

PhD in Classical Philology

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10th cycle

PhD THESIS

Le annotazioni di Pomponio Leto a Lucano (Vat. Lat. 3285): libri I-IV con un'appendice sulla *Vita Lucani*

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ABSTRACT

In this work I realized the first critical edition of the notes that Giulio Pomponio Leto wrote on Lucan's *Pharsalia*, and that are included only in the autograph manuscript Vat. Lat. 3285.

The thesis, consisting of five chapters, has pointed out both the *Nachleben* of Lucan's poem and the originality of a humanistic reading of *Bellum ciuile*.

After an introductory chapter on the Pomponio Leto's life and works, there is a brief discussion of Lucan's exegesis before the Humanism.

Through a critical study it was possible to me to underline the type and the structure of the Pomponian notes and the Latin and Greek sources- not always reported- quoted by the humanist, (the most mentioned Latin author is Pliny Maior, followed by Caesar, Florus, Hyginus, Varro, Silius Italicus, Valerius Flaccus, Cicero, Pomponius Mela; concerning the Greek sources, the most mentioned authors are Herodotus, Strabo, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Diodorus Siculus, Plutarch, Theophrast, Hesiod, Pindar. As Pomponio did not know Greek, he read the literary works- that haven't been identified up to now- of the Greek authors in a Latin version).

Besides, I emphasized the method the humanist used to quote (such as mistakes, misunderstandings, summaries, paraphrases, additions) and the bad quality of the copy of Lucan's text made by Pomponio. Thanks to this analysis I could identify the type of those notes such as their historical features and the geographic, mythological and antiquarian ones.

It deals with notes whose show of Pomponio's learning predominates over the attention to the language and textual criticism. The humanist used the exegetic method consisting in explaining only the parts of Lucan's poem that he wanted his pupil, Fabio Mazzatosta, to study in Rome in 1469.

Pomponio did not design his work for publishing because his aim was a teaching method.

In the last chapter of the thesis I made a critical edition of *Epitaphium* and *Vita Lucani* written by Pomponio (Vat. lat. 3285 ff. 135v-137r).

The *Vita Lucani* is a blending of different classical sources: *uita Lucani* of Vacca, *Annales* of Tacitus, *Genethliacon Lucani ad Pollam* of Statius (*silu.* 2,7), Quintilian and Lucan himself; this biography reached its fortune only when it was published, with some variants, in the *editio princeps* of *Pharsalia*, printed in Rome in 1469.

Then this *Vita*, present in *editio princeps*, became the basis for subsequent copies both manuscripts and printed.

The *Vita Lucani* of Pomponio is very important because it was the only humanistic life to have a great success and to be transmitted together with Lucan's ancient lives.

Besides, this life testifies the fame of Pomponio even outside Rome and the great fortune of Lucan during the Humanism.

After my researches I end up stating that the study of the Pomponian notes is not helpful to know in deep Lucan and his poem, but it contributes to know better the scholiastic activity on Lucan and the humanists' approach to the works of Latin and Greek authors.