

BULLETIN OF
The John Rylands University Library
of Manchester

Published with the aid of the Francis Neilson Fund

VOL. 55

SPRING 1973

No. 2

NOTES AND NEWS

THE Library possesses two copies of Petrarch's *Le cose volgari* edited by Pietro Bembo, Venice, 1501, one bearing Bembo's arms and the Spencer number 20957, the other bearing the arms of the Barbarigo family and the Spencer number 15442. We are greatly indebted to Dr. C. H. Clough, Senior Lecturer in Medieval History in the University of Liverpool, whose work on Bembo's library is well known, for the following note which he has kindly contributed on the former volume.

BEMBO'S
PERSONAL
COPY OF HIS
EDITION OF
PETRARCH'S
*LE COSE VOL-
GARI*

"Today one printed book can be located that was definitely from Bembo's personal collection, as distinguished from those he inherited from his father, though over the last century three others have appeared transitorily.¹ This book, *Le cose volgari di messer Francesco Petrarca* (Venice, Aldo Manuzio, 1501), printed on vellum, and now in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, contains the first text in the *volgar lingua* that was printed in Aldo's Italic type.² As the text was edited by Pietro Bembo (1470-1547), his personal copy is of

¹ For his copy of Machiavelli's *Decennale*, seen some time before 1881, see E. H. Wilkins, W. A. Jackson, R. H. Rouse, "The First *Decennale* of Machiavelli", *Studies in the Renaissance*, xi (1964), 77, n. 2, reprinted in those authors' introduction to N. Machiavelli, *The First 'Decennale'* (Florence, 1969), p. [2], n. 2. His copy of Ovid's *Opera* (Venice, Manuzio, 1515), was sold in 1966, see *Catalogue 234* (William Salloch, bookseller, of Ossining, New York, 1966), p. 90, item 993. His copy of *Il Petrarca*, with the commentary of Alessandro Vellutello (Venice, Vidali, 1528), was owned by B. H. Breslauer of London, 1969-70, seen by me, and identified as Bembo's.

² A. A. Renouard, *Annales de l'imprimerie des Alde* (Paris, 3rd ed., 1834), 28-29. There are 192 leaves: a—y⁸, A⁸, B⁴, of which ziv and Aviii are blank.

particular interest. Convincing evidence that the copy did indeed belong to Bembo rests not merely on the Bembo arms, which decorate its first page, but on eight annotations, mainly marginal, in his hand.¹

Renouard, who never saw the copy, had its details from Lord Spencer, and published them in the second edition of his *Annales de l'imprimerie des Alde* (Paris, 3 vols., 1825).² He printed there, with only minor errors, what the copy contained in the form of notes written by various owners, including the statement by Troiano Boccalini (1556-1613), that the copy was Pietro Bembo's, which he, Boccalini, had stolen from a mass of related material.³ Renouard also mentioned the evidence of Crescimbeni having seen this copy, readily identifiable in consequence of its ownership notes, in Rome in 1700.⁴ Renouard, like Crescimbeni, though probably following the claims of Lord Spencer which may have derived from Crescimbeni, said that ten lines of verse under the heading "Petri B. De Simulachro F. Pet[rarchæ]", written at the end of the volume in a sixteenth-century hand, were in Pietro's autograph, which they certainly are not.⁵ Renouard made the confusing mistake of stating that this particular copy bore the arms of the Barbarigo (instead of Bembo), probably as a result of misunderstanding Lord Spencer's information.⁶ Lord Spencer owned a second copy of the edition,

¹ For the Bembo arms, cf. Adriana Marucchi, "Stemmi di possessori di manoscritti conservati nella Biblioteca Vaticana", in *Mélanges E. Tisserant* (Vatican City, 7 vols., 1964), vii. 90, no. 134. Bembo's notes are found at fols. aiii^v, ci^v, hi^v, kiii^r, cvi^v, ri^r, si^v, Aviii^v (erased in part). The author's personal copy of *Gli Asolani* (Venice, Manuzio, 1505), likewise printed on vellum, may be the copy in the Trivulziana Library, Milan, shelf-number Triv. G. 9, but there is no certainty, since this copy does not have the Bembo arms or any annotations in Bembo's hand (see C. H. Clough, "Pietro Bembo's *Gli Asolani* of 1505", *Modern Language Notes*, lxxxiv, no. 1 (Italian issue) (1969), p. 35).

² i. 68-69.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 68; G. M. Crescimbeni, *L'Istoria della Volgar Poesia* (Venice, 6 vols., 1730-1), ii, part i, 298, where the notes of the various owners are printed.

⁵ Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 69; Crescimbeni, ii, part i, 298. The poetry is not in P. Bembo, *Prose e Rime*, ed. C. Dionisotti (Turin, 2nd ed., 1966), and may represent merely Bembo's trial lines.

⁶ Renouard, *loc. cit.*; this error is also followed by G. Duff in his "Catalogue of books printed upon vellum in the John Rylands Library, Manchester", in MS. in that Library.

likewise printed on vellum, but with the Barbarigo arms, and this is also in the John Rylands University Library. Dr. Guppy's commemorative publication of 1924 mentions among the treasures of the John Rylands Library a copy of Petrarch's *Le cose volgari* (Venice, 1501) containing "the manuscript notes of Cardinal Bembo", but this has been generally overlooked, or perhaps even discounted in view of Renouard's misinformation.¹

Bembo's copy is on vellum of very fine quality, though the decoration of the first page of the text, which includes the Bembo arms at its foot, and the painting of fourteen initials, is not exceptional. If Lorenzo da Pavia's letter dated 26 July 1501 is a safe guide, fifteen copies of the Petrarch were printed on vellum. By then the paper sheets had been printed off, but because of the difficulty in obtaining skins sufficient for so long a work (fol. 192), it was envisaged that the vellum copies would not be ready for some ten days, and at a cost of not less than 5 ducats each.² In fact by 3 August, seemingly, the vellum copies were available.³

As Renouard's description indicated, Bembo's copy has been considerably trimmed.⁴ There is no certainty when this was done, but one can speculate that it may have been in the early seventeenth century. The present binding of red morocco with gilt decoration is possibly of the late eighteenth century, or early nineteenth. However, the evidence of gum stains on what can only have been former paste-downs clearly reveals that a previous binding existed. Since Vorstius wrote on what would have been the gummed-down side of one of these in 1652, it can be supposed that the work had been rebound by then. The positioning of Vorstius's writing, and that of subsequent owners,

¹ H. Guppy, *The John Rylands Library Manchester : 1899-1924* (Manchester, 1924), p. 64.

² A. Baschet, *Aldo Manuzio. Lettres et documents...* (Venice, 1867), pp. 9-11; printed in French translation by A. Firmin-Didot, *A. Manuce et l'hellénisme à Venise* (Paris, 1875), pp. 169-72; on p. 169, Firmin-Didot refers to 17 copies on vellum, but the document he translates, and his translation on p. 170, give 15.

³ The statement appears in Baschet 74, only in French translation; it was repeated by Firmin-Didot, pp. 174-5.

⁴ Renouard (3rd ed., 1834), p. 28: "Ce volume, acquis du duc de Cassano, est fort curieux pour ces particularités, mais il est malheureusement beaucoup trop rogné." This sentence is not found in the second edition of 1825.

suggests that the trimming had taken place prior to 1652, and hence probably at the time of rebinding.¹ The sequence appears to be : Bembo's binding removed and the volume trimmed early in the seventeenth century, when additional vellum leaves were added before and after the original fly-leaves ; the volume was bound again probably in the late eighteenth century.

Bembo's copy does not contain the last signature B, of four leaves, which consists of " Aldo a gli lettori " (Bi^r—Biii^v), and " Errori, che stampando si sono fatti " (Biii^v—Biv^r) ; Biv^v is blank. Renouard asserted² : " Ce dernier cahier ayant pour objet de réfuter les critiques faites de cette édition, ne peut avoir été publié que quelque temps après la mise en vente du livre ; et pour cette raison, il doit manquer dans une partie des exemplaires ". This speculation has been extended, for instance, to³ : " Most copies lack the four leaves containing Aldo's reply to criticisms passed on the book, and the list of errata."

It is obvious that the " Errori " of printing could not be listed or printed until the whole of the text had been printed and proof-read, but it is unlikely that copies were sold without signature B, as Renouard suggested. The copy on vellum with the Barbarigo arms does have the signature B, and one can believe that this copy was one of the fifteen printed by 3 August 1501. Obviously, too, by an oversight in collecting together the gatherings, a copy might have been sold without signature B. This latter explanation for the editor's own copy, however, seems improbable, and more likely is its subsequent loss in rebinding. The colophon is on ziii^v, while of signature A, Aviii is a blank leaf, and a binder, therefore, might have overlooked signature B.

Bembo's copy does not have the " Errori " corrected in ink in the text. In one instance Bembo made a typographical correction that had been missed in the list of " Errori ".⁴ The trimming has resulted in the loss of some portions of Bembo's annotations, and of some of the folio numbers. The folio

¹ For Vorstius and his note, and the subsequent annotations, see notes 3, 4, 5, p. 258.

² Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 67.

³ *Catalogue of a most important collection of publications of the Aldine Press* (B. Quaritch, bookseller, London, 1929), p. 17.

⁴ F.ri^r corrects *bel* to *ben* in " Onde qua giuso un bel pietoso core ".

numbers are in ink in all copies where such numbers are found ; they correspond with the index references to the poems as given in signature A. Accordingly, perhaps, one can believe that the ink folio numbers were added by the Aldine press, rather than being the work of individual owners of the book.¹

Renouard remarked that in the case of all copies printed on vellum, there had been added to the colophon (ziii^v) after the words "M. Piero Bembo", and before the Venetian printing privilege granted for ten years² : "Nobile Venetiano, & da lui, doue bisogno è stato, riueduto et racconosciuto". This addition, not found on any of the copies on paper, seems to link with Aldo's justifications in "Aldo a gli lettori" of signature B, and may be further testimony that signature B dates from the time that the copies on vellum were being printed. One can suppose that the sheets of paper containing signature B were run off either immediately after, or just before, the printing of the signature on vellum. Bembo's copy has the addition to its colophon, of course, but at some time it has been blocked out in ink, and subsequently cleaned.

Renouard considered the testimonies of ownership found in Bembo's copy as mutilations, but they have the merit of providing a picture of the copy's migrations.³ The book probably remained in Pietro Bembo's palace in Padua after his death, and passed with the rest of his library to his illegitimate son, Torquato.⁴ Boccacini was in Padua in 1585, and it is likely that he stole the book early in the year, presumably while on a visit to the library.⁵ By July 1585 the book had passed to Achille Cromer, and been

¹ Cf. C. F. Bühler, "Manuscript corrections in the Aldine edition of Bembo's *De Aetna*", in *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, xlv (1951), 136-42.

² Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 69-70 ; cf. Crescimbeni, ii, part i, 297-8, who gives the colophon with the addition, but does not mention it as an addition. G. Morelli in his ed. of F. Petrarca, *Le Rime . . .* (Verona, 2 vols., 1799), i, p. vi, following Crescimbeni, does mention the addition, but not as found only in the copies on vellum.

³ Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 68.

⁴ Cf. C. H. Clough, *Pietro Bembo's Library as represented particularly in the British Museum* (London, rev. ed., 1971), pp. 2-3.

⁵ The note is on the former initial fly-leaf^v; it is printed in Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 68-69. For Boccacini in Padua see L. Firpo's biography in *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*, xi (Rome, 1969), 11.

donated by him to Charles Clusius, a Fleming living in Vienna.¹ Clusius apparently retired to Leyden, where he died, having given Bembo's book to Franz Rapheling, an Orientalist and bibliophile, who was a professor at the University of Leyden.² Rapheling died in Leyden in 1597, and by 27 October 1652 Bembo's copy was in the possession of Professor Adolf Vorstius, Rector of the University of Leyden, who on that day gave it to Graf Gustaf Adam Banér, son of the Swedish Field Marshal.³ Banér (1624-81) undertook to retain the book, or to return it to Vorstius, save in the case of his presentation of it to his Queen, Christina, who was then actively engaged in building a library.⁴ Seemingly Banér restored the volume to Vorstius, for he left it in his will to his close friend Jean Læet of Antwerp, a noted geographer and philologist.⁵ By 1700 the book was in Rome, owned by Dr. Niccolò Francesco Lupi da Gravina, and a century or so later it was in the library of the Duke of Cassano-Serra of Naples.⁶ With the rest of the duke's library it was purchased in 1819 by Lord Spencer, and with the Spencer Library was acquired by Mrs. Rylands for the John Rylands Library.⁷ ”

¹ The note is on the former initial fly-leaf^v; it is printed in Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 69. For Clusius see *Neue Deutsche Biographie* (Berlin, 1956), iii. 296-7; Cromer (or Kromer) was possibly a relative of Bishop Martin Cromer, for whom see *ibid.* p. 422.

² The note is on the former initial fly-leaf^v; it is printed in Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 69. For Rapheling see E.-M. Oettinger, *Moniteur des dates* (Dresden, 1867), iv. 154, under Raphelengh.

³ The note is on the former initial fly-leaf^r; it is printed in Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 68. For Banér see Oettinger (1866), i. 54.

⁴ The note is on the former initial fly-leaf^r; it is printed by Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 68. For Queen Christina forming a library see J[eanne] Bignami Odier, “Le fonds de la Reine . . .”, in *Collectanea Vaticana in honorem Anselmi M. Card. Albareda* (Vatican City, 2 vols., 1962), i. 159-89.

⁵ The note is on the former initial fly-leaf^v; it is printed by Renouard (2nd ed., 1825), i. 69. For Læet see Oettinger (1867), iii. 89.

⁶ For Lupi da Gravina see Crescimbeni, ii, part i, 298, and for Cassano-Serra see n. 7 below. Two eighteenth-century signatures in the book are: Gracia d[el] Luna, and Mario de Viva (?) R[?].

⁷ T. F. Dibdin, *A descriptive catalogue of the books printed in the fifteenth century, lately forming part of the library of the Duke di Cassano Serra . . .* (London, 1823), pp. iii-iv, for the sale of 1819; Renouard, quoted p. 255, n. 4 above, and Guppy, p. 64, for the book being in the Cassano-Serra collection; see Guppy, pp. 9-10, for the purchase by Mrs. Rylands.

The following is a list of recent Library publications, consisting of reprints of articles which appeared in the latest BULLETIN (Autumn 1972):

RECENT
LIBRARY
PUBLICA-
TIONS

“Man and Nature—the Ecological Controversy and the Old Testament.” By James Barr, M.A., B.D., F.B.A., Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 24. Price 40p.

“Some Correspondence in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester Concerning John Lewis Burckhardt and Lady Hester Stanhope’s Physician.” By C. E. Bosworth, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Arabic Studies in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 27. Price 40p.

“Law and Letters in Fourteenth-Century Durham: A Study of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS. 450.” By C. R. Cheney, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., Professor of Medieval History in the University of Cambridge. 8vo, pp. 26. Price 40p.

“John Capgrave’s *Life of St. Gilbert of Sempringham*.” By Jane Cowan Fredeman, B.A., Ph.D., 8vo, pp. 34. Price 55p.

“Pali Manuscripts in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester.” By N. A. Jayawickrama, B.A., Ph.D., Professor of Pali in the University of Ceylon. 8vo, pp. 31. Price 50p.

“The Search for Personal Identity in Stoic Thought.” By G. B., Kerferd, M.A., Hulme Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price 35p.

“William Holman Hunt’s ‘The Shadow of Death’.” By George P. Landow, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Brown University, Rhode Island. With the assistance of Ruth M. Landow, M.A., 8vo, pp. 43, with two plates. Price 70p.

“Martyrdom and Resurrection in the New Testament.” By T. E. Pollard, B.A., B.D., Ph.D., Professor of New Testament, Knox College, Dunedin, New Zealand. 8vo, pp. 12. Price 25p.

The following reprint consists of two articles on this subject which appeared in the BULLETINS for Spring and Autumn 1972:

“New Light on the Inter-Relationships of Samaritan Chronicles from some Manuscripts in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester.” By Alan David Crown, M.A.,

Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in Semitic Studies in the University of Sydney. 8vo, pp. 58. Price 75p.

In the latter half of 1972 the following donors made valuable gifts of books to the Library, and to them we offer our grateful thanks :

PRINTED
BOOKS:
GIFTS AND
EXCHANGES

Individual Donors

L. M. Angus-Butterworth, Esq., Frank Barlow, Esq., Dr. J. R. Belflower, Mrs. S. G. F. Brandon, Louis Bridson, Esq., Dr. W. Brockbank, Professor F. F. Bruce, Rt. Rev. B. C. Butler, O.S.B., Brigadier M. Calvert, C. J. Canner, Esq., Dr. W. H. Chaloner, Dr. Cecil H. Clough, Professor J. Cohen, F. J. Dunford, Esq., Professor Conor Fahy, Dr. J. B. Fawcitt, Miss E. Garbutt, K. R. Gray, Esq., Professor T. Gwynfor Griffith, A. Maurice Haworth, Esq., Mrs. R. Henrey, Dr. D. P. Henry, John R. Hetherington, Esq., Kenneth H. Hume, Esq., Professor N. H. Johannesen, Professor R. H. Kantorowich, Professor J. H. Kellgren, Rev. J. S. Kennaugh, Dr. Dietrich Kötzsche, Rev. F. E. P. S. Langton, Rabbi Dr. Israel O. Lehman, Mrs. T. W. Manson, Professor E. V. Morgan, Dr. T. D. Mosconas, A. Moseley, Esq., Rev. A. Nadson, Professor Antonio Olinto, A. J. N. W. Prag, Esq., Professor R. H. Preston, J. Read, Esq., Mrs. L. Read, D. W. Riley, Esq., Dr. P. S. N. Russell-Gebbett, Walter Rydeheard, Esq., R. Simon, Esq., Professor R. E. Smith, Sir Edmund Stockdale, Bt., R. Edgar Stowell, Esq., Rev. Medagoda Sumanatissa, Sir John Thomson, Rev. Dr. Jacob Vellian, Miss Evelyn Walmsley, Professor H. D. Westlake, Dr. G. M. White, Dr. W. Wilcox, Dr. R. C. Willis, R. A. Young, Esq.

Institutions

Abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solesmes, Sablé-sur-Sarthe ; Academia das Ciências de Lisboa ; Academia Portuguesa da História, Lisbon ; Academia Republicii Socialiste România, Bucharest ; Akademia Teologii Katolickiej, Warsaw ; American Jewish Committee, New York ; Argalia Editore, Urbino ; Association des Archivistes et Bibliothécaires, Brussels.

Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw ; Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, Geneva ; Bibliothèque Générale et Archives du Maroc, Rabat ; Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg ; British Academy ; British Council ; British Museum (Natural History).

Cambridge University Press ; Chetham's Library, Manchester ; Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

Danmarks Institut for International Udveksling af Videnskabelige Publikationer, Copenhagen ; Déri Múzeum, Debrecen ; Derbyshire County Record Office ; Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung, Darmstadt ; Dr. Williams's Library, London.

East Sussex County Library ; English Literary Society of Japan, Tokyo.

Foundation for Reformation Research, St. Louis ; Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library, London ; Fratelli Fabbri Editore, S.p.A., Milan ; French Embassy, London ; Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon.

German Embassy, London ; Guildhall Library, London.

Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

India Office Library, London ; Institute of National History, Skopje ; Instituto Francisco Suárez, Madrid ; Instituut de Vooy, Utrecht ; Israel Society for Biblical Research, Jerusalem ; Istituto Storico Domenicano di S. Sabina, Rome.

Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany, Ltd., London ; Jóna András Múzeum, Nyíregyháza.

Kungliga Biblioteket, Stockholm ; Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence.

Lancashire Congregational Union ; Leningrad Academy of Sciences ; Library of Congress, Washington ; Greater London Council Record Office ; London University, Institute of Classical Studies ; London University, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest ; Manchester City Art Gallery ; Manchester Society of Architects ; Manchester Town Hall Committee ; Massachusetts Historical Society.

National Archives of India, New Delhi ; National Central Library, London ; National Library of Australia, Canberra ; National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh ; National Library of

262 THE JOHN RYLANDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Wales, Aberystwyth ; National Register of Archives, London ; Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, Leiden ; North Riding County Record Office ; Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Joint County Record Office.

Oesterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna ; Oxford University Press.

Paideia Editrice, Brescia ; Pierpont Morgan Library, New York ; Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Cracow ; Polska Akademia Nauk, Komitet Orientalistyczny, Warsaw ; Public Archives of Canada, Manuscript Division, Ottawa.

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam ; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew ; Royal Netherlands Embassy, London.

Service des Antiquités, Algiers ; Shropshire County Record Office ; Smith College Library, Northampton, Mass. ; Società Editrice il Mulino, Bologna ; Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn. ; Stadtbibliothek, Memmingen ; State Library, Pretoria ; Sweet Publishing Co., Austin, Texas ; Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem ; Swiss Bank Corporation, Basel ; Swiss Embassy, London ; Szépművészeti Múzeum, Budapest.

Theologische Schule, Bethel ; Toronto University Press.

United States National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland.

Vatican Library ; Veszprém Megye Muzéumi Igazgatósága. York University, Borthwick Institute of Historical Research.

University Libraries

Aberdeen ; Barcelona ; Basel ; Besançon ; Birmingham ; Bradford ; Bristol ; Buenos Aires ; California, Berkeley ; California, Santa Barbara ; Canterbury, New Zealand ; Cape Town ; Copenhagen ; Cornell ; Costa Rica ; Doshisha, Kyoto ; Dundee ; Edinburgh ; Genoa ; Giessen ; Glasgow ; Gothenburg ; Groningen ; Hamburg ; Heidelberg ; Helsinki ; Hong Kong ; Hull ; Illinois ; Jagiellonian, Cracow ; Jyväskylä ; Kansas ; Lancaster ; Leeds ; London ; Louvain ; Lund ; Madrid ; Mendoza ; Michigan ; Nedlands, Western Australia ; New England ; New York State ; Newcastle-upon-Tyne ;

Newfoundland ; Nottingham ; Ohio ; Pamplona ; Panjab, Chandigarh ; Pennsylvania ; Princeton ; Queen's, Belfast ; Reading ; Saar ; Saint Andrews ; Saint Bonaventure, New York ; Santo Domingo ; Sheffield ; Stanford ; Sussex ; Swansea ; Szeged ; Tucuman ; Uppsala ; Witwatersrand, Johannesburg ; Yale ; Zürich.