PALLADIUS RUTILIUS TAURUS AEMILIANUS

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Fortuna.

Bibliography.

I. Opus agriculturae. (Books I-XIII).
   No commentary.

II. De veterinaria medicina (Book XIV).
   No commentary.

III. Carmen de insitio (formerly known as Book XIV).
   Commentary.
   1. Antonius Urceus ‘Codrus.’

FORTUNA

Of Palladius’ life nothing is known save
for a few references in his works. His use of
Vindonius Anatolius Berytius (d. 360/1)
provides a terminus post quem, and his
writings are first mentioned by Cassiodorus
(Inst. I. 28. 6, Mynors, p. 72). His floruit
is now set at the end of the fourth or the
beginning of the fifth century A.D.; a more
specific dating rests on an uncertain identi-
ﬁcation with the Palladius whom Rutilius
Namatianus names as a kinsman (De reditu
suo I. 207-216).

Palladius wrote his agricultural works
with heavy borrowing from his predecessors.
His principal source was Columella, but he
consulted other technical writers as well,
some of whom have not survived. In ad-
in, Palladius seems to have had some
practical experience in farming; he mentions
his own property in Italy and Sardinia.
The Opus agriculturae (as it is called in the
manuscripts) was composed of thirteen
books: a general introduction, and twelve
books corresponding to the twelve months
of the year. At the end, and possibly some-
what later, Palladius added a fourteenth
prose book, which treats of veterinary
medicine. Last of all, in response to a
friend Pasiphilus, who had asked for a
copy of the earlier works, he dedicated to
him a poem in elegiac couplets, the Carmen
de insitio. The subject of grafting had
been dealt with in Books I-XIII, but the
literary exercise was no doubt suggested by
Columella’s use of hexameters in his tenth
book. The three items (Book I-XIII, the
De veterinaria medicina, and the Carmen)
will be discussed individually, for they had
somewhat different medieval transmissions.

Bibliography

R. H. Rodgers, An Introduction to Palla-
dius, Bulletin of the Institute of Classical
Studies, Supplement 35 (London, 1975);
Teuffel-Schwabe, 6th ed., 3:237 (410);
Schanz, 2nd ed., 4, 1:189 (844); Pauly-
Wissowa 18/3 (1949) 209, s. v. Palladios,
no. 7 (Svennung); M. Sirch, Die Quellen
des Palladius in seinem Werke über die
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I. *Opus agriculturae* (Books I-XIII)

Edition princeps: (with Scriptores rei rusticae) Venice: Nicolaus Jenson, 1472 (H 14564, Goff S-346). The Palladius text is edited by Franciscus Colucia, whose letter to Jenson is printed at the end of the volume.


The title is that given in the majority of early manuscripts; in the *Carmen de insitione* (line 3) Palladius refers to the prose books as *opus agricolare.* The convenient arrangement of the work, with each month subdivided according to its proper farming tasks and prefaced by a list of *tituli,* was clearly more useful than that of any of Palladius' predecesors. This fact alone may explain the preservation of his text and its popularity compared with that of Columella. The *Opus agriculturae* is mentioned by Cassiodorus (*Inst.* I. 28. 6) and cited by Isidore (*Orig.* XVII. 10. 8).

There are nearly 100 extant manuscripts of the work; from the ninth century there are six manuscripts written in France, and four others from France and Southern Germany date from before the twelfth century. Some of the oldest surviving codices seem not to have been used extensively. There are occasional glosses dating from the end of the ninth century, some of them in the French vernacular. On the final folia are sometimes entered miscellaneous *recepta* and doubtfully ascribed late antique scientific matter. The marginalia tend for the most part to be limited to those parts of the text which could have been read for practical value in Northern Europe (e.g. bee-keeping). One chapter of the work (XII. 7. 1-12) was copied into the autograph notebook of Walafrid Strabo (Sankt Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek 878). The text reached England in the twelfth century, and in the thirteenth century it was known in Italy and Spain.

Many of the later codices, especially those written in England in the twelfth century, seem to have been produced as elaborate books rather than as practical reference works. On the other hand, a few manuscripts are heavily annotated: a good example is a manuscript at Cambridge (Corpus Christi College 297, s. XIII), in which the text has been interpolated from Isidore, and parallels from Virgil's *Georgics* are entered in the margins.

The work lent itself readily to excerpts and paraphrases (cf. Singer, no. 1080A). Palladius' work was used by the *doctor universalis* St. Albertus Magnus, and by the thirteenth-century encyclopedist Vincent of Beauvais. In the fourteenth century Pietro de' Crescenzi incorporated parts of Palladius into his *Liber ruralium commodorum.* The *Tractatus de plantationibus arborum,* sometimes called *Palladii liber brevissimus per Godefridum* (from the opening verse of its prefatory distichs), was not a commentary but an independent work written in the thirteenth century on the model of Palladius. The author, Godefrid of Franconia, seems to have rewritten the work in Middle High German; the Latin text of this work has not been edited. A number of later manuscripts attribute the work to Geoffrey of Vinsauf or Albert of Cologne.

A number of vernacular translations were made prior to 1600. Prose versions exist in Italian, Catalan, Spanish, French, and German. A translation was also made into Middle English verse.

There was some Renaissance interest in the text of Palladius: Politian, for example, made a collation into the margins of his copy of the editio princeps (now Paris, Bibl. Nat. Réé. S. 439). Scholarly commentary on the work is not known to have appeared until the printed editions. At first we find only explanatory indices or an *epistola ad lectorem.* The former are represented by the glossary of Nicolaus Angellius.
Bucinensis, which first appeared in the edition of Libri de re rustica, Florentiae: Opera et impressa P. Iuntae, 1515. (The Enarrationes priscarum vocum of Georgius Merula Alexandrinus, which appeared as early as the editio princeps, covered only Cato, Varro and Columella). Aldus Pius Manutius discussed the figures for shadows on sundials in his De duobus dierum generibus simulque de umbri, et horis, quae apud Palladium. The epistola first appeared in Libri de re rustica, Venetiis, In aedibus Aldi, et Andreae soceri, 1514, and it was often reprinted.

The lack of commentary can be explained by the fact that Palladius was never used as a school text, and his work was of interest primarily to those concerned with ancient technological writers. The only two commentaries on the work are those by J. M. Gesner (Leipzig, 1735; rev. ed. by A. Ernesti, 1773) and J. G. Schneider (Leipzig, 1795). There is no modern translation into English.


II. De veterinaria medicina (Book XIV)


This book deals with the special topics of veterinary medicine, which were not conveniently covered in Books I-XIII. Much of the material was copied practically verbatim from Books VI and VII of Columella. The text is preserved in a manuscript at
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Milan (Ambrosianus C 212 inf., s. XIII/XIV) where it is found in its proper place between Book XIII and the Carmen de insitio.

The early separation from Books I-XIII resulted in a great scarcity of Book XIV in the Middle Ages. An entry in the medieval catalogue of the library at Fulda suggests that the text was available there from the ninth to the sixteenth century, but it was never widely accessible. The text was rediscovered in 1905 by R. Sabbadini, who thought that it was the work of a twelfth-century excerptor of Columella. Identification of the lost book of Palladius was made in 1925 by Svennung. An independent manuscript of the text (Leiden, Vulc. 90B, s. XVI) may have connections with the Heidelberg printer Hieronymus Commelin and his philological friend Friedrich Sylburg. Excerpts of Book XIV are found with the texts of Books I-XIII and other miscellaneous scientific matter in Vat. Barb. lat. 12, a French manuscript of s. XIII. No commentaries are known to exist.


III. Carmen de insitio (formerly known as Book XIV)

For editio princeps and critical edition, see no. I above.

These elegiac verses are addressed to Pasiphilus, an otherwise unidentified friend of Palladius, who had asked for a copy of the earlier prose books. The Carmen too was early separated, and the oldest text is found in the Milan manuscript. The poem was rediscovered (though not directly from this manuscript) in the fifteenth century, and it is found in a number of manuscript collections of short poems and miscellanea. It was included in the editio princeps of Books I-XIII and in some cases it was added to manuscript copies of Books I-XIII after its appearance in printed editions.


COMMENTARY

1. Antonius Urceus ‘Codrus’

The edition of the Scriptores rei rusticae published at Bologna in 1494 contained a commentary on the Carmen de insitio, apparently compiled by the editor, Philippus Beroaldus the Elder (1453-1505) from notes of his friend Antonius Urceus, known as Codrus (1446-1500). The commentary, arranged in the form of scholia surrounding the text, is little more than a paraphrase with occasional parallels from Latin poetry.

Preface of Beroaldus (ed. of Bologna, 1494). [Inc.]: Hic Palladii libellus quamvis non adeo obscurus ut lucis egere videatur, quippe quae hic versu canuntur supra prosa oratone eadem fere demonstrata sunt; tamen ne nudus omnino exeat, neve Columellae horto invideat [Book X of Columella, De re rustica] annotated by Julius Pompeius Fortunatus, see above, p. 181], nonnulla ex Codri grammatici bononiensis dictis excerpta illi circumfundimus. Quae etsi peritum lectorem non docebunt, minus tamen doctum nonnihil adiuabant. Palladius ipse rei rusticae peritissimus .xxii. libros de agricultura scripsit ad Pasiphilum virum doctissimum. Et quia serius scripti fuerant adiecti hunc <decimum> quartum [decimum om. edd. 1496, 1504] de insitio scriptum pro temporis usura. In quo excusat tarditatem suam, et crimine reiicit in segnitio librarii, quam quidem non maligne estimare se dicit, quoniam velocitas
procurrat in facinus, s dignitates figuram benignitatis imitatur, ut ipsemet dicet, et nos quoque exponemus. Est autem libellus iste carmine scriptus elegeo; premittit tamen proaemium proa oratione factum, quo excusat tardatatem scriptionis suae, ut dicebamus. Caeterum ut de Palladio ipso non nihil dicamus: ipse supra libro qui mensis martius inscriptur, ubi loquitur de malo citreo, scribit se habuisse fundos in territorio neapolitano: fortasse fuit neapolitanus; suspicamus tamen ipsum fuisse romanum.

Commentary. [Inc.]: 'Aliud testimonium. Quia praecedentes xiii. libri sunt testes fidei Palladii erga Pasiphilium ... / ... [Expl.]: bidentes. Bidentes instrumentum rusticum binos habens dentes. Iuue [nalis 3. 228]. Vive bidentis amans.'

Editions:
1496, Sept. 18. Reggio Emilia, Dionysius Bertochus: HC 14569; Goff S-349. BM; (MH).
1499, Nov. 20. Reggio Emilia, Franciscus de Mazalibus: HC 14570; Goff S-350. BM; (MH).

The two following editions do not contain this commentary, although 'Codri scholia' are promised on the title-page:

1529 Libri de re rustica ... [Paris] Vĕnundantur I. Badio Ascensio.
1533 Lutetiae: Praetor A. Angerelli, impensis I. Parvi et G. à Prato.

Nor are the scholia to be found (as suggested in Gesner’s preface, I, p. xlix) in the 1521 edition (Florentiae: Iunta) or that of 1528 (Tiguri; J. Mazochius).

Biography:
Antonius Urceus (Orcei), nicknamed Codrus, was born at Rubiera 14 Aug. 1446, and died at Bologna in 1500. He received his elementary training at Modena, then studied with Guarino at Ferrara, and from 1469 taught at Forlì under the patronage of Pino degli Ordelaffi. With the support of the Bentivogli, Codrus went to Bologna, where he held the double chair of eloquence and Greek language from 1480. His pupils included his biographer Bartolomeo Bianchini. Among his scholarly friends were Angelo Poliziano and Aldus Pius Manutius, as well as Beroaldus the Elder who published Codrus’ works at Bologna in 1502 (reprinted Venice, 1506; Paris, 1515; and Basel, 1540).


Bianchini’s memoir Codri vita a Bartholomeo Bianchino Bononiensi condita ad Minum Roscuim Senatorem Bon., appears at the beginning of the Bologna edition of Codrus’ collected works (1502); C. Malagola, Della vita e delle opere di Antonio Ureco detto Codro (Bologna, 1878); E. Raimondi, Codro e l’umanesimo a Bologna. (Università degli Studi di Bologna, Fac. di lett. et filosofia, Studi e ricerche, 1, Bologna, 1950).