

THESSALUS ASTROLOGUS. ADDENDA

BY DAVID PINGREE

(Brown University)

A number of new manuscripts of the Latin versions of *De virtutibus herbarum* have been identified. These, and the researches of S. Sconocchia, have clarified several problems concerning the complicated relationships of the translations and their dates. In the following I adhere to the order of my original article (vol. III, 83–86).

vol. III, 84a32. Add to the Bibliography:

A. Pazzini, *Virtù delle erbe secondo i sette pianeti* (n.p., 1959), 111–26; S. Sconocchia, “Problemi di traduzione del testo greco del *De plantis duodecim signis et septem planetis subiectis* attribuito a Tessalo di Tralle: i rapporti tra la traduzione latina tardo-antica e la traduzione latina medioevale,” *Textes médicaux latins antiques*, ed. G. Sabbah (Saint-Étienne, 1984), 125–51; Sconocchia, “Il ‘De plantis’ attribuito a Tessalo di Tralle: il testo originario greco e la tradizione latina tardo-antica e medioevale,” to appear in the *Atti del XXXI Congresso Nazionale di Storia della Medicina*. (The Congress was held in September 1983, but we have not found a reference to the publication of its *Atti*.)

pp. 84a35–85b. 1. Anonymus A. 2. Anonymus B. Add:

Sconocchia (“Problemi,” 126 and 130–44) has demonstrated that these are two versions of the same medieval translation of the Greek original; this translation was in existence by the late thirteenth century. Each of the six manuscripts now known to contain this translation presents its own version. Sconocchia identified the versions in Vat. Pal. lat. 1277 and Vat. Urb. lat. 246, P. O. Kristeller drew my attention to the Padua manuscript, and P. Lucentini told me of BL Add. 41623 and Ashmole 1471. Aside from the Montpellier manuscript described previously the manuscripts are:

(*) London, British Library Add. 41623, s.

XV in., fols. 128, 134, 133, 141, 140, 135 (*Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts 1926–1930* [London, 1959], 96–97; Kristeller, *Iter*, IV, 122b). This manuscript was compiled in northern Italy, possibly at Belluno. The leaves are torn, with some loss of text, and out of order. It begins (fol. 128): “Theselaus philosophus Germano Glaudio regi” (tear), and ends like Vat. Pal. lat. 1277 (fols. 140v, 135): “Priusquam venit tempus extrahendi succum herbarum predictarum. et reversus sum ad patriam, et stando ibi veni modo tali ut tibi. ergo scriptus hic quod tu probaveris divina virtute ipsarum. in opere ipsarum medicinarum sit tibi cura observare precepta dei, scilicet ut non das (*sic*) istud opus alicui donec viseris, sed tene sacratum et uni tui post mortem. Deo gratias.”

Padua, Biblioteca del Seminario Vescovile 454, s. XVI in., fols. 14–22 (B. Bertolaso, *Manoscritti di medicina esistenti nella Biblioteca del Seminario Vescovile di Padova* [Padova, 1961], 31–32; Kristeller, *Iter*, II, 10a, 549b). This manuscript was copied by the Venetian Aloysius Cynthius de Fabriciis, a Doctor of Arts and of Medicine, in October 1505; he finished copying Thessalus on October 12. His exemplar was a manuscript copied by Jacobus de Dondis (1295–1359), who, as was noted previously, cited Thessalus in his *Aggregator*. The exemplar used by de Dondis had belonged to a Magister Enoch (!). The manuscript was given to the Seminario by Francesco Trevisan da Castelfranco on October 9, 1826. Its text agrees quite closely with the version in Montpellier 277, which was certainly in Venice between 1411 and 1431 (see H. E. Sigerist, “A Doctor’s Family in the Fifteenth Century,” *Bulletin of the Institute of the History of Medicine*, III [1935], 159–62).

(*) Vatican Library, Vat. lat. 11423, s. XV, fols. 36–43v, 45–56 (the text is continuous). For this manuscript see also Pazzini, and for the relationship of its text to those of other manu-

scripts Sconocchia, "Problemi." The manuscript belonged to Johannes Petrus Secchi of the Society of Jesus in 1561, and was given to the Vatican Library by Pius X. It begins, after the main part of I, with the last paragraph of the preface, on fol. 36: "De cicuta herba Martis in Italia;" it ends almost as does Montpellier 277, on fol. 56: "sed postquam venit tempus et cetera."

(*) Vatican Library, Pal. lat. 1277, s. XVI ex., fols. 1–7v (Sconocchia, "Problemi," 126 et passim). This copy is reasonably close to BL Add. 41623, beginning (fol. 1) "Theselaus philosophus Germano Claudio regi" and ending (fol. 7v; this also published by Sconocchia, "Problemi," 144) "postquam venit tempus extrahendi succum herbarum, in multa quantitate recepti omnium herbarum predictarum. et reversus sum ad patriam, et stando ibi veni Romam volens observare precepta dei, scilicet id quod mihi traditum fuit ab ipso. et non dedi alicui mortali nisi tibi ergo scriptum hoc quod tu probaveris divina virtute ipsarum. in opere ipsarum medicinarum sit tibi cura observare precepta dei, scilicet ut non tradas istud opus alicui donec videris, sed tene secretum et uni tui post mortem. Deo gratias. Explicit." Evidently, then, BL Add. 41623 and Vat. Pal. lat. 1277 derive from the same original.

(*) Vatican Library, Urb. lat. 246, s. XIII ex./XIV in., fols. 189vb–190vb (S. Sconocchia, "Codici di medicina antica della biblioteca di Federico," *Federico di Montefeltro. Lo stato, le arti, la cultura*, 3 vols. [Rome, 1986], III, 149–73, esp. 162–63, and "Problemi," passim). This manuscript begins with the same paragraph at the end of I as does Vat. lat. 11423, but with wording closer to that of Montpellier 277 (fol. 189vb): "Est enim quedam herba qui (*sic*) canium appellatur;" and it ends near the end of III (fol. 190vb): "per spacium ix dierum et educit ipsum. Explicit."

A very much shortened and changed version of parts II and III of the medieval translation is found in one manuscript. The plants of the zodiacal signs and of the planets are those of Thessalus, but generally only one or a few diseases and their remedies are described for each plant.

[II]. [*Inc.*]: Tractatus de herbis 12 signorum et 7 planetarum. Duodecim esse herbas sapientes dixerunt specialius signis 12 attributis, quarum

prima est salvia, herba Arietis, salutifera . . . frangit lapidem per spacium 8 dierum. Explicit de herbis 12 signorum.

Below this is written: "Columbine succus mulieri exhibetur si statim mingat non est virgo."

[III]. Septem planetis erraticis herbas 7 ob specialitatem quandam suarum virtutum a philosophis comparatas comperimus. caput de eis quiddam seorsum conscribere decrevimus. prima est elitropia; herba est Solis, id est girasolis . . . [*Expl.*]: et confice sicca cum humidis. Explicit de herbis septem planetarum.

Manuscript:

Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ashmole 1471, s. XIV, fols. 117–118 (W. H. Black, *A Descriptive, Analytical and Critical Catalogue* [Oxford, 1845], cols. 1280–86).

Finally, there seems to be a mere list of the plants corresponding to each zodiacal sign and planet followed by a brief paragraph of instructions. As I have not been able to consult the unique manuscript, its precise contents are unknown to me.

[II]. [*Inc.*]: Herbae planetarum et signorum. Aries salvia. . . .

[Final paragraph]. [*Inc.*]: Predictas herbas quando colliges fac mencionem et nomina passionem . . . [*Expl.*]: usque ad usum tuum.

Manuscript:

Erfurt, Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek der Stadt, CA 4° 356, s. XV (a. 1400), fol. 177v (W. Schum, *Beschreibendes Verzeichniss der Amplonianischen Handschriften-Sammlung zu Erfurt* [Berlin, 1887], 597).

p. 86a. 3. Anonymus C. Add:

Sconocchia ("Problemi," 127–30) has demonstrated that this translation is the more ancient, and was probably executed in the fifth or sixth century. Sconocchia has also drawn our attention to the two manuscripts associated with this version, which was hitherto known only from a Paris imprint of 1528.

Manuscripts:

(photo) Kassel, Gesamthochschulbibliothek, 2° Ms. phys. et hist. nat. 10, s. X, fols. 35v–37v (A. Beccaria, *I codici di medicina del periodo presalernitano* [Rome, 1956], 218–20). In this manuscript there was an index of the nineteen

plants of Thessalus with the ailments that they can cure, numbered in continuation of the 132 plants dealt with in the herbals of Antonius Musa (on fols. 2v and 40r-v) and of Ps.-Apuleius (on fols. 3-35). Each of the plants was illustrated. Those that remain are the plants of Aries and Taurus (nos. 133 and 134) on fol. 35v; those of Aquarius and Pisces (nos. 143 and 144) on fol. 36; and those of the Sun, the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, and Mercury (nos. 145 to 150) on fols. 36v-37 (the herbs of Saturn and Jupiter are both under no. 147). Clearly two leaves are missing between fols. 35 and 36. The text on fols. 35v-37v, without the illustrations, was edited by P. Diepgen ("Zur Tradition des Pseudoapuleius," *Janus*, XXIX [1925], 55-70 and 140-60, esp. 61-65).

(photo) Toledo, Biblioteca Capitolare 98.12, s. XV ex.-XVI in., fols. 77v-93 (S. Sconoc-

chia, "Novità mediche latine in un codice di Toledo," *Rivista di filologia e d'istruzione classica*, CIV [1976], 257-69; Kristeller, *Iter*, IV, 638a). This manuscript contains an index on fols. 77v-80v that is similar to the index in Kassel 10 and to that in fols. 40v-42 of the 1528 edition. The text on fols. 80v-93 is a truncated version of that in the 1528 edition. The manuscript was in Rome, in the library of Cardinal Francesco Saverio de Zelada, at the end of the eighteenth century.

Finally, there is an Italian translation or adaptation of one of the Latin versions of Thessalus, though it is not yet clear which one. Pazzini (p. 113) mentions one manuscript of 42 folia, Venice, Biblioteca Marciana, Zan. it. 78 (4758), s. XV; the second manuscript, noticed by P. Lucentini, is Lucca, Biblioteca Statale 1286 (L 16).