

## Notes on Fable Incunabula containing the Planudean Life of Aesop.

Prof. Aug. Hausrath's recent article in this journal on *Die Äsopstudien des Maximus Planudes* having again called the attention of scholars to the subject, it may be of interest to give some account of the oldest editions in the various languages of Western Europe of the Planudean *Life of Aesop*. As the incunabula in question are exceedingly numerous, I shall confine myself to giving a brief description of some dozen or more copies which have been personally inspected by me. In this way, it will be possible, no doubt, to add something definite to the general stock of information concerning editions which owing to their extreme rarity have remained almost unknown to the scholarly world.

### A. Greek Editions.

1. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Yb. 478 (Exposition VII. 125). (Vidimus, July 24, 1897.)

This is a copy of the famous *editio princeps* of Bonus Accursius printed probably at Milan about 1479 A. D. The text begins on fo 1 ro: Bonus Accursius Pifanus doctissimo ac sapientissimo || mo ducali quaestori Iohanni Francisco turriano || salutem plurimam dicit. ||

The Greek *Life of Aesop* with which we are concerned begins on fo 2 ro, and continues to fo 31 vo, but one leaf appears to be missing. The *Fables* follow from fo 32 ro to fo 69 ro, fo 69 vo being entirely blank. The volume is plainly bound in red leather with full gilt edges, etc., and bears the stamps: Bibliothèque [Roya]le. I. on fo 1 ro, and Bibliothèque Impériale. Impr. on fo 32 ro. On the binding there is the following title: AESOPI || FABULAE || MEDIOLAN || CIRCA || 1480 || TOM || I ||. This volume formerly had the shelf number Y. 579.

2. Washington, Library of Congress, Chap. 35 (Exhibition). (Vidimus, Oct. 8, 1898.)

This is another copy of the *editio princeps*, and has accordingly

the same text as the copy just described. There seems, however, to be an additional folio in the *Life of Aesop*, but a careful comparison would be needed to determine this point definitely. The volume ends as above, while the last printed page of our text (fo 32 vo) contains only seventeen lines according to my count. Fo 1 ro bears the stamp: Library of Congress || 1876 || City of Washington. It is my intention to give a more detailed description of this copy at some later time.

3. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Yb. 388. (Vidimus, July 2, 1897.)

This is a copy of the Bonus Accursius edition printed at Regium by Dionysius Berochus in 1497 A. D. Fo 1 ro has no printed matter upon it, and the text begins on fo 1 vo:

Bonus Accursius Pisanus doctissimo ac sapientissimo || ducali Quaestori Iohanni francisco Turriano salutem || plurimam dicit. || (i)N superiore codice. ut nosti. imprimi curavimus || Aesopi fabulas graecis & litteris (*sic*) & uerbis. subdidi || musq̄ earum interpretationē secundum Rynuciū Thetta || lum uirum mea sententia & doctum & disertum. Nunc uero quo maior liberis tuis ac facilior aditus sit ad utraq̄ || ligum & graecam & latinam. quaedā electiores fabulas || quae in cōmuni sunt nostrorum hominum usu. ita singu || latim in eisdē paginis informari curauimus ut in eodem || latere habeatur ex dextera parte graecus ex sinistra autē || latinus sermo. hoc enim pacto uerbū quasi uerbo respō || debit sine lōga inquisitione. Nihil enī p̄tereūdū existima || ui. quod tibi gratum fore sim arbitratus. nec praeteribo || uquā aliquid. quod aut ad tuam dignitatē aut ad tuorū || utilitatem cōducturum putem. Vale. ||

This edition does not contain the *Life of Aesop*, and a description of this copy is inserted here only because of the interesting reference which is made in the preface to the *editio princeps*. The Greek and Latin texts referred to begin on fo 2 ro, and are followed by the colophon: Regii Impressum per Dionysium berochum || Anno salutis MCCCCLXXXVII. The signatures are both peculiar and irregular, and run as follows: the first leaf has none, then aii, aiii, aiiii, four leaves, b, bii, βuu, βuu, four leaves, γ, γii, γuu, γuuu, four leaves, ζ, ζu, ζuu, ζuuu, four leaves, ε, εu, εuu, three leaves. Fo βuu vo has written on it the words: verte folia duo qua sequuntur.

The small stamp: Bibliothecae Regiae occurs on fo 1 ro and also on fo 2 ro. Another stamp: Bibliothèque Impériale. Impr. occurs on fo 9 ro and also on fo 38 ro. This volume was formerly known as Y. 6526, and prior to that as Z. 3521 and 898.

4. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Yb. 479 (Exposition I. 387). (Vidimus, July 24, 1897.)

This is a copy of the edition of Gabriel Bracius printed at Venice in 1498 A. D., it appears. The text begins on fo 1 ro: Gabriël Bracius Brasichellenfis bonarū || artium cultoribus. S. || Quanquam onus grauius esse, quam ut humeri no- ||.

The Greek text of the *Life of Aesop* begins on fo 2 ro, and is followed by the *Fables*, which end on fo 47 vo. On fo 48 ro we find the interesting words: Si quis ad decem annos haec in terris felicissimi. S. ueneti, aut || imprimere aufus erit, aut alibi impressa, uenalia || habere, ex' priuilegio multabitur. || Bartholomaei peluffi Iustropolitani, Gabriëlis bracii Bras- || chellénfis, Ioannis Biffoli, et Benedicti Mangii Carpen- sium || sumptibus impressa.

At the beginning of the volume there are six absolutely blank leaves, and at the end thirty-eight more such leaves. The printed leaves have the signatures  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha$ ii,  $\alpha$ iii,  $\alpha$ iiii, four leaves,  $\beta$ ,  $\beta$ ii,  $\beta$ iii,  $\beta$ iiii, four leaves,  $\Gamma$ ,  $\Gamma$ ii,  $\Gamma$ iii,  $\Gamma$ iiii, four leaves,  $\delta$ ,  $\delta$ ii,  $\delta$ iii,  $\delta$ iiii, four leaves,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon$ ii,  $\epsilon$ iii,  $\epsilon$ iiii, four leaves,  $\zeta$ ,  $\zeta$ ii,  $\zeta$ iii,  $\zeta$ iiii, four leaves. The stamp: Bibliothèque Impériale. Impr. occurs on fo 9 ro and again on fo 48 ro. On the back of the binding there are the letters: F. F. F., and on the front cover at the top: ΑΙΣΩΠΟΥ ΜΥΘΟΙ. Α. Also in various places there are fourteen capital F's and the royal coat of arms. The back is correspondingly ornamented, with the exception of the Greek words. The volume has full gilt edges, with figures cut into the leaves. It was formerly known as Y. 6524.

### B. Latin Editions.

1. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, m Yc. 130. 1. (Vidimus, Aug. 30, 1897.)

This is a copy of the edition of Rimicius printed by Antonius Zarotus at Milan in 1474 A. D. It is the *editio princeps* of the Latin translation of the *Life of Aesop*, or at least the earliest edition known to me which has a definite date. The text begins on fo 1 ro: Uita Esopi fabulatoris clarissimi e greco latina per || Rimicium facta ad Reuerendissimū patre, dnm || Antonium tituli sancti Chryfogoni presbiterum || Cardinalem. Et primo prohemium. (n)Ouas nimirum merces Reuerendissime ||. Fo 1 vo: Incipit uita Esopi. Fo 27 ro: Finis. Fo 28 ro: Argumentū fabularum Esopi e greco in latinum. Fo 28 ro, line 20: De aquila et uulpe. Fo 50 ro, line 23: Totius operis anacephaleosis. Fo 50 vo: Uerba libri ad emptorem (6 verses):

Si placet hybernas libris tibi fallere noctes: Colophon: Imp̄ffit Mli Antonio Zaroto p̄mensis Mcccclxxiiii.

There are twenty-seven lines to a page, but there are no signatures. The volume is bound in red and gold, and on its back has

the title: **ÆSOPI || FABULÆ || MEDIOLAN || 1474 ||**. The stamp: R. F. Bibliothèque Nationale. Imprimés occurs on fo 1 ro, and also on fo 50 ro. The volume was formerly known as Y. 2409.

2. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, m Yc. 120. (Vidimus, Aug. 28, 1897.)

This is a copy of the edition of Rimicius printed by Wendellinus de Wila at Rome in 1475. The text begins on Fo 1 vo: **VITA ESOPFI FABVLA- || TORIS MAXIMI. || ¶ ESOPVS maxius Fabular/ scriptor phieq̄ ||** Fo 2 ro: **Phrygii philosophi Esopi moralitas || de greco in latinū traducta Incipit. || ( )T iuuet et p̄fit.** The text ends on fo 20 vo: **¶ Fabula declarat datq̄ quod intus habet. ||** After this comes the colophon: **¶ Libellus Esopi Fabulatoris maximi per me || Vuendellinum de vuila in artibus Magistrum || Romeq̄ Impreffo Finit feliciter. Anno Salutis. || MCCCCLXXV. Die vero Sexta Iulii. ||** Finally there is a short poem. There are no signatures, nor glosses to the text. This copy is bound in blue and gilt, and has the title: **ÆSOPUS || ROMÆ || 1475 ||**. A large stamp: R. F. Bibliothèque Nationale. Impr. occurs on fo 1 ro; a small stamp with: R. F. Bibliothèque Nationale. Imprimés occurs on fo 2 ro, fo 10 ro, and fo 20 vo. The volume was formerly known as Y. 960.

3. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Yb. 395. (Vidimus, July 2, 1897.)

This is a copy of an edition of Rimicius which I have not been able to identify, but which I suspect of being one of the very oldest. The text begins on fo 1 ro: **¶ Magnifico domino Laurentio lauina Rynuncius fe || licitatem. . . . . ¶ Sequitur alia epistola.** Fo 2 ro begins: **¶ Vita Esopi Latina || per Rynuntium facta ad Reue/ || rendiffimum patrem & domi || num dominum (sic) Thomam ti/ || uli fancte Sufanne prefbiterū || Cardinalem hodie Nicolaum || papam quintū feliciter incipit. ||** Fo 22 vo: **¶ Vita Esopi finit feliciter. || Sequuntur fabule.** Fo 24 ro: **¶ Vite Esopi Commen/ || tarium super fabulis instar argu/ || menti incipit. || ( )Sopus fabulator clariffimus: natione qui/ || dem Frigius: fortuna vero feruus.** The colophon is as follows: **¶ Vita Esopi vna cum suis fabulis || per Rynuntium e greco in latinuq̄ || tranflata finit feliciter. || ¶ Regiftrum quaternorum huius libri. || . . . . . ¶ Fabula fignificat ¶ Finis.**

This copy is bound together with a number of other works (Yb. 395—401), one of the fly-leaves of the whole volume having the number Z. 3522, but this has been crossed out. The copy of Rimicius was formerly known as Y. 6534 and consists of forty-four leaves without signatures. The stamp: Bibliothecae. Regiae. occurs on fo 1 ro; while the stamp: Bibliothèque Royale is found on fo 22 vo, fo 23 ro and fo 24 ro.

4. Paris, Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, OE. 318. (Vidimus, Aug. 17, 1897.)

This is a copy of the edition of Rimicius printed by Antonius Zarotus at Milan in 1476. The text begins on fo 1 ro: Uita Efopi fabulatoris clariffimi e greco latina per || Rimicium facta ad reuerendiffimum patreꝝ dn̄ꝝ || Antonium tituli sancti Chryfologi presbiterum || Cardinalem. Et primo prohemium. || ( ) Ouas nimiruꝝ merces Reuerendissime || pater: Fo 55 ro: Uerba libri ad emptorem (6 verses). **MEDIOLANI.** || Antonius Zarotus Permenfis. 1476. || Sexto Kalendas Martias Impreffit. The last leaf is entirely blank. The signatures are quite regular and are as follows: *ai, au, aii, iiii*, four leaves, *bi, bii, biii, biiii*, four leaves, *ci, cii, ciii, ciiii*, four leaves, *di, dii, diii, diiii*, four leaves, *ei, eii, eiii, eiiii*, four leaves, *fi, fii, fiii, fiiii*, four leaves, *gi, gii, giii, giiii*, four leaves.

On the back of the cover is stamped: **VITA ESOPi || POMP. MELLI || C. PLIN. EPIST.** This volume was formerly known as C. I. P. 7, and on the inside of the cover there is the following entry: *Ex Libris Josephi Varesi SSctę Vaticanę Basilicę Canċi die 2 Martii 1756.*

5. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, m Yc. 132. (Vidimus, Aug. 24, 1897.)

This is a copy of the edition of Rimicius printed by Antonius Zarotus at Milan in 1476 A. D. The text begins on fo 1 ro: Uita Efopi fabulatoris clariffimi e greco latina per ||. On fo 55 ro there is the following colophon: **MEDIOLANI.** || Antonius Zarotus Permenfis. 1476. || Sexto Kalendas Martias Impreffit. The last leaf is entirely blank. The signatures are regular from *a* to *g*, with the single exception that *iiii* is found in place of *aiiii*. The stamp: *R. F. Bibliothèque Nationale* occurs on fo 1 ro, and also on fo 49 ro.

6. Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, B. L. 12705. (Vidimus, July 1, 1897.)

This is a copy of the edition of Rimicius published by Philippus Lavagnia at Milan in 1480. The text begins on fo 1 ro: Vita Efopi fabulatoris clariffimi e greco latina || per Rimiciū facta. . . . Et primo prohemium. || (q) Vas nimirum merces Reuerendissime pa || ter: *fed haud ignauia opum pōdera: nu || per e grecia in latinum conuexi:* The colophon is as follows: *Impressuꝝ Mediolani ad ipēfas Philippi Lauagniaę || Ciuis Mediolanēfis. 1480. die. 4. mēfis Septēb'.* The stamp: *Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal* is found on fo 1 ro, and also below the colophon. The signatures are somewhat irregular: *a* (either blank or wanting), *a2, a3, a4*, four leaves, *bi, b2, b3, b4*, four leaves, *ci, c2, c3, c4*, one leaf, *c4*, two leaves, *di, d2*, two leaves, *ei, e2, e3, e4*,

four leaves, fi, f2, f3, f4, four leaves, gi, g2, g3, g4, three leaves, making fifty printed leaves. An additional blank leaf was probably originally left at the end of the volume.

7. New York, Lenox Library, unnumbered. (Vidimus, Sept. 8, 1899.)

This is a copy of the edition of Francesco del Tупpo printed probably by Matthaeus Moravus at Naples in 1485. It contains both the original Latin text and the Italian version of the author mentioned, the *Life of Aesop* preceding the *Fables* as usual. I regret not having been able to give this volume a more careful examination.

8. Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, V. H. 652. (Vidimus, June 25, 1897.)

This is a copy of Heinrich Steinhöwel's collection as printed by Gerardus Leeu at Antwerp in 1486. It contains the Latin text without the German translation. Fo 1 ro has the usual picture of Esopus found in the Steinhöwel editions, above which are the words: Fabule z vita esopi: cum fabulis Auiani: Alfonsii: Pogii florentini: z alio || rum: cum optimo cōmento: bene diligenterq; correcte z emendate. The colophon is as follows: Expliciunt fabule z vita Esopi: cum fabulis Auiani. Alfonsii. Pogii || florentini: et alior/ cum optimo cōmento: bene diligenterq; correcte z || emendate: Impresse Antwerpie per me Gerardum leeu Anno dom̄i || Millefimo quadingentesimo octuagesimo sexto Menfe septembri. || die vero vicefima sexta.

The stamp: Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique is found on fo 1 ro, while on the inside of the cover is a book-plate with a device, quotation and the legend: Ex Bibliotheca C. van Hulthem. This copy is bound together with another work.

9. Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, Inc. 76. (Vidimus, June 25, 1897.)

This is a copy of an edition of Rimicius which I have not been able to identify. On fo 1 vo there is the usual picture of the fabulist headed: Esopus. Fo 2 ro the text begins: Vita Esopi fabulatoris clarissimi e greco latina per Rimicium || facta ad reuerendissimum patrem dominū Anthoniū tituli sancti || Chryfogni presbiterum Cardinalem. | Qvi per omnē vitā vite studiosissimus fuit is || fortuna seruus / . . . . There is no colophon. There are one hundred and eleven leaves with very irregular signatures as follows: the first two leaves have none, then a3, aiiij, four leaves, bi, bii, biii, three leaves, ci, cii, ciii, ciiii, three leaves, di, dii, diii, two leaves, ei, eii, eiii, eiiii, four leaves, fi, fii, fiii, three leaves, gi, gii, giii, giiii, four leaves, hi, hii, hiii, three leaves, i j, i jj, i iij, i iiij, three leaves, ki, kii, kiii, three leaves, li, lii, liii, liiii, four leaves, mi, mii, miii, three leaves, ni, nii, niij, niijj, four leaves, o, oij, oijj, three leaves, pi, pii, piij, piijj, four leaves, q, qii,

qiii, qiiii, four leaves. On fo 1 ro is the stamp: Bibliotheque Royale. Fonds de la Ville.

10. Liège, Bibliothèque de l'Université, XVII. 56. 5. (Vidimus, June 22, 1897.)

This is a copy of an edition of Steinhöwel's Latin collection which I am unable to identify. Some modern hand has inserted the words: Basle 1501 at the end of the volume, which appears to be incomplete. The text begins on fo 2 ro: Uita Esopi fabulatoris clarissimi e greco latina per Rinucium facta ad reuerendissimū Patrem dominū Anthoniū tituli sancti Chrysogoni presbiterum Cardinalem. The signatures alternate in the following curious manner: the first leaf has none, then a, aiii, aiiii, four leaves, b, bii, biii, three leaves, c, cii, ciii, ciiii, four leaves, d, one leaf, diii, three leaves, ei, e, eiii, eiiii, four leaves, f, fii, fiii, three leaves, gi, gii, giii, giiii, four leaves, hi, one leaf, hiii, three leaves, i, i ii, i iii, i iiiii, four leaves, ki, kii, kiii, three leaves, li, lii, liii, liiiii, four leaves, mi, mij, miii, three leaves, nj, nii, nij, niij, four leaves, oj, oij, oij, three leaves, pi, pij. This is an extremely well-preserved copy.

Readers who are interested more especially in the subject of Fable Incunabula may consult my *Manual of Aesopic Fable Literature*, Baltimore 1896, where numerous references to additional copies and editions will be found.

Baltimore.

George C. Keidel.