

Michaelangiola Marchiaro. *La Biblioteca di Pietro Crinito: Manoscritti e libri a stampa della raccolta libraria di un umanista fiorentino*.

Textes et Etudes du Moyen Âge 67. Porto: FIDEM, 2013. 342 pp. €55. ISBN: 978-2-503-54949-1.

Pietro Del Riccio Baldi (Florence, 1474–1507), better known as Petrus Crinitus, was a pupil of Angelo Poliziano, who introduced him to Lorenzo il Magnifico. Crinitus developed a totalizing conception of philology and possessed a good attitude toward systematization; he used it in collecting books, both by arranging manuscripts and by copying texts found in borrowed items. Thanks to the efforts of Crinitus, Poliziano's unpublished works were collected, ordered, and preserved in different volumes. On the other hand, only recently have Crinitus's own works started to be given greater scholarly attention.

Marchiaro's work is the first attempt to reconstruct the collection of books that belonged to him, which are selected according to evidence of his work as a scholar (e.g., catchwords, notes), collector (indexes, numbering of folios), and writer (autographs). Thirty-six volumes have been selected that comprise sixty-four manuscripts and twenty-three printed books. The descriptions of these volumes represent the core of Marchiaro's book (the catalogue is 167 pages), with detailed recordings. Attention is given to the history of each volume, including how Crinitus built the books and all copy evidence left by him and other scholars. The handwriting of several humanists is recognized in marginal notes found in Crinitus's books that had not yet been ascribed to anyone.

This catalogue is arranged by the towns and institutions where the books are located today, beginning with the Florentine libraries. The way the volumes were arranged (a collection of texts, miscellaneous manuscripts, and printed books bound together) made it impossible to adopt another method, such as by author. A collection of all the authors, works, and editions would have been helpful, as well as made it easier to understand the comments given in a chapter devoted to the library. One might alternatively try to examine this collection by checking the index of ancient, medieval, and Renaissance authors. The bibliography given at the end of each record is very useful, though primary and secondary sources are listed together.

The main result of Marchiaro's work is a vast advancement of knowledge on Crinitus's handwriting and its evolution over the years. It is not by chance that the longest chapter in Marchiaro's text is devoted to this subject. Many tables (fifty reproductions) serve to exemplify this aspect more than the quality of the private

library as a whole. The text offers a significant amount of information on each book used by Crinitus and other scholars, which will be very useful in further studies with the aim of delving deeper into the knowledge of the humanist's job. One might look for cross-references between different editions of the same texts to better understand how this collection was actually used. There are texts studied by Crinitus by authors such as Cicero, Horace, and Aesop, yet no one testimony has been found as to Crinitus's own texts (see 28–29).

In this research, attention was given to selecting books that most definitely belonged to Crinitus, and these texts are analyzed and described in great detail. Thanks to this job, it is easy to recognize the tools of the humanist in these texts both individually and as a whole. It is possible, however, that this set of books may not represent the entire private library of Crinitus. Crinitus's private library may have included additional books, which cannot be ascertained until an inventory is found and analyzed. In light of all this, it seems to me that the title of this book does not entirely reflect its content. That is, it does not say enough with regard to the research it includes on the humanist's handwriting and goals that he achieved. In conclusion, paleographers, philologists, and historians of Renaissance literature should find this text of interest, rather than historians of libraries. Historians of the book form will also be interested in the text, as it deals with the shift from manuscripts to printed books in the period.

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