

Add. 8585

1460?

Festus Pompeius; M. Terentius Varro

Latin

Paper treated with resin (watermark on ff 1-100 hard to distinguish, apparently a small cross; afterwards a balance within a circle), 210 x 145 mm, i + 206 ff. (out of 212), numbered i + 1-100, 110bis, 100ter, 101-111, 111bis, 111ter, 112-113, 113bis, 114-191 (6 unnumbered leaves cancelled, one each after 38 and 48, two after 57, one each after 111bis and 135). Single column, 26-27 lines to a page, ruled with a hard point.

1 endleaf (f. i) + 1-3¹² (ff. 1-36) 4¹⁴⁻² (ff. 37-48: 3rd and 14th leaves cancelled) 5¹⁶⁻² (ff. 49-62: 10th and 11th leaves cancelled) 6-7¹² (ff. 63-86) 8¹⁴ (ff. 87-100) 9¹⁶⁻¹ (ff. 100bis, 100ter, 101-111, 111bis, 111 ter: 15th leaf cancelled) 10-11¹² (ff. 112-113, 113bis, 114-134) 12¹⁴ (ff. 135-147: 2nd leaf cancelled) 13-14¹² (ff. 148-171) 15-17¹⁰ (ff. 172-201).

Catchwords, written vertically.

Written in three irregular humanistic hands in brown ink, changing at 112^r and 123^r, the last two with a distinctive letter 'r'. Headings and marginal vocabulary from 112^r-142^r often in red. Capitals in the remainder of the book frequently touched with red. Some headings written 'double' in brown and red and in rough display capitals. Spaces for initials 1^r-99^v, 112^r and 163^v not filled in.

2° fo. armor(um)

1. 1^r-99^v **Festus Pompeius**, De verborum significatu

Festi Pompeij vocabula foeliciter Incipiunt. [A]ugustus locus sanctus ab avium gestu id est quia ab avibus significatus est ... ending 99^r Vermis rames palia salia auguria. Τέλος Θέω χάρις. Followed 99^v by Paul the Deacon, Letter to Charlemagne, beginning *Divinae largitatis munere sapientia ... ending ad potiora excitabit. Τέλος*

A copy of the second and only remaining portion of the abridgment by Festus of the lost treatise *De verborum significatu* of M. Verrius Flaccus, with the epitome by Paul the Deacon of the complete abridgment. Printed by Karl Otfried Mueller, *De verborum significatione quae supersunt, cum Pauli epitome emendata et annotata* (Leipzig, 1839); see L.D. Reynolds, *Texts and Transmissions: a survey of the Latin Classics* (Oxford, 1983), pp. 162-4. Occasional marginal annotation in Greek.

2. 100^r-102^v Four pieces (extracts?) on accents, headed (over an erasure) *Donati Grammatici Honorati de accentibus libellus incipit.*

(a). 100^r-100bis^r *Tonus alii accentus alii tenores nominant ... ending Cuius partes sunt comata et cola.*

Aelius Donatus, *Ars grammatica*, 1.5.

Text edited by H. Keil, *Grammatici Latini* (Leipzig, 1864), vol. 4, pp. 371-2.

(b). 100 bis^r-100bis^v (no heading) *Oratio quando integra est peryodus est partes eius cola et comata ut puta ... ending ubi finit sensus ubi pes finit. Τέλος*

Not traced.

(c). 100bis^v-102^v *Accentus Latini. Vox est aer ictus sensibilis ... ending quam sextius habet Τέλος*

Incipit as Keil (Donatus), *op. cit.* p 367.

(d). 102^v-111^v *Prisciani De Accentibus. Littera est nota elementi quae cum scribitur ... ending in medio acutus ut p... ένάχ*

Incipit as Prisciani Institutiones Lib. 1 Ch. 2.4 in *Prisciani Caesarensis Grammatici Opera*, ed. by A.L. Krehl (Leipzig, 1819-20), vol 1, p. 11.

111bis^r-111^v blank.

3. 112^r -201^r **M. Terentius Varro**, *De Lingua Latina* (Books 5-10)

M. Terentii Varonis de Lingua Latina De Disciplina Originum verborum ad M Tullium Ciceronem liber quintus incipit ... ending ut in servis. Τέλος.

Text edited by G. Goetz and F. Schoell, *M. Terenti Varronis de Lingua Latina quae supersunt* (Lipsiae, 1910).

Book 6 begins on 137^r, Book 7 on 151^r, Book 8 on 163^v, Book 9 on 174^v, Book 10 on 190^r. Book 7 begins imperfectly *repens ruina aperuit*. A note in the margin of 151^r in the scribe's hand reads *Hic deest in exemplis carta una in qua principium est libri vii*; so in Goetz-Schell p. 92 l. 1. In the margin of 174^v at the beginning of Book 9 is *Hic spacium duarum cartarum relictum reat in exemplari* (p. 147 l. 1 in the edition). On 193^r in the margin at the beginning of Book 10 is *hic deerant tres chartae in exemplari* (p. 179 l. 3 in the edition); on 194^v is *Hic deerant tres chartae in exemplari* (p. 181 l. 10 in the edition). 201^v blank.

Binding: perhaps 15th or 16th century, brown leather over wood to three bands with blind tooling of rope work and foliage rolls. Spine covering has gone. Coloured threads remain on the endbands (alternating in red and white). Two brass clasps and catches, the straps and catches now gone, showing traces of red velvet lining under the missing catches. The

upper and lower brass seatings are stamped respectively with the Agnus Dei and a roundel of foliage.

On the top fore-edge is written 'Festus pompeius Vocabulista'; on the lower is the number 38, and on the front fore-edge, the number 29 (crossed through) and 'festi pomp'.

Origin: written in Italy (perhaps Verona?), and completed 3 December ?1460, according to the scribal colophon on 201^r: *Ego Io(h)annes Andreas Valentus calcem huic Varoni de lingua Latina imposui dum Veronae(?) ad ludum pergerem. Tertio nonas Decembre 1400* (over an erasure, perhaps originally 1460; several words are erased from the following line)

Provenance:

(1) 'Antonii de Garo', i^r (?16th century).

(2) Maggs Brothers, *The Art of Writing* (catalogue no. 542, 1930), no. 168, priced £31 10s.

This is recorded in the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts <<https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/>> as SDBM_10786.

(3) Sold at Sotheby's, 12 March 1934, lot 781 for £1 15s to "Balfour".

(4) Sold at Sotheby's, 5 November 1934, lot 467 for £1 1s to "Bennett".

(5) F.J. Norton M.A. (1904-1986), Under-Librarian and sometime Deputy Librarian of Cambridge University Library, and Knight Grand Cross of Alfonso X the Wise. Acquired from Mr Norton's estate by Cambridge University Library, 30 May 1986.

JSR 7 June 2016. Haec descriptionem composui post chirurgiam oculorum. Indulgentiam lectorum desidero.

JAF revised and updated 9 August 2021.