

**Ovid, *Heroides***

2° f°: Scirem

Vellum (FSOS). Fols iii (numbered fols i-ii, 1) + 48 (numbered fols 2-49) + iii (numbered fols 50-52). Overall 255 mm x 175 mm (writing area 188 mm x 120 mm, measured to the bounds, not the line ends). In long lines, 36 lines to the page. No prickings; bounded and ruled in brown crayon and rusty brown ink. Written in Italian gothic textura rotunda, in the main a single scribe but odd leaves in the first and last quires look another hand or another style. Punctuation by virgula for midline pauses, a triple point (for a hedera?) at the end of each couplet. Owen states (1936:156-57, full reference below) that the spelling suggests that the MS was written in the Veneto.

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Fols 2-49<sup>v</sup>: '[heading added later] penelope vlixi Hanc tua penelope lento tibi mittit ulixes | Nil michi rescribas --- uirginis anis | Quos uereor paucos non uelit esse michi . . . !

OID, Heroides, ending, as do most copies, at 21.14, ed. Heinrich Dörrie (Berlin, 1971), 47-275, with six lines blank at the foot of fol. 49<sup>v</sup>. This MS, as a great many others, lacks (fol. 30<sup>v</sup>) epistle 15 (Sappho to Phaon); cf. Dörrie's list of MSS with this letter (297-304). For the potential contribution of the MS to study of Ovid's text, see S. G. Owen, 'A Manuscript of Ovid's Heroides', Classical Quarterly 30 (1936), 155-69; 31 (1937), 1-15. The MS has been previously described, Ker MMBL, 3:607-8.

COLLATION 1-6<sup>8</sup>. Catchwords centred within dots or lines ending in dots. All leaves in the first half of each quire originally signed, but nearly all cut away; surviving are 'b i-iiii' in quire 2, 'c iiiii' (fol. 21), and parts of 'e' on several leaves in quire 4.

TEXTUAL PRESENTATION AND DECORATION At the opening of the text (fol. 1), a ten-line champe, violet with gold leaf, historiated with a turbaned Penelope, and blue and red ribbon-like border extenders; at the page foot, an unfilled blank for a blazon. Tilly de la Mare informed Ker (608 n1) that the decoration is Milanese. At the opening of each epistle, two-line red lombards. Capitals at the opening of each line set off in a separate column. See AT no. 994 (103), dating the illustration s. xv<sup>2/4</sup> and identifying it as Milanese.

BINDING Modern red leather over millboards with a triple fillet in gilt. Sewn on five thongs. In gilt in the spine compartments, 'Ovidii Heroides M.S. in membranis saec. xiv'. Pastedowns and endleaves modern vellum, a College bookplate on the front pastedown. At the front, the modern vellum endleaf and two medieval vellum flyleaves, the first mounted on paper; at the rear, two medieval vellum flyleaves, the second mounted on paper, and the modern vellum endleaf (50-52). The first front and last rear flyleaves are pieces of a legal document, perhaps an original wrapper, the top of the text at the front, the foot at the rear, each mounted sideways with its head in the gutter and with

notes written over the original. The other two medieval flyleaves also are covered with notes.

Flyleaf text:

Fols 1<sup>v</sup>, 50<sup>v</sup>: a document from Milan, dated 1363, concerning bits of property apparently to be used to support a new nunnery in the 'porta Vercellina', with subscriptions by 'Egidiolus natus domini Pasini de serono' and 'Vpoforus natus condam domini Alcherij de <.>uaschis', the latter the notary who wrote the text. Written in continental cursive, s. xiv. What would have been the dorse (fol. 1, the text badly scraped) has the endorsement 'Inuestitura dominarum Mon' noui facta m' thomasinum et gaspereolum fratres de Ruyno'.

PROVENANCE There is an extensive series of inscriptions indicating use of the MS as a school text in Italy in the fifteenth century: (a) 'Iste liber ouidi est nostrorum videlicet petri Antonii filiorum domini Iohannis de Nailate pergentium ad scholas Bertrami da Lucino qui est bonus doctor in sua grammatica' (fol. ii<sup>v</sup>, s. xv). (b) 'Iste ouidius est mei francisi Iohannis et donati filiorum antonii de naylate qui pergunt ad scholas domini magistri georgij de erba qui est bonus doctor in sua gramatica et in ?allis scie<nciis>' (fol. 51). (In the front of the volume, there is a letter from the classical palaeographer E. A. Lowe, 12 September 1929, pointing out this information about provenance. (c) 'Ego simon de n<.....> de superiori sum bonus <...> xvj. menssis februarij Mccccvj.' (fol. ii<sup>v</sup>). (d) 'Iste liber est mei franci\s/cus [sic] de remoridis qui pergunt ad scholas domini magistri <teo>dori de lucino qui est bonus doctor . . .' (several times, in one form or another, on fol. 50, ? s. xv). Ker cites a Theodore Lucinus of Como, who wrote a grammar, a printed copy of which is in BL.

The MS was sold by Sotheby, 1902, the sale of Henry White, lot 1629, whence purchased by S[idney] G. Owen (Owen 1936:155), who bequeathed it to the College. Owen matriculated at Balliol in 1877; he received his BA in 1882 (with two prizes) and an MA in 1886. He was elected student and tutor in Classics at Christ Church in 1891 and served until his retirement in 1927. He was an important editor of poetic texts, of Catullus (1893), of Juvenal (whom he also translated, 1902), and of Ovid's Tristia (1915; see the next MS). He died in 1940 aged 81.