COLUMELLA, LUCIUS JUNIUS MODERATUS

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Fortuna.

Bibliography.

Composite Editions.

I. De re rustica.

Commentaries.

1. Julius Pomponius Laetus (Book X only).
2. Curius Lancillottus Pasius (Book X only).
3. Philippus Beroaldus.
4. Johannes Baptista Valentinus Cantalicicus (Book X only).
5. Johannes Baptista Pius (Book X only).

II. De arboribus.

Commentary.

1. Philippus Beroaldus.

FORTUNA*

The extant works of Columella (fl. first century A.D.), the most comprehensive and systematic of the Latin writers on farming, consist of the De re rustica in twelve books and the apparently incomplete De arboribus. Another treatise, Adversus astrologos, has not survived, and a fourth work, dealing with religious ceremonies connected with agriculture, may have been projected by him (cf. De re rustica II. 21. 5-6) but never actually composed. For his material Columella drew on many predecessors and contemporaries, both Greek and Latin, who had treated a similar topic. Most of these sources are only names to us today, their writings having perished, but among those whose works we have are, in addition to Virgil, Marcus Porcius Cato (the Censor) and Marcus Terentius Varro. It appears too that Columella knew and used such poets as Propertius and Horace. Perhaps because they were written in prose and form a convenient and homogeneous group, the manuals of Cato, Varro, and Columella sometimes appear in the same manuscripts; from the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries they are frequently printed together, along with the treatise of Palladius (see the article on pp.

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195-199 of this volume), in editions which designate their authors as 'Scriptores rei rusticae (rerum rusticarum)'. It also happened occasionally that a commentator approached them as a unit and annotated more than one of these 'Scriptores.'

There is no ancient commentary on Columella although he was certainly known to Silver Age and post-classical writers. His works seemed not to require or to inspire explication; they were appreciated for the information they furnished, and served as a quarry from which other authors extracted facts for their own treatises. A contemporary, Pliny the Elder, lists him among the authorities for books VIII, XI, XIV, XV, XVII-XIX of the Historia naturalis and cites him by name eight times. Gargilius Martialis who wrote on gardens, probably in the third century, depends on Columella, as does Eumelus of Thebes who composed a work on veterinary medicine possibly during that same period. In the fourth century, Vegetius, in his Mulomedicina, praises Columella's 'facultas dicendi' (Praef. 2), and the Ars veterinaria of Pelagonius contains seventeen quotations from the sixth book of the De re rustica. Palladius is also clearly indebted to Columella, for he cites him twenty-five times and may have written his Carmen de insitio after the example of Columella's book X which is in hexameters.

In the Middle Ages Palladius eclipsed the earlier agricultural authors, and evidence for the availability as well as the use of Columella is rather scanty. Although we have the evidence of humanists, particularly of Petrus Victorius, that there were others, only two medieval witnesses to the text have survived; both dating from the ninth century, they are Ambrosianus L. 85 sup. (A), copied at Fulda, and Leningrad F. v. Class. 1 (S), written at Corbie. Columella was, however, known to medieval schools long before these manuscripts were produced. Cassiodorus (Institutiones I. 28) describes him as a leading authority on the subject, alluding, curiously enough, to 'sixteen' books. This number may be owing merely to a scribal error. It has also been surmised that the 'sixteen' books included the entire De re rustica and an earlier work consisting of four books, of which only the second, the De arboribus, has come down. In support of the latter hypothesis, scholars (e.g. J. M. Gesner, J. Häussner in Bibliography I. A, II. A) adduce a statement in the preface to the De arboribus indicating that it was preceded by another book. A third way out of the difficulty (see A. Kappelmacher in Bibliography III. B) is to suppose that Cassiodorus had in his library sixteen rolls of Columella's writings. But whatever the explanation for the problem, it should be noted that this numerical puzzle is peculiar to Cassiodorus, and he is cited in the Catalogus de libris authenticis et apocryphis of Boston of Bury (fl. early fifteenth century) for his assertion that Columella composed sixteen books.

The next medieval writer who seems to have known Columella is Isidore of Seville. His remark in the Etymologiae (XVII. 1) that Cato was the first to write about agriculture while Varro embellished and Columella encompassed the whole science is neatly turned, and it is repeated almost word for word in the twelfth century by Hugh of St. Victor in the Didascalicon III. 2. In the case of the De cultura hororum of Walafrid Strabo (c. 808-849), some parts of the poem appear to have Columella as their model. An instance of direct quotation, however, does not occur until the twelfth century when Thierry of Chartres, in his Heptateuchon (Chartres 498, ff. 149-151v), cites De re rustica V. 1-3, a passage also found in a thirteenth-century work, namely Richard of Fournival's Biblionomia. Hugh of Fouilloy, another twelfth-century author, quotes De re rustica XII praef. 9 in his De nuptiis (Migne P. L. 176, 1206). Since Columella is hardly ever listed in catalogues of medieval libraries, it is interesting to find entries for him in two twelfth-century inventories of the Corbie holdings, further proof that he was circulating in France at this time. He may also have been known to the Arabo-Hispanic scholar Ibn-al-Awwam, whose twelfth-century treatise on agriculture contains frequent mention of a certain 'Junius.'

Among Trecento authors acquaintance with Columella's writings was none too
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widespread. He is not mentioned, for instance, by Petrus de Crescentiis whose *Ruralium commodorum libri XII*, composed about the beginning of the fourteenth century, incorporated much of the material found in Cato, Varro, and Palladius. Nor does he seem to have been known to Petrarch, himself an enthusiastic gardener, despite the report of J. P. Thomasinus in his *Petrarcha reditivus* (cap. 7) that, according to Johannes Rhodius, there were at one time in the Vatican Library some notes of Petrarch on Columella. This reference is vague and difficult to trace. P. De Nolhac (see Bibliography III. C) has suggested that the manuscript in question is Vaticanus lat. 2193 which belonged to Petrarch and contains, on f. 156, observations written in his hand regarding the cultivation of his gardens at Parma, Milan, Padua, and Arquà. They cover the years 1348, 1349, 1350, 1353, 1357, 1359, 1369 and are helpful in fixing Petrarch’s whereabouts, but they take no notice of Columella. However, it is plain that the *De re rustica* was known to Boccaccio, for, in the *Genealogiae deorum XI. 1*, he cites a passage from IX. 2. 3 where Columella refuses to take seriously myths concerning the origin of bees and the rearing of Jupiter in Crete. Coluccio Salutati too was familiar with the work; in a letter (X. 1) of uncertain date, but possibly written between 1395 and 1400, he quotes from *De re rustica I praef.* 17-18 in which Columella speaks of the esteem attached to rural life by the ancient Romans.

It was during the Quattrocento, in fact, that Columella emerged as an author who may be described as relatively popular. The manuscripts themselves tell the story: there are approximately forty fifteenth-century codices of the *De re rustica* and *De arboribus*, and excerpts are found in nearly twenty more. Studies on the textual tradition (see Bibliography II. A) show that the text of these *recentiores*, designated as the R group, was produced by conflating the readings of A with those of another manuscript, now lost, which belonged to another tradition and was in Italy before or shortly after A arrived there in the fifteenth century. Many of the R codices formed part of illustrious libraries; among their owners were Piero de’ Medici (Laurentianus Plut. 53. 32), the Aragonese kings of Naples (Valencia 651), Novello Malatesta (Cesena Plut. 24 sin. 2), Gaspar de Guzmán (Escorial R. I. 7), Cardinal Bessarion (Venice Z.l. 462), Marinus Tomacellus (London Additional ms. 19903), and Duke Giovanni Angelo Altampe (Vatican Library, Ottobonianus lat. 1567, 2059). An interest in the state of the text was a natural accompaniment, and the manuscripts often exhibit a good deal of humanistic correction and large numbers of alternate readings. Some examples are Laurentianus Conv. soppr. 285 and Aedil. 168, London Harley 3556, Parisinus lat. 6830 C, Vaticanus lat. 1525 and 1527, and Vienna lat. 33, 81, and 3144. Laurentianus plut. 53. 27 belonged to Poggio and was perhaps corrected by him; it is not the manuscript which he, or one of his investigators, discovered in Germany during the period 1414-1418, a codex since lost and considered by some (e.g. H. B. Ash in Bibliography I. A) to be, with A, a joint parent of the R group.

Notwithstanding the renewed activity along palaeographical and textual lines, humanists took their time before attempting an *explication du texte*. Julius Pomponius Laetus was the first to compose a commentary on Columella or, for that matter, on any of the ‘Scriptores rei rusticae.’ He treated only the tenth book of the *De re rustica*, and his commentary survives in manuscripts and incunabula which differ slightly from each other as well as in sixteenth- and eighteenth-century editions that exhibit a fixed form. A colophon in Bologna 2654 (lat. 1395) indicates that the annotations had been composed by at least 1467. London Sloane 777, an unsigned and hitherto unidentified manuscript written in its entirety by Laetus, contains the text of book X and a small part of the commentary. With its careful calligraphy and elaborate illumination, this codex can hardly be a ‘scholar’s copy,’ and it appears that Laetus’ original draft has not yet come to light. The first printed text of the commentary was issued in Rome c. 1472 (HC 5497), but without the name of its author; two other anonymous
editions of the same text were published, also in Rome, c. 1485 (HC 5494) and c. 1490 (HC 5495). Only in an edition printed at Venice (?) c. 1480 (HC 5500) is the commentary assigned to Laetus. This version, which varies from the anonymous text, is the commentary that is found ascribed to Laetus in all succeeding editions. The anonymous commentary seems never to have been recognized as his work, and it was not reprinted after the fifteenth century.

In 1472 there appeared at Venice the editio princeps (HC 14564) of four of the agricultural writers. Georgius Merula, who edited the works of Cato, Varro, and Columella contained therein, drew up 'Enarrationes brevissimae priscarum vocum' consisting of short definitions of technical terms drawn from each author. The De re rustica of Palladius, also included in the volume, was edited by Franciscus Colucia. Other incunabula followed the same format and were published at Reggio Emilia in 1482 (HC 14565), 1496 (HC 14569), and 1499 (HC 14570) and at Bologna in 1494 (HC 14568). Laurentianus Plut. 53. 19 is a manuscript copy of the 1482 edition, and Naples V A 5 (copied by GianRainaldo Mennio in 1488) is also derived from a printed edition.

The next commentary on Columella seems to be that of Curius Lancellotius Pasius who, like Laetus, annotated De re rustica X. Dedicated to Lorenzo de' Medici, the commentary is preserved in autograph Laurentianus Plut. 52. 22 and, according to a colophon in the manuscript, was composed by 1483. Because it was written in verse, book X occupies a special place in the De re rustica and attracted two more commentators who devoted their efforts solely to its elucidation, namely Johannes Baptistis Valentinus Cantalius and Johannes Baptistis Pius. The commentary of the former is found in an incomplete codex now at Perugia. Pius' annotations were dedicated to Bernardus Rubeus and published in 1520 at Bologna. The notes of Aulus Janus Parrhasius on book X found in a copy of the 1482 Reggio edition (S. Q. IX. H. 13) in the Biblioteca Nazionale, Naples are best described as 'running titles,' and they do not constitute a commentary. Nor do the 'Notae in Columellam' of Johannes Passeratius which are contained in autograph manuscript Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Nouv. acq. lat. 3068 (ff. 5v-6) and comprise excerpts from the De arboribus and De re rustica VI, VII, X, and XII.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that the commentary of Pius is a further indication of the Bolognese interest in the 'Scriptores rei rusticae,' for, in 1504, Benedictus Hector had printed the commentary of Philippus Beroaldus on Columella which covered the whole of this author, including the De arboribus. Beroaldus had, in fact, some years earlier edited both texts as well as those of Cato, Varro, and Palladius. Since the manuscripts regard the De arboribus as book III of the De re rustica, Beroaldus also considers it to be such, and consequently his commentary deals with 'thirteen' books of the De re rustica. Fra Giovanni Giocondo, editor of the 1514 Aldine, was the first to detach the De arboribus and place it at the end of book XII of the longer treatise, an arrangement followed in all succeeding editions. Once this pattern had been established, printers were careful to separate Beroaldus' comments on the De arboribus from those on the De re rustica and to note that they applied to the former work.

After the appearance of Pius' notes on book X, a number of years passed before the publication of another commentary on Columella, but interest in him had by no means died down. His manuals, together with the commentaries on them by Laetus, Beroaldus, and Pius, were often reprinted, and there are signs that they were still of concern to humanists, albeit on a relatively modest scale. The name of Nicolaus Angelius may be mentioned in this regard. He was the editor of the 1515 and 1521 Juntine texts of Cato, Varro, Columella, and Palladius, and contributed 'Enarrationes super nonnullis dictionibus' that are an expanded version of Merula's 'Enarrationes' on which they are tacitly based. A second figure to be noted is the printer Jodocus Badius Ascensius who, according to Gesner (Bibliography I. A), inserted anonymous
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comments into the commentary of Pius found in the editio Ascensiana of 1529. Gesner, however, cites only a few instances, and these have not been reckoned sufficient to constitute a commentary. The editio Ascensiana also exhibits, at De re rustica X. 178, a single comment by 'Jacobus Constantius Fanensis.'

In 1541 Petrus Victorius published his edition of Cato, Varro, and Columella. He likewise issued a companion volume containing his commentaries on the three authors. The annotations on Columella have to do almost exclusively with the De re rustica; the single comment on the De arboribus is given among those on book XII. Victorius' commentary is important in that it not only illustrates his method of textual criticism but also contains information on the manuscripts he consulted, some of which are seemingly no longer extant. Among these were an ancient manuscript of Columella written 'litteris Longobardis' and a codex recentior copied by Niccolò Niccoli. A third lost codex is particularly intriguing since Victorius (in the preface to his commentary on Cato) describes it as a 'vetustissimum volumen' from the library of San Marco, Florence, with the text of Cato, Varro, Columella, and Gargilius Martialis. Politian had examined the same manuscript in 1482, entering its variant readings in his own copy of the editio princeps which later came into the possession of the Riccoli family and is now Rés. S. 439 in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. A copy of Politian's collation was made by Girolamo Lagomarsini in 1737, and has the shelfmark 117 (Landi 4) at the Biblioteca Comunale, Piacenza. Unfortunately by the time Victorius consulted this ancient witness, the folios containing Columella and Gargilius Martialis had disappeared and the last part of Varro was missing. Although neither he nor Politian provides many details about the manuscript itself, the palaeographical errors reported by them suggest that it was copied from an exemplar in Caroline minuscules.

Since the notes of Fulvius Ursinus on Columella (published Rome, 1587) consist merely of manuscript readings, the commentary of Victorius is apparently the last commentary before 1600. As in the post-classical era, Columella became an authority to be cited rather than expounded. An inkling of this development had already occurred in the late Quattrocento when Michelangelo Tanaglia referred to De re rustica VII. 5. 22 and IX. 4 in his De agricultura (composed after 1489). With the increase in the number of vernacular agricultural treatises written in the sixteenth century, it was a fairly standard procedure for an author of such a work to quote from, or at least allude to, Columella, and instances may easily be found in the Trattato dell' agricoltura, Trattato della cultura degli orti e giardini, and Trattato degli arbori di Giovanvettorio Soderini (1526-1597), the annotations of Robertus Titius (1551-1609) on Le api of Giovanni Rucellai, and in Victorius' own Delle lodi e della coltivazione degli ulivi. By this time Columella was also known in England, for in 1571 William Lambarde compiled a commonplace book of agricultural rules (now London Additional ms. 20709) which included precepts from the De re rustica.

In light of this practical use of Columella in the Cinquecento, vernacular renderings of his works were logical accompaniments, and they were translated into Italian (by Pietro Lauro), French (by Claude Cotereau), and German (by Michael Herr). An English version was slow in coming, and an anonymous one was finally printed in 1745.

Editions of the De re rustica and De arboribus continued to be produced throughout the seventeenth century, but did not contain any of the earlier commentaries. In the eighteenth century there appeared the monumental editions of Gesner and J. G. Schneider (Bibliography I. A). The latter's edition remained standard until the recent completion of the edition by V. Lundström who, together with other Swedish scholars, is responsible for the majority of modern studies on Columella. Professor Pierre-Paul Corsetti is presently preparing an edition for the Budé series.
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I. Works of Columella

A. Editions


B. Translations

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II. Textual and Palaeographical Studies

A. General


B. Specific Passages and Problems, Including Columella's Sources

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C. SPECIFIC MANUSCRIPTS

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Milan L. 85 sup.
R. Sabbadini, ‘Sulla fortuna di alcuni testi latini,’ Rivista di filologia e d’istruzione classica 39 (1911) 247-248; also see above under Leningrad.

Moscow Demidov ms. of Columella
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V. Lundström, Ein Columella-Excerptor aus dem 15. Jahrhundert (Uppsala, 1894).

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III. INFLUENCE

A. POST-CLASSICAL


B. MEDIEVAL


C. RENAISSANCE


IV. GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ROMAN AGRICULTURE


COMPOSITE EDITIONS

The agricultural treatises of Cato, Varro, Columella, and Palladius were generally printed together until the nineteenth century when each work began to appear separately. A chronology and brief descrip-
tion of editions published in the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries is found in *Scriptores rei rusticae veteres latini*, vol. I (Zweibrücken, 1787) cxxxi-cxliv. This *editio Bipontina*, based on the recension of J. M. Gesner (see Bibliography I. A.), contains an enlarged version of the list of editions noted by him in vol. I xliii-xlviii of the first edition and vol. I xlix-ili of the second edition. The following list gives those editions with more than one commentary on Columella.

1504, Bononiae (Bologna): Impensa Benedicti Hectoris (ed. Philippus Beroaldus). With the text of Cato, Varro, Columella, Palladius, *Enarrationes brevissimae priscarum vocum* of Georgius Merula on Cato, Varro, and Columella, and commentaries of Philippus Beroaldus on Columella, *De re rustica, De arboribus* and Julius Pomponius Laetus on Columella, *De re rustica X*. The *De arboribus* forms ‘book III’ of the *De re rustica*, thereby bringing to XIII the number of books in this work. *Ed. Bipont.* I cxxxi; Adams S-804, 2407. BM; BN; (MH); NN.


(*) 1543, Parisii (Paris): Apud Michaelem de la Guierche. (Reported by Denis Brearley). With the text of Columella, *De re rustica X*, commentaries of Philippus Beroaldus, Julius Pomponius Laetus, and Johannes Baptista Pius on this book, one comment of Jacobus Constantinianus, and anonymous annotations of Jodocus Badius Ascensius. *Ed. Bipont.* I cxxxviii. BM.


1773, Lipsiae (Leipzig): Sumptibus Caspari Fritsch (ed. Johannes Matthias Gesner). This is the second edition; for contents see the 1735 edition. According to the entry in the *editio Bipontina*, Johannes Augustus Ernesti revised and enlarged the second edition in several ways, most notably by contributing a preface, correcting typographical errors, and adding variant readings.
to the text of Columella (from Leningrad F. v. Class. 1) and Palladius. *Ed. Bipont*. I cxxiv. BM; BN; (MH).

I. _De re rustica_

**Commentaries**

1. _Julius Pomponius Laetus_

A colophon in Bologna 2654 (lat. 1395) demonstrates that his commentary, which treated only book X, was circulating by 1467. The commentary was very popular and survives, in different versions, in four other manuscripts, four incunabula (of which three are anonymous), and a number of later editions. One of the manuscripts, London Sloane 777, is a _de luxe_ autograph of Laetus which contains a small portion of the commentary. Only the Bologna codex displays a dedicatory epistle; it is, unfortunately, incomplete, but enough remains to show that Johannes Antonius Campanus was partly responsible for the commentary’s publication. The commentary attributed to Laetus in the edition printed c. 1480 is the version found in the post-incunabula period. Textual dissimilarities between the manuscripts and incunabula involve word corruption, phraseology, and completeness of lemmata and comment; however, their general agreement in subject matter, content, and form proves that they are derived from the same model. Laetus apparently did not edit the text, and the commentary is concerned with the explication of mythological, geographical, and botanical points. As he notes in the introduction of the c. 1480 edition, much of his material comes from Cato, Varro, and Pliny the Elder. He also quotes from, or refers to, Hyginus, Tibullius, Lucretius, Ovid, Herodotus, Apicius, Theocritus, Strabo, Statius, and SiliusItalicus.


**Commentary:** [Inc.]: (f. 117) In proemio relictas a P. Virgilio georgici carminis partes expleturum se fatetur. Hoc frequens pettio P. Silvini exigebat urgetbatque facile etiam laudum cupidum Virgilii permissio quae posteritati hortorum curam scribendum reliquit in haec verba [*Georg*. IV. 147-148]:

Verum haec ipse equidem spatiis exclusus iniquis

Praeterea atque aliis post commemoranda relinquo.

Multum posteritati tribuit, quam adeo dignam putat ut agricolationi suae terminos ponat. Non ergo inuria hoc sibi negotium exsequendum vetus rustications artifex consummato iam operi (*sic*) suo mandavit. Quod liberum afferit testimonium quantum
colonis olitoribusque ac vinitoribus tradiderit. *Principio sedem. Eligatur ab olitore non macilentum solum ac sterile, cui facile terga . . . . [Expl.]: (f. 136) Ascra oppidum et vicus in Boeotia, patria Hesiadi poetae qui versus de rusticatione composit. Et paucos Hesiadi Ascræus dicit ut Virgilius idem de se ait *Ascræeumque cano Romana per oppida carmen* [Georg. II. 176]. Telos. Per Janum Albium 1467 mensis Februurii die xviii hora iii.

*Manuscripts:*


Florence, Bibl. Riccardiana 1202, s. XV, ff. 43v-56v. The manuscript does not contain the text of book X. The opening words of the introduction are underlined as if they constituted a lemma, and the commentary resembles, but is not identical with, the anonymous commentary of the incunabula.


*Commentary: [Inc.]:* (f. 43v) Caelestia mel. Iuppiter mulierem specie pulcherrimam nomine Melissam in apem convertit. Homerus ait ex c<r>r> abronibus natas apes quas nymphae Phrixonides educaverunt et mou nutrices fuisse Iovis . . . . [Expl.]: (f. 56v) Bunitus (sic). Est fons in agro Amitermino unde ficus Bunias, et est patronymicum pro pos-

Laus Deo. Finis commenti super Columella de agris cultura.


London, British Museum Sloane 777, s. XV, ff. 4-9. Laetus, who wrote the entire manuscript, began at line 173 to add the commentary in the margins beside the text of book X (ff. 1-9); space was lacking for the whole commentary, and only a small part of his annotations is found in this codex. The opening comment appears to be incomplete since the quotation from Pliny (*Historia naturalis* XII. 35. 68 or XIII. 2. 17?) was never inserted.

[Inc.]: (f. 4) Stacte genus est murrae ut apud Plinimum . . . . [Expl.]: (f. 9) Ascra oppidum Boeotiae, patria Hesiadi, sterile habet solum ut ipse dicit *Ascræa rus miserum* [Works and Days 639-640]. Virgilus ait *Ascræaeumque cano Romana per oppida carmen* [Georg. II. 176].


Vatican Library, Vaticanus lat. 11532, s. XV, ff. 115-123v. These folios contain the commentary, but not the text of book X. The Introduction has supplementary material found in no other commentary of this group.

sophum Athenis primum coluisse hortum, cuius delectatio Romae postea ade<sp> vos habitare adsam (sic) hortos in fenestris. Et vetustior memoria hortorum est quam villarum. Scribit nunc Columella ad Publium Silvius<n>um.


Vatican Library, Vaticanus lat. 11532, s. XV, ff. 101-110v. The commentary, which is not complete, is written in the margins; the text of book X is heavily glossed. There is no introduction.

[Inc.]: (f. 101) Silvius Publilius dicebatur, cui praeens opus dicavit...[Excl.]: (f. 110v) *Ascraeum.* Apud Italos Ascræaeum vallis est Boeotiae in aspero loco sita, patria Hesiodi poetae qui agri culturam scripsit, unde et ipse Hesiodus ait 'Ascra rus miserum' [Works and Days 639-640].


**Editions:**

[c. 1472, Rome: Adam Rot]. No author is assigned to the commentary. In comparison with the text of the c. 1480 edition (see below), the introduction in this edition has been considerably shortened, and part of the first lemma and comment is omitted. GW 7187; HC 5497; J. C. T. Oates, *A Catalogue of the Fifteenth Century Printed Books in the University Library Cambridge* (Cambridge, 1954) 1387. Rome, Bibl. Coriniana.

**Introduction** [Inc.]: I. Moderati Columel- lae hortuli commentary incipit feliciter. Horti Hesperides (sic) memorabiles habentur, in quibus non poma aurea sed oleastri tantum viruerunt. Adonis vero regis et in Corcyra insula Alcinoi (sic) Phaeacum regis horti in fabulis celebrati sunt. Reges Per- sarum hortorum curae intenti fuere. Tar-

Multum posteritati tribuit, quam adeo dignam puto (sic) ut agricolationis suae terminos ponat. Non ergo inuria hoc negotium exsequendum vetus rusticationis artifex consummato iam operi (sic) suo mandavit. Quod liberum affert testimonium quantum colonis olitoribusque ac vinitoribus tradiderit.

Commentary:

[Inc.]: Caesestia mella. Multum Hyginus affert de origine apud poetae magis decora fabulis quam rusticorum observationi aut diligentiae. Nos tamen pro interpretatione dicemus. Aiunt mulierem specie pulcherri- mamm nomine Melissa Ioan in apem convertisse . . . [Expl.]: Asca oppidum et vicus in Boeotia, patria Hesiodi poetae qui versus de rusticatione composit. Et paucos Hesiodus Ascaeus dicit ut Virgilii idem de se ait 'Ascreaumque cano Romana per oppida carnem' [Georg. II. 176].

Other editions:


1504. See above, Composite Editions.

1521. See above, Composite Editions.

1528, Tiguri (Zurich): Per I. Mazochium. With the text of Cato, Varro, Columella, Palladius. Laetus' commentary has been abridged; the notice at the beginning of book X reads: "Chalicographus lectori. Scripsit in hunc Columellae de hortis libel- lum Iulius Pomponius, sed est ad taedium usque longus. Proinde ne quid esset quod vel mediocris eruditionis iuvenem possit remorari, in facile coegimus compendium quae Pomponius, quae Plinius, quae deni- que alii haberent, quae quidem lucis quippiam possent rei addere, ne etiam in tam amoenis hortis lector tamquam verrubis implicitus distraheretur. Vale.' Adams S-809. BM; (MH).

1529. See above, Composite Editions.

1533. See above, Composite Editions.

1543. See above, Composite Editions.

1735. See above, Composite Editions.

1773. See above, Composite Editions. Doubtful Edition:

[Louvain: Johann von Paderborn]. GW 7186 B; HC 5496.

Biography:

See pp. 379-83.

2. CURIUS LANCILLOTTUS PASIUS

This commentary, dedicated to Lorenzo de' Medici, deals only with book X. It survives in one manuscript, now in the Biblioteca Laurenziana, Florence, and, according to the colophon, was made public
in 1483. A comparison of the script with that of Modena, Biblioteca Estense Camp. lat. 415 (Gamma T. 6. 8), an autograph of Pasius (De liberalitate), shows that the Florence codex is also autograph. The Medici arms are found on f. 1, but these may have been added later. For his annotations Pasius depends often, but not always, on Pliny. A number of references to other books of the De re rustica demonstrate that he was familiar with the entire treatise. In addition to comments on mythological and botanical questions, there is some attention paid to astronomical phenomena and agricultural procedures. A poem, composed by Pasius and addressed to Lorenzo, follows the preface.

_Praefatio_: (Florence Plut. 52. 22, ff. 1-2v) Ad clarissimum Florentiae lumen Laurentium Medicen C. Lancillotti Pasii Ferr. in hortos Columelae praefatio. [Inc.]: Credo nonnullos hoc non parum miraturos opusculum, cum in tanta virorum eruditissimorum copia, qui nostro aevo praecelissimae ingeni sui monumenta posteris tradidero, temerario quodam ac paene sacrilego conatus de prorere talia ausus fuerim. Sane Laurentii, vir clarissime, diu me ac multum dubitasse fatero an haec pro Georgicis, Silio quoque Italico dimitterem. At post multas necon varias curas, cum quid in herbi faciundum tandem esset mecum ipse reputarem, subit nos iamprimidem Mariannum Culicem legisse, Batrachomyomachiam pariter saepius evoluisse, nec nos inde plurimos illustrium virorum aevum suo, quamquam disciplinarum omnium florentissimo, non aliquid operibus suis humiliore materia praefixum cognovimus. Nostra igitur praedulcia, etsi nonnulla ex criticis malevolis haud sane doctis minimi apud te fore existiment, quem longe doctissimorum virorum corona praecellissimis operibus inserit finitissque celebrat et sidera tollit, nihilominus, qualiscumque sint, tibi, Lau(renti) virtutum splendor iucundissime, quandoquidem sit haec tui praefatio et verissima, dum maxim NGOs consenescit in patre, dicare constitui. Ab ineunte etenim aetate splendidissima nominis tua fama ad tuam benevolentiam captandam ita me compulit ut cunctis me potius honoris tui studiisum ostendere hoc

aevo malim quam in decorem meum reticerre . . . /[Expl.]: Accipere igitur non designem nostra haec praeludia, virtutum splendor. Vale.

_Introduction [Inc.]:_ (f. 3) <C>olumellorum familiaris pliereque urbe Roma oriundamuisse arbitrati sunt. Doctores vero Gadi-tano municipio traxisse originem contendunt et ita esse sentimus. Quod praecipue Columella nono sui operis volumine probat . . . /[Expl.]: (f. 4) Haec sunt quae nobis commemoranda visa sunt priscusque opus ipsum aggredere merei eiusque expositionem.


_Manuscript:_


_Doubtful Edition:_

X Kalendas Octobres, 1493, Regii (Reggio). H 12434. Copinger and Reichling give no further information on this alleged edition which has yet to be located. There are two possible explanations: either the manuscript is a copy of the printed edition and an X in the date of the edition's
colophon has been omitted, or the Hain entry is based on the colophon of the Florence manuscript and ‘1493’ is a mistake for ‘1483.’ The colophon seems to mean that Pasius ‘published,’ but not necessarily ‘printed’ (otherwise ‘impressum’ would be expected) the commentary at Reggio in 1483.

Biography:

The exact dates of Curius Lancillottus Pasius (Curio Lancelotto Pasi) are not known, but his literary activity indicates that he was a humanist and poet laureate of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century. He was from Ferrara and lived in Parma and also in Reggio where he had a school. Besides his commentary on the tenth book of the De re rustica, he commented on Persius (see below, p. 280) and wrote a number of poems. Other works include the De veritate (Modena Est. lat. 219 = Alpha W. 6. 3), De liberalitate (Modena Camp. lat. 415 = T. 6. 8), Dactylotheca Inois (Vatican Library, Ottob. lat. 1957), and De litteratura non vulgari which was dedicated to the senate and people of Reggio and printed there in 1504.


3. PHILIPPUS BEROAULDUS

Beroaldus’ commentary on the entire treatise was published in 1504 and was dedicated to one of his students, Robert Fisher (+1511). According to the Dedatory epistle, the commentary is based on his public lectures on Columella. Beroaldus’ interest in the agricultural authors was of long standing, for in 1494 there had appeared at Bologna his edition of Cato, Varro, Columella, and Palladius. This edition, together with its reprints at Reggio in 1496 and 1499, contained exscriptiones by Beroaldus; these, however, are not annotations but rather running titles placed in the margin. The 1494 edition had also promised commentarii quae in alius impressionibus non extant, a statement qualified by the reprints which assign to Beroaldus exscriptiones et commentarii. Such claims are misleading since the only commentaries in all three incunabula are those of Julius Pomponius Laetus on book X of Columella and Antonius Codrus on the De insitioine of Palladius, both of which had previously been printed (see p. 184 for Laetus and p. 198 in the ‘Palladius’ article for Codrus). Consequently only the 1504 edition is justified in asserting on its title page that it contains a hitherto unpublished commentary.

The fact that the commentary deals with the whole work indicates, on the part of its author, an attitude and approach different from that of the commentators who treat just book X. Beroaldus is principally concerned with the explication of technical terms and agricultural procedures, and the noticeably few annotations on book X are of the same nature as the rest of the commentary. His range of auctoritates is wide, including both classical and post-classical (e.g. Palladius, Ambrose, Jerome, Flavius Vopiscus) authors; he also refers to his earlier annotations on Pliny the Elder and Servius (see Biography and Works). Some comments attempt to resolve textual problems in the De re rustica.

Dedatory epistle: (ed. 1504, Bononiae (Bologna): Impensa Benedicti Hекторis) Ad clarissimum Robertum Fisnerum scholasticum Britannum sive Anglicum Philippi Beroaldii Bononiensis epistula. [Inc.]: Conditores celeberrimi haud parum multa multa cum laude de rebus rusticis praecipita posteritati tradiderunt, inter quos instar sideris lucidissimi
splendidicat Columella, quem velut totius rusticationis parentem maxime venerari debeamus. Nam nec elegantius nec eruditius nec copiosius quicquam de re rustica dici potest quam a Columella iam dictum est, qui totum corpus huiusce professionis adeo scie coamentavit, adeo examissimum consummavit ut nullo velut membro reciso vel tantillum mutilata conspiceretur. Ego cum hoc anno memorabilia Columellae volumina publico auditorio eoque frequentissimo profiterer, existimavi me facturum operae pretium si subsicivis horis quas perire non patior annotationes quasdam compendiarias in loca huius scriptoris luculentis partim obscuriora partim corruptione componerem, qua sub tuo nomine invulgare turbare nuncupatum, mi Roberte, hac epistula dedicata constitui, nec immero. Nam cum Britannia insularum clarissima, quam vulgo Anglicia nominant, complusculos scholaricos et splendidos et nobles et probos ad hoc gymnasion litteratorium fere quotannis mittere consueverit, iampridem nemo te uno splendidior probior elegiander ad capiendum ingenii cultum linguamque comedam illinc huc commigravit. Tu vitae probitate, morum honestamento, doctrinarum cupiditate agis consuammatum omni ex parte scholasticum, et cum sacerdotio amplissimo praeditus sis, das operam et quidem impensam ut non minus sacerdotium tibi quan tu sacerdotio debere videaris, facisque id quod oppido quam pauci ordinis tui homines facere consueverunt cum in plerisque omnibus nihil praeter habitum sacerdotale conspicuat, cum sint inducti inculi prorsusque sterilis litteratorum sine quorum nitoribus squalidus sordidus tenebrocosus est sacerdos. Tu vero ornamenta doctrinarum existimans vera esse hominis ornamenta dies noctesque impendis politiori litterarum, contubernio studiosorum delectaris. Pliniana lectio tibi pro quotidiano paulo est, cuius adipe mens saturata pinguescit. Divi Augustini spiritualis doctrina te refovet... Itaque nobilitati familiaris Fisherae, quae apud Britannos inculata est, nobilitate virtutis morumque abunde respondes, et cum summis honor sit notum tantummodo esse summis principibus, tu maxime sacratissimaeque Bri-
tannorum Regiae prope peculiariter es carus.../...[Expl.]: Cape ergo, mi Roberte, hilo vultu hoc quicquid est munusculi et desideranter gusta haec nostra cundimenta quae, nisi mihi amor imponit, ad tuuum stomachum mire facient, quibus homo interior iucunde nec minus salubriter ali poterit. Di faxint hoc sit perpetuum mei erga te amoris monumentum, et cum fueris in genitali solo apud Lares patrios, aurem interdum vellicet commoneatque ut Be
roaldi tui sis memor. Vale et dilige doctorem.

Commentary: (ed. 1504, Bononiae (Bologna): Impensa Benedicti Hectoris) Philippus Beroaldus, Annotationes in Columel
lusticationis conditorem luculentum. [Inc.]: Velut carnifici noxae dedimus. Verbum est iurisconsultorum. Quod significat tradere servum nocentem ob noxam, id est delictum, actori inuiriariam; nam quando servus deliquerat, licebat domino deditione ipsius corporis quod deliquisset evitare litis aestimationem.../...[Expl.]: Nec canis naturam. Videtur legendum 'canis natam' ut sit intellectus in canis hominibus et seniores, qui longa aetate et experientia prudentiores doctoresque esse consueverunt, non tamen 'innatam' esse rerum cunctarum prudentiam quoniam nemo unus omnium potest scire. Nec canic nec rugaric nec senium praestant homini absolutam ex omni parte prudentiam encyclopaediamque, hoc est orbem doctrinarum, ut dii possit vir doctissimus undecunque canus.

Editions:
1504. See above, Composite Editions.
1521. See above, Composite Editions.
1529. See above, Composite Editions.
1533. See above, Composite Editions.
1536, Coloniae (Cologne): Johannes Gymnicus excud. With the text of Cato, Varro, Columella, Palladius, Enarrationes brevissimae priscarum vocum of Georgius Merula. Beroaldus' commentary has been put into
alphabetical order. Ed. Bipont. I cxxxvii; Adams S-815. BM; (MH; CaOTU).


1543. See above, Composite Editions.

1543. See above, Composite Editions.


1735. See above, Composite Editions.

1773. See above, Composite Editions.

Biography:

Philippus Beroaldus (Filippo Beroaldo), sometimes called the Elder so as to distinguish him from his nephew of the same name, was born in Bologna 7 November 1453 and died there 17 July 1505.

Of a noble family, Beroaldus studied first with local teachers and then learned Greek and Latin from Francesco Puteolan of Parma. His mother, Giovanna Casto, made the arrangements for her son's education as his father had died when Beroaldus was four years old. He progressed rapidly in his studies and in 1472 began to teach rhetoric and poetry in Bologna. Three years later he went to Parma to teach, and there he edited, with brief notes, the first book of Pliny's Historia naturalis. After a short stay in Milan he went to the University of Paris in 1476, attracted by its fame and reputation. He remained in Paris for approximately a year and enjoyed considerable success as a teacher. During this period he made many friends, one of whom was Robert Gaguin. Jean du Pins, the future bishop of Toulouse, was one of Beroaldus' students and later wrote a biography of his teacher. Beroaldus' scholarly achievements prompted his native city to recall him in 1477, and his return to Italy was celebrated in a poem by Battista Spagnuoli. He taught at Bologna until his death, editing and commenting upon numerous authors and apparently enjoying life to the fullest. He counted among his friends Marcantonio Sabellico, Ermolao Barbaro, Guarino Guarini, Antonio Codro, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, and Angelo Poliziano. Students came from all over Europe to study with him, and many of his works are dedicated to them. Towards the end of his life Beroaldus took an active role in the political life of the city and was on intimate terms with the powerful Bentivoglio family. In 1498 he married Camilla Paleotti, daughter of the famous lawyer Vincenzo Paleotti. They had four children, only one of whom, Vincenzo, survived his father.

Works: A chronological list of the printed works is given by K. Krautter (pp. 188-192; see Bibl.). Beroaldus wrote a number of poems and orations, and many of these were addressed to contemporaries. Among the Greek authors he edited and annotated were Aelian (Bologna, 1495/1496), Claudius Ptolemaeus (Bologna, 1477), and Philostratus (Bologna, 1501). With respect to Latin authors, he produced editions and commentaries on Apuleius (Bologna, 1500), Aulus Gellius (Bologna, 1503), Caesar (Bologna, 1503), Cicero (Paris, c. 1478), Florus (Parma, c. 1473), Frontinus (Bologna, 1495/1496), Justinus (Bologna, 1505), Lucan (Paris, 1514), Plautus (Bologna, 1500), Pliny the Elder (Parma, 1476), Pliny the Younger (Bologna, 1504), Propertius (Bologna, 1487), Sallust (Paris, c. 1478), Servius (Bologna, 1482), Solinus (Bologna, 1500), Suetonius (Bologna, 1493), Vegetius (Bologna, 1495/1496), and Virgil (Paris, 1478). Other works include the Declamatio philosophi, medici, oratoris de excellencia disceptantium, Et libellus de optimo statu et principi (Bologna, 1497), Heptalogos sive septem sapientes (Bologna, 1498), Declamatio lepidissima ebiosti, scortatoris, aleatoris de vitiositate disceptantium (Bologna, 1499), Opusculum de symbolis Pythagorae (Bologna, 1503), and
Opusculum de terrae motu et pestilentia
(Bologna, 1505).

Bibl.: Cosenza I 541-550; Dizionario
biografico degli Italiani IX (Rome, 1967)
382-384 (M. Gilmore); Eckstein 43; G.
Fantuzzi, Notizie degli scrittori bolognesi II
(Bologna, 1782) 111-135; F. Hoefer, Nou-
vvelle biographie générale V (Paris, 1855)
654; Jächer I (reprint, 1961) 1028-1029;
G. Mazzuchelli, Gli scrittori d’Italia II. 2
(Brescia, 1760) 1003-1017; M. Michaud,
Biographie universelle ancienne et moderne,
2nd ed., IV (Paris, 1854) 97-98; J. P.
Nicéron, Mémoires pour servir à l’histoire
des hommes illustres XXV (Paris, 1734)
374-394; W. Pökel, Philologisches Schrift-
stellerlexicon (Leipzig, 1882) 22; Tiraboschi
VI. 3 (Milan, 1824) 1622-1626.

Jean du Pins, Divae Catharinae Senensis
simul et clarissimi viri Philippi Beraldi
Bononiensis vita (Bologna, 1505); Barto-
lomeo Bianchini, ‘Vita Beraldi,’ Commenta-
tiones conditae a Philippo Beraldo in
Suetonium Tranquillum (Bologna, 1506);
J. Paquier, De Philippi Beraldi Junioris
vita et scriptis (1472-1518) (Paris, 1900)
3-11, 93-96; L. Frati, ‘I due Beraldi,’ Studi
et memorie per la storia dell’ Università di
Bologna II (1911) 210-280; K. Krautger,
Philologische Methode und humanistische
Existenz. Filippo Beraldo und sein Kom-
mentar zum Goldenen Esel des Apuleius
(Munich, 1971).

4. JOHANNES BAPTISTA VALENTINUS
CANTALICII

Dealing with book X, the commentary is
found in ms. G. 16 in the Biblioteca Comu-
nale Augusta, Perugia. Since the codex
is not dated, the terminus ante quem for
the composition of the Columella commen-
tary is c. 1514, the year of Cantaliccius’
death. Though the annotations concern
only approximately one fourth of the book,
the commentary ending at line 126, they
are extensive. In some instances the com-
ments amount to no more than a few
words, and consist of synonyms or brief
explanations. Quite frequently, however,
Cantalicius expounds at length on lemma-
ta that involve botanical and mytho-
logical issues. His commentary is not
conspicuous for quotations or allusions to
other authors. Virgil and Pliny the Elder
are cited several times each, and there are
scattered references to Ovid, Tibullus, Persi-
sus, Hyginus, Ulpian, Claudian, and Ser-
vius. Unaware that in the manuscripts the
De arboribus constituted book III of the De
re rustica, Cantalicius believed that he was
annotating book XI of the latter work.

Introduction: (Perugia G. 16, f. 95v) Can-
talicii in hortulorum Columellae interpretato.
[Inc.]: Columellarum familia ex municipio
Gubitano (sic) progenita est, quod ipse testa-
tatur cum de lactuca Tartessiaca ait ‘Et
mea, quam generant Tartesi in litore Ga-
des’ [De re rustica X. 185]. Nam Tartessus
urbs est in litore Hispano pro insulam (sic)
Gades, patria ut iam diximus Columellarum,
dicta a Tartaro, hoc est cavernis profundissi-
mis quas habet. Gades autem insula est prope
continentem ultra columnas Herculis, ab
omni antiquitate celebrata. Iunius itaque
Moderatus Columella de re rustica libros
XIII scripsit prosa oratiorne praeter hunc
undecimum quem hortatur atque rogatu
Publil Silvini de cultu hortorum metrice
compositus, cum iam decimum absolvisset,
atque adeo scite adeoque copiose horti dotes
numeris absolvit ut divinus poeta [sc. Ver-
gillus] de Columella divinasse dici possis
cum post se alias haec memoranda rein-
queret [Georg. IV. 148]. Cultus autem
hortorum, ut ipse ad Silvinum ait, ‘segnis
atque neglectus quondam veteribus agri-
colis fuit, nunc vero vel celeberrimus’ [De
re rustica X. prael. 1]. [Hortorum] autem
horti Hesperidum maxime celebrantur, sed
in eis, ut finxere poetae, <non> poma aurae
sed oleastri tantummodo viruerunt. Fabu-
lose item horti Alcinoi regis Phaeacum in
Corcyra insula celebrantur. Vetustioribus
quoque Romanis maior hortorum quam
villaerum usus fuit, cum in XII tabulis non
villaerum sed hortorum mentio fiat, quo-
rum tutelam Veneri antiquitas tribuit,
quam nonnulli sub nomine Florae deae de-
notaverunt.

Commentary: [Inc.]: (f. 95v) Hortorum
quoque te cultus. Sicut alia quae iam X li-
bris de re rustica scripsis . . . / . . . [Expl.]:
(f. 119) nomine Graio. Quia lepid<i>um
vocatur a nomine seu Graeco vocabulo 'lepis, -dos,' quod squamam, ut diximus, sive lepram sign<\i> ficat.

Manuscript:

(micro.) Perugia, Bibli. Comunale Augusta G. 16, s. XVI, ff. 95v-119. (G. MazzatintiA. Sorbelli, Inventari dei manoscritti delle biblioteche d'Italia V (Forlì, 1895) 129; Kristeller, Iter II 56).

Biography:

See CTC I 227.

5. Johannes Baptista Pius

Pius dedicated his lengthy commentary on book X to his patron Bernardus Rubeus (Bernardo Rossi, † 1527), Bishop of Trevi- so. It was first published in 1520 at Bo- logna in an edition that also contained the text of book X. Unlike other commentators who treat only this book, Pius begins his annotations with the opening prose passage. The commentary is generally designed to display his erudition, for the number of quotations from both Latin and Greek authors is very large, a striking feature being the frequent occurrence of citations in Greek to illustrate or develop a point. Pius occasionally refers to his own com- ments on Plautus. In addition to the usual mythological and botanical explanations, some comments are of a textual and philo- logical character, and there is evidence that he consulted manuscripts for disputed readings. Three poems in elegiacs, composed by Pius and addressed to Rubeus, are found at the end of the commentary.

Dedicatory epistle: (ed. 1520, Bononiae (Bologna): Hieronymus de Benedictis) R. in Christo Patri Domino Bernardo Rubeo Comiti Berceti, Episcopo Tarvisino, Romandiolae et exarchatus Ravennae ac Bo- noniae etc. Vicelegato, Gubernatori et Praesidi Pius Bononiensis cliens. [Inc.]: Cum essem in Syracusano diversoriolo, maxime ac sapientissime Princeps, cuius frequenti secessu non sine Musarum comitatu uti soleo, in hortuli nostri areola Co- lumellae libellum prope aureolum de cultu hortorum lectitabam, ut me vates elegan- tissimus admoneret si quid quadruius com- pitis herbarum deesset, quas ille describeret, ego forte non sevissem. Inter legendum oc- currere non parum multa in Junio nostro nec satis aperta nec plana ad quae animum aliud agentem incurrere ac offendere necesse sit. Commodum cognominis admonitus mei pium laborem aggressus sum, auctorem videlicet interpretandi non satis obvium, in quo nescio quantum profecerim, num Amatheatum, ut aiunt, exoriente atque vixerim. Id tamen quantulumcumque tibi imprimis dicandum curavi, quem in parado paletino conexpi post curas series et Reipublicae Bononiensis feliciter tractata gubernacula, post statua mysteria, de vivariis, pergulis, arbusculis, herbullis et reliquis Hortensi mundo cogitantes, exemplo quidem Ciceronis et Diocle- tiani sapientissimis invictissimisque impera- toris, qui, pacatis omnibus, imperii ruina umeris Atlantis sustentata, hostibus Ro- mani nominis sub iugum missis, reliquum aevi inter hortulos et arbusculas manu sua satas pacatissime transegit. Perinde tu Diocleatione et cunctis prisciis heroibus aus- gustior, Pater amplissime, languenti, obru- tae, iacenti reipublicae Petri (ausu temerarii ac prope tragico præsede Togatae Gal- lae trucidato, passim bacchantibus monstris horrendis, fame, sica, gladiorum licentia ac impunitate, seditionibus, furis ac malis intestinis) uermes Hercules obieciisti, ac fulminis instar cuncta domuisti, venisti, vidisti, vicisti. Illustissi mox nobis sole salu- bri ac felici sidere patriae nostrae Prolega- tatus, quam moribus censorius atque politicus, hoc est tuis, ornasti, viisque publice stratis, ex lutosa ac inaccessa, cultissimam reddi- disti. Inducto insuper illimi et argentis fonte, quo et summa iucunditas et aeterna est urbi salubritas inventa ... / ... [Expl.]: Interim tu, generosissime ac magnificissime Praesites, tantum cordis ac animi liberator, munusculum nostrum hilari fronte susci- to, in quo censendum nil nisi dantis amor, Piumque clientulum Rubeae familiea Ital- iarum praecellissimae potentissimaeque de- dicatissimum pio sinu complectere. Vale.

Introduction: Interpretatio Johannis Bapt- tistae Piì Bononiensis in hortum poema Columellae pergraphicum. [Inc.]: Operae pretium visum est commentarios hortorum aggredientem summam praebire quae Pliniana maiestas super ea re disseruit,

Commentary: [Inc.]: Faenoris tui Silvini. Alloquirit Silvinum Iunius, cui opus agriculturae suae dedicat et peculiariter hoc metricum hortorum poema, referens se persolvere ei quod sopponent ostenditque id non segni et sine pulvere labore esse tractandum tentandumque hoc imprims cum nunc cibariis legibus contemptis gula dominetur, cui hortus maxime vectigalis est . . . [Expl.]: Per oppida. Per ommem dicenem Romanum vel proprie per Italianam. Nam auctore Servio [In Georg. I praef.] ad situm Romanum usque ad Venetiam Maronis praecipue pertinent, quoniam non terrae omnes omnia poscunt. Finis.

Editions:

(micro.) 1520, Bononiae (Bologna): Hieronymus de Benedictis. BM; BN; (ICJ).
1529. See above, Composite Editions.
1533. See above, Composite Editions.
1543. See above, Composite Editions.
1735. See above, Composite Editions.
1773. See above, Composite Editions.

Biography:

See CTC II 358.

6. Petrus Victorius

The Roman agricultural writers were of considerable interest to Victorius, and his edition of Cato, Varro, and Columella was published at Lyons in 1541. His chief concern, however, seems to have been with the text of the first two authors. The title page of the 1541 edition specifies that Victorius devoted his efforts only to Cato and Varro (ad veterum exemplarium fidem suae integritati restituti), and the Dedictory epistle to Cardinal Marcellus Cervinus emphasizes his work on them. Referring only in passing to Columella, he notes that his treatment of the De rustica is summary because of the lack of manuscripts and the satisfactory state of the text. The castigationes to which he refers in the epistle are found in a companion volume and constitute commentaries on all three authors; these indicate as well that his attention was centered principally on Cato and Varro. His remarks on Columella, which cover books I, II, V, VI, VIII-X, XII, are noticeably briefer, and they deal, for the most part, with textual problems. One comment on the De arboribus (XXVIII. 4 aridum si dabis, exiguis dato) is included in the annotations on book XII.

The Dedictory epistle given below has been taken from Victorius' 1541 edition of Cato, Varro, and Columella, and the Introduction and Commentary are from the 1542 edition of the commentaries.

Dedictory epistle: (ed. 1541, Lugduni (Lyons): Apud Seb. Gryphium Petrus Victorius Marcello Cervino Cardinali s. [Inc.]: Post longum temporis spatium, Marcellae amplissime, reliquum tibi mei promissi persevero. Neque tamen hoc ignavia aut negotia feci, sed molestis occupationibus impeditus, rem plus quam voluisse differre coactus sum. Nam animum meum incredibileque satis tibi faciendi desiderium primum illis meis laboribus perspicere potui. Paucis enim diebus toto animo in onus a te mihi impositum incumbens, ea confeci, quae me non inerem neque immemorem mandatorem tuorum ostendere potuerunt. Secuta postea sunt temporae quae me in negotio illo, quod declinare non potui, novum atque inexcitatum ita perturbatur ut non dico rerum tuarum oblitus sim, sed veniam mihi te daturum sperarim, si meo illi temporis inserviens curam hanc aliquantulum distulissim. Idem etiam me hoc facilius a te imperaturum confusus sum quod videbam te eodem tempore in publicis maximis rebus occupatum, ut si haec studia ex animo non abieciesse, necessario te remissius illis navare operam putarem. Nam subito furtuna auctus es et in eum dignitatis gradum pro multis tuis meritis elatus, quo paucis aspirare licet et quo altius ascendi nunc recte factis vix potest. Quae autem artes in tam illustri excelsuque loco collocarunt, eaedem te in honestissimis negotiis semper occupatum postea tenuerunt, ut a nobis etiam diu abfueris, ad Carolum Caesarem missus, et apud eum personam maximi pontificis gesseris . . . [Expl.]: Accesserunt tamen,
tamquam cumulus quidam, nonnulla quae in Columella emendavi, nam eum quoque scriptorem non neglexi. Quod si aut meliora ipsius exemplaria nactus esserit aut ille fortasse magis emendatoris opera egisset, plura etiam in eo restituturum fui. Totam huius mei negotii rationem in castigationibus meis explicatam inveneris, nam nonnula etiam quae aut a Graecis optimis auctoriibus Terentius Varro acceperat, aut declaratione aliqua indigere videbatur, adnotavi; non pausa etiam vulnera quae sanare non potui, aperui, in quibus nunc purgandis studiosi litterarum operam ponere debibunt. Hoc ut illi facere in animum inducant et hos meos labores, qualescumque sunt, hilaris vultu aspicient, vehementer precor, nec illam ullam mihi tantarum molestiarum mercedem posco. Nam si iudicio tuo probatus discessero, optime et ornatissime Marcelle, ab omnibus mei magnificae laudatum esse non sine causa existimabat. Dat. XII Kal. Quintiles MDXLII Florentiae.


Commentary:


Manuscript:

Vatican Library, Reginensis lat. 1502, s. XVI, ff. 248v-256. (Kristeller, Iter II 403).
Editions:
1543, See above, Composite Editions.
1735. See above, Composite Editions.
1773. See above, Composite Editions.
Biography:
See CTC II 35-36.

II. De arboribus

Commentary

1. Philippus Beroaldus

In the manuscripts the De arboribus appears as the third book of the De re rustica and is accordingly treated as such by Beroaldus, whose commentary was first published in 1504. It was not until the 1514 Aldine edition of Columella that the De arboribus was recognized to be a separate work. As in the case of the annotations on the De re rustica (see p. 000), his aim is the explication of technical terms and agricultural methods. Both commentaries are generally found in later editions.

Dedatory epistle: see p. 000.


Edition:

With the exception of the 1521 and a 1543 (Apud Michaelis de la Guierche) edition, the editions listed pp. 187-88 contain Beroaldus' commentary on the De arboribus as well as his commentary on the De re rustica.

Biography:
See pp. 188-89.