distantiam solis a terra maiorem quidem esse quam 22.
Prop. 1. [*Inc.*] : Duas sphaeras aequales quidem idem cylindrus... (Demonstr., replaced by Wallis with 'Scholium codicis Saviliani') : Manifestum autem est quod CL...
Prop. 18 : Terra ad lunam in maiori... quam 216000 ad 6859. Sit enim terrae diameter...vero quam 216000 ad 6859.
Editions: 1572, Pisauri, apud Camillum Franceschinum, 38 fols. (G.-L., factitiously bound with *Procli Sphaera*). BM ; BN ; (NN).

1688, Oxonii (partial reprint of edit. 1572 by Wallis).

Biogr. :

Federicus Commandinus (Federico Commandini) was born in Urbino 1509, died there 3 Sept. 1575. Studied grammar, Greek and mathematics under Jacopo Torelli and Giampietro de' Grassi. Was at the papal Curia under Clement VII, and again under Marcellus II. Studied philosophy under Marcantonio Passero (Genova), and medicine under Giambattista Montano at Padua, 1534-44. Received his medical degree at Ferrara under Ant. Brasavola. Practised medicine in Urbino. After the death of his wife and son, he turned to mathematics and spent the remainder of his life in the service of Duke Guidubaldo II of Urbino whom he taught fortification and geography, of Card. Ranuccio Farnese, and of Duke Francesco Maria II of Urbino. He was visited by John Dee, and edited with him a Latin version from the Arabic of Muhammed of Bagdad's *De superficierum divisionibus.* He also corresponded with Cardan, Clavius, Dasypodius and Maurolycus.

He edited and annotated Arabo-Latin translations of Archimedes and Ptolemy. He translated from the Greek, and partly annotated, writings of Apollonius, Archimedes, Aristarchus, Euclid, Eutocius, Hero, Pappus and Serenus. His most important original works are *De centro gravitatis solidorum,* and *Horologiorum descriptio.*

Bibl. : Bayle 5 (1820) 270-271 ; J. G. de Chauffepié, *Nouveau dictionnaire historique et critique* 2 (Amsterdam 1750) 127-129 ; Ersch-Gruber 17 (1828) 358-359 ; Jöcher I (1750) 2039-40 ; Michaud 8, 684-685 ; Moréri, *Le grand dictionnaire historique et critique* 3 (Paris 1759) 865 ; Nicéron 6 (1728) 364-374 ; P. Riccardi, *Biblioteca Matematica Italiana* (Modena 1893) 359-365 ; Tiraboschi VII (1823) 699-702 ; F. Vecchietti and T. Moro, *Biblioteca Picena* III (Osimo 1793) 268-295.

B. Baldi, 'Vita di Federico Commandino', *Giornale de' Letterati d'Italia* 19 (1714) 140-185.