



VICTOR
GARDAT HVS
FINGERAT

Part 2

Catalogue

Introductory Note

The following pages contain brief descriptions of all the manuscripts on display in the exhibition. In addition to the conventional information, the descriptions state briefly the role each manuscript played in the process of Bessarion's work on *In Calumniatorem Platonis*, record its location in Bessarion's library (*locus* or *topos*) and, on the basis of Lotte Labowsky's study, indicate whether it has been identified with an item in Inventory A, which accompanied the act of donation, and/or Inventory B, which documents the transferral of the books to Venice, both during Bessarion's lifetime and after his death. The description of each manuscript found in Inventories A and/or B is also quoted.

All this information is relevant for a variety of reasons. The fact that the *locus* ("pressmark", as Labowsky calls it) is present in a particular manuscript could be interpreted as an indication that we have a completed work (as opposed to a mere draft or a working copy), which had its place in Bessarion's library at his residence in Rome. The absence of such information can be an indication that we are dealing with a working copy or a draft that was used in the process of composing the *ICP* by Bessarion himself or by members of his learned circle. It is not unreasonable to suppose that works without a *locus* were at some point on Bessarion's desk or circulated among the members of his entourage. In some other rare cases, this information is missing simply as a result of re-binding and its absence has no interpretative value. It is important to stress that the *locus* is an indication of a place where the book was supposed to be stored, rather than a unique 'ID-number' assigned to a single book, as the number of manuscripts allocated to a single *locus* vary from 2 (*locus* 63) to 21 (*locus* 33). Sometimes the book was reassigned by Bessarion from one *locus* to the other, as is the case, for example, with Gr. Z. 187 (742). The information obtained from the inventories edited by Labowsky is also revealing. However, it should be noted that the identification of a manuscript with an item in the inventories is by no means straightforward. It might have been so, if Bessarion or his collaborators had given each manuscript a unique number or code that appeared both on the manuscript and in the inventory. However, there is no such unequivocal link between actual manuscripts and the entries in the inventories. The identification of the entries with the manuscripts is one important outcome of the titanic project completed by Labowsky. It was she who solved the complicated "puzzle" as to which manuscript now extant in the Marciana is most probably indicated by each descriptive entry in the inventories. Undoubtedly, Labowsky's solution is correct in the majority of cases. However, in a few instances, it must remain a hypothesis and not a certainty (e.g. Lat. VI, 76 below). I quote these descriptions to highlight the available evidence collected by Labowsky in her study. The inclusion of these quotes does not imply that, in all cases, I agree with Labowsky's identification or have verified it myself.

Finally, the "Literature" section of each entry contains selected references to the secondary literature where more detailed descriptions of each manuscript may be found. In the age of electronic databases, it appeared superfluous to include a full secondary bibliography to each manuscript as it would probably become incomplete and even obsolete before the first printed copies of the catalogue leave the publishing house.

I Final Redaction

1 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 198 (744)

Parchment, middle of XV c., mm 280 x 195 x 95, ff. 318, *lineis plenis* 29, *spatium scripturae* mm 170 x 110. Titles, incipit and explicit, marginal notes are in red. Initials at the beginning of each of the six books are red and gilded.

It contains six books of *In Calumniatorem Platonis (versio graeca)* in its final redaction. Bk. 1, ff. 3-31v; Bk. 2, ff. 31v-84; Bk. 3, ff. 84-162; Bk. 4, ff. 162-242v; Bk. 5, ff. 243-294; Bk. 6, ff. 294v-316v; ff. 317-318v + II are empty.

Bessarion's library	<i>locus</i> 56
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 536	"Opus domini Reverendissimi in calumniatorem Platonis, in pergameno"
Literature	Mioni 1981, 310



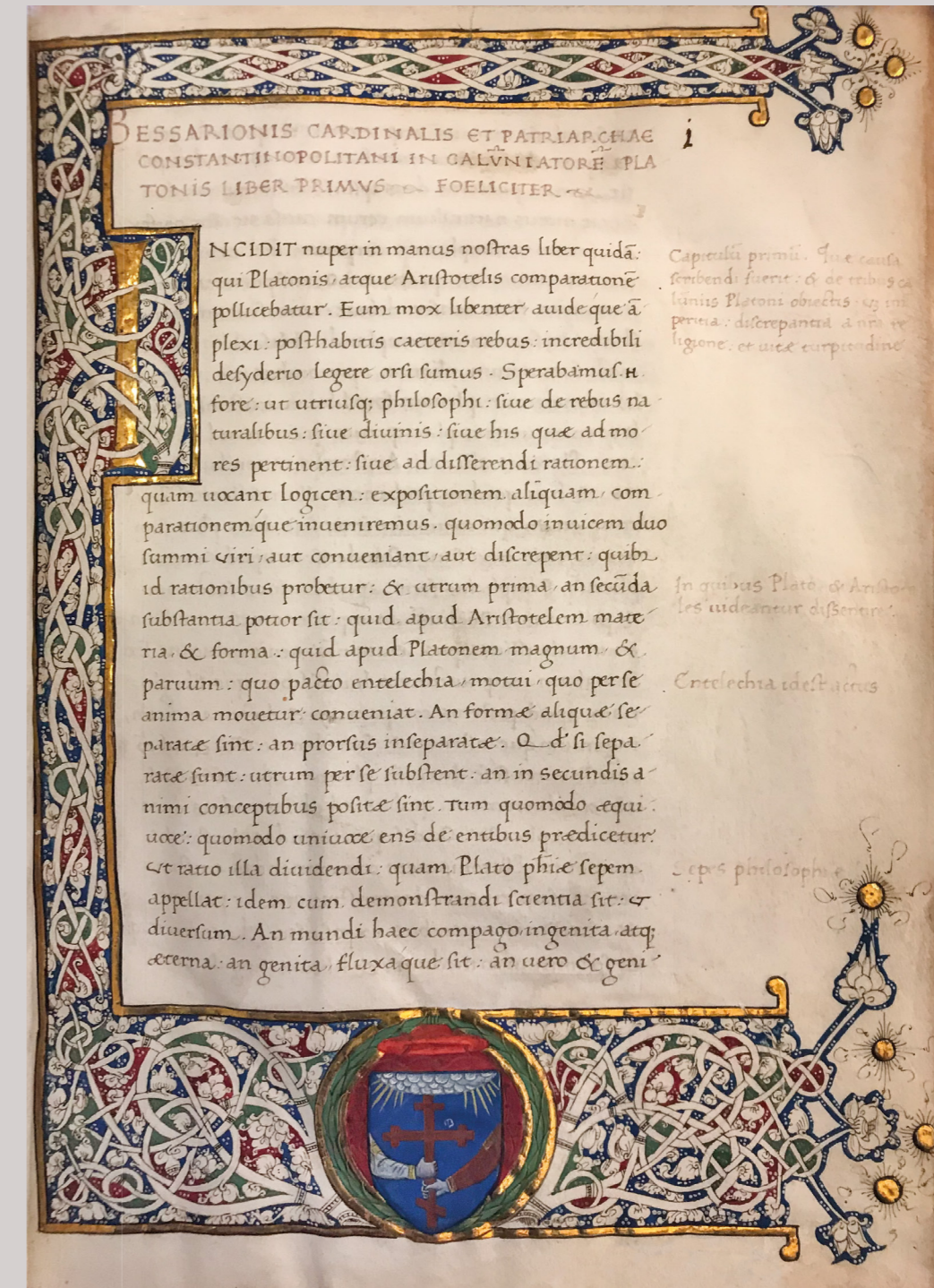
1 Venezia, BNM, Gr. Z. 198 (744), f. 3r

2 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Lat. Z. 229 (1695)

Parchment, middle of XV c., mm 280 × 195 × 95, *spatium scripturae* mm 180 × 110, *lineis plenis* 28, ff. IV, 364 with reclamants on f. 10v (I), 20v (II), 30v (III), 40v (III), 50v (V), 60v (VI), 70v (VII), 80v (VIII), 90v (IX), 100v (X), 110v (XI at the edge of the page), 120v (minimal traces of the Roman numeral barely discernible at the edge of the page), 130v (Roman numeral cut off, minimal traces), 140v (XIII), 150v (XV at the very edge), 160v (XVI), 170v (XVII), cut), 180v (traces), 190v (XVIII), 200v (XII/XVIII), 210v (XIII (crossed through) / XX), 220v (XIII / XXI), 230v (XXII), 240v (XXIII), 250v (XXIII), 260v (XXV), 270v (XXVI), 280v (XXVII), 290v (XXVIII), 300v (XXVIII), 310v (XXX), 320v (XXXI), 330v (XXXII), 338v (XXXIII), 348v (XXXIII), 358v (XXXV); ff. 270, 337v-338v, 360-364 are empty. Round humanist script, titles, incipit and explicit, marginal notes and Greek words and phrases embedded in Latin text are in red. Coloured and gilded initials at the beginning of each book.

It contains six books of *In Calumniatorem Platonis (versio latina)* in its final redaction. Bk. 1, ff. 1-36; Bk. 2, ff. 36v-101; Bk. 3, ff. 101-181; Bk. 4, ff. 181-269; Bk. 5, ff. 271-337; Bk. 6, ff. 339-359.

Bessarion's library	<i>locus</i> 33
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 717	"Opus Domini Reverendissimi in calumniatorem Platonis in pergamento, pulchrum"
Literature	Valentinelli 1871, 4: 5-6; Mohler 1923-42, 1: 364; 2: VIII; Gasparrini Leporace, Mioni 1968, 14-15



2 Venezia, BNM, Lat. Z. 229 (1695), f. 1r

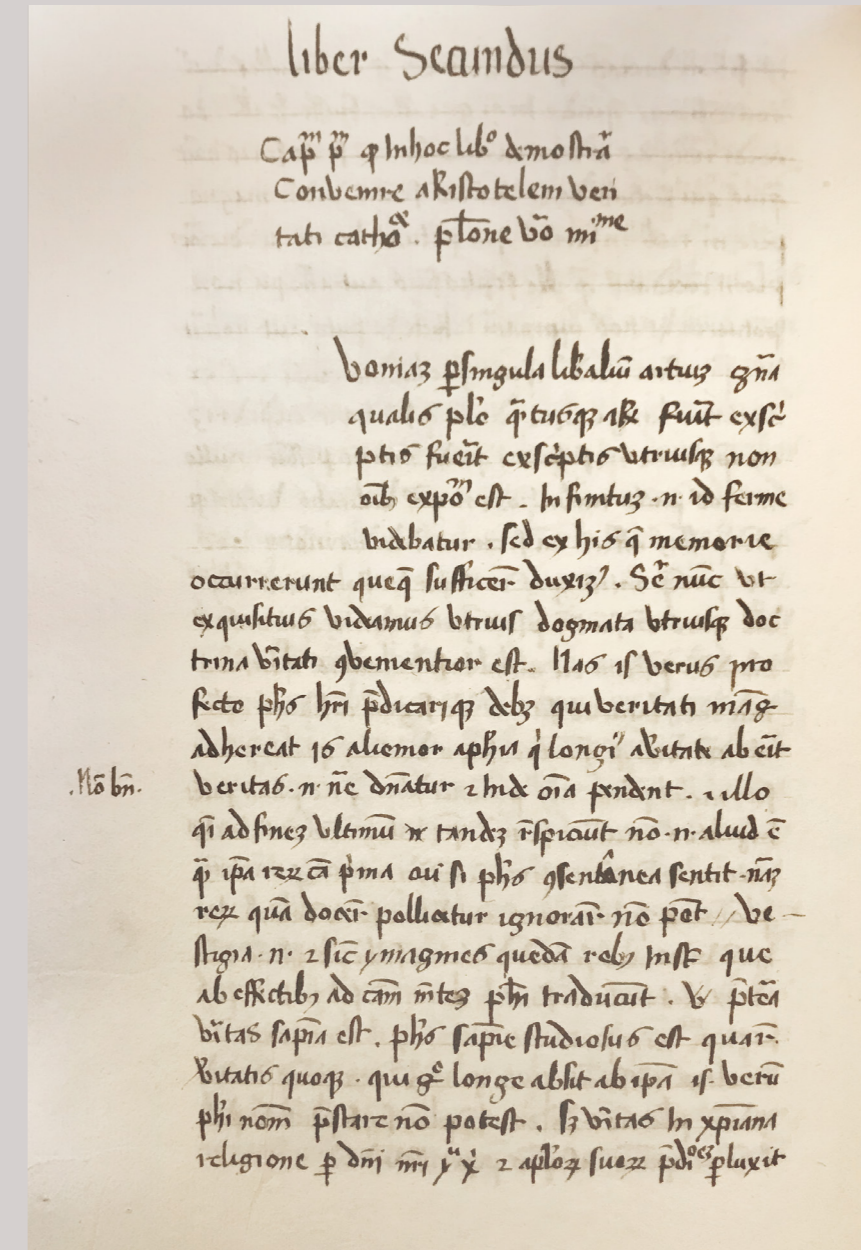
II Bessarion and Georgios Trapezuntios

3 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Lat. VI, 76 (2848)

Paper, middle of XV c. (1458), mm 223 × 53 × 45, *spatium scripturae* mm 150 × 85 remains relatively constant across fascicles, number of lines varies according to the scribe of each fascicle from 23 to 29, ff. II + 178 + II ff., 18 fascicles written by 15 different scribes, ff. 6-8, 29v-30, 37-40, 79v-80, 98v-100, 116v-118, 137v-138, 164v-168 are empty; titles of the first three chapters (on ff. 1, 3, 4), catchword on f. 5v, and “finis” on f. 178v are written in brown ink by Bessarion, titles throughout the book in red ink, damage to the upper part of the page from f. 159 becomes progressively worse until f. 178, which is preserved only in part.

It contains *Comparatio Philosophorum Platonis et Aristotelis*. Bk. 1, ff. 1-27; Bk. 2, ff. 27v-107; Bk. 3, ff. 107-178.

Bessarion's library	no <i>locus</i>
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 893	“Trapezuntii contra Platonem, in papiro, sine tabulis” (identification with this item in the inventory is based on Labowsky 1979, 115, 238, <i>sed cf.</i> Monfasani 2021b, 366-7)
Literature	Valentinelli 1871, 4: 10, Monfasani 2021b, 366-78



3 Venezia, BNM, Lat. VI, 76 (2848), f. 27v

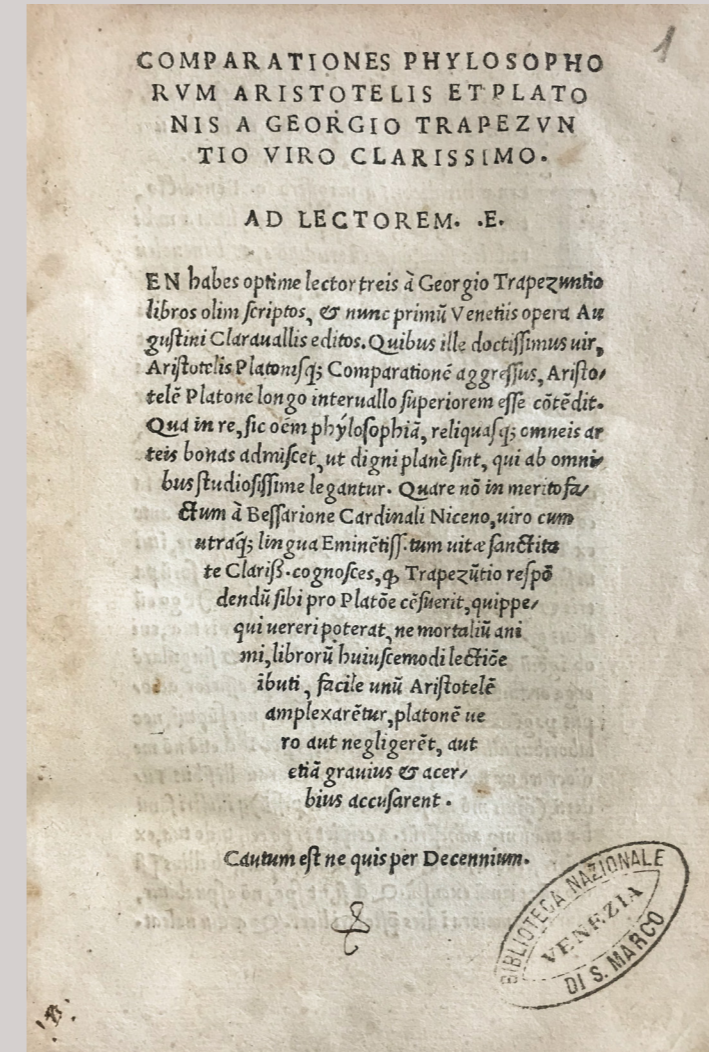
4 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, 79.D.107

Printed in 1523, mm 155 × 115 × 25, ff. 168. Modern binding, probably in the 1950s. Title on f. 1: "Comparationes phylosophorum Aristotelis et Platonis a Georgio Trapezuntio viro clarissimo". Colophon on f. 168: "Venetiis per Iacobum pentium de Leuco, a partu Virgineo MDXXIII nonis Ianuarii".

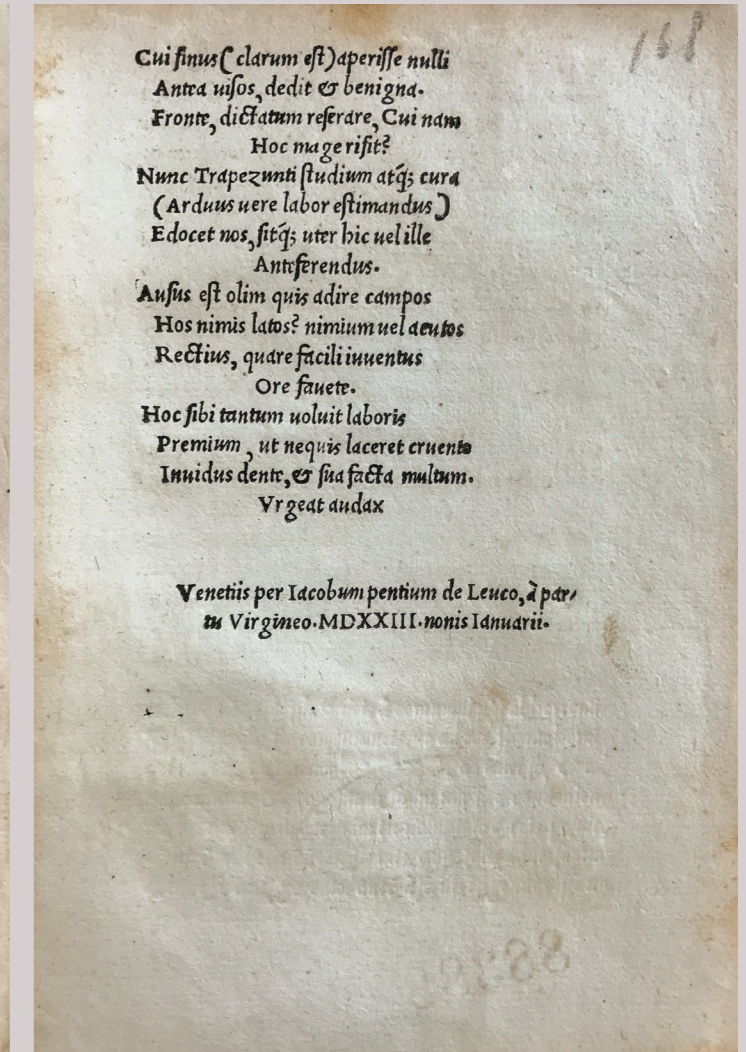
It contains a printed version of Georgios Trapezuntios *Comparatio Platonis et Aristotelis*.

This book was never part of Bessarion's library (printed in 1523).

Literature Monfasani 2021b, 428-38



4a Venezia, BNM, 79.D.107, f. 1r

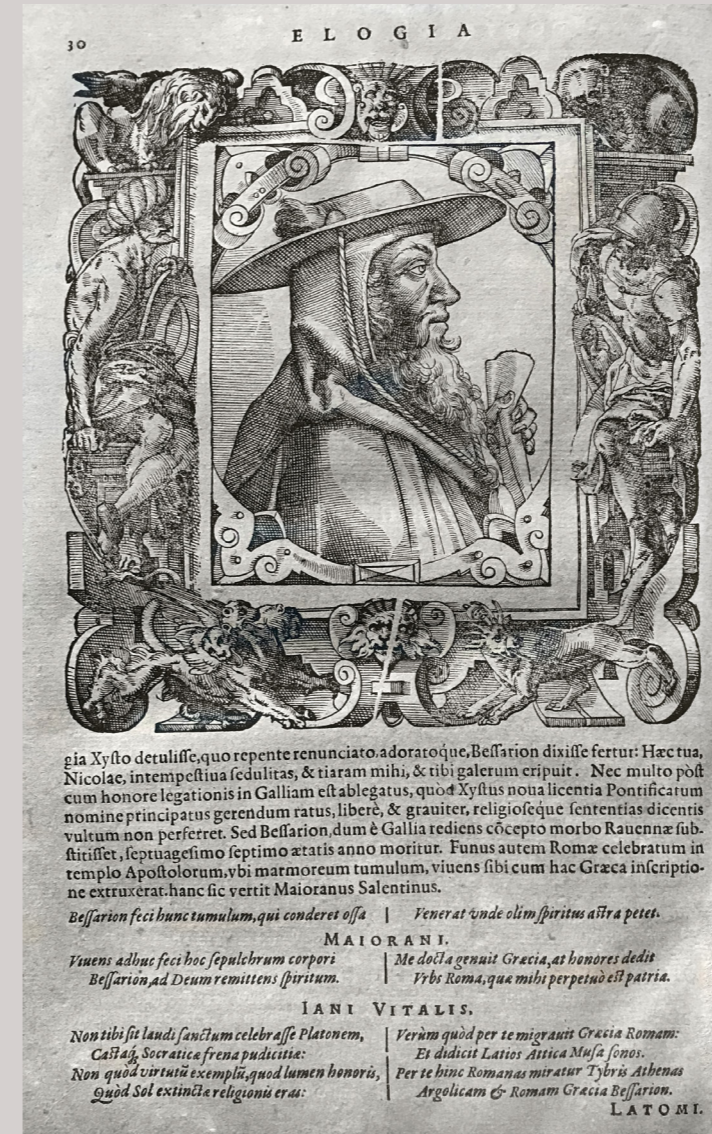


4b Venezia, BNM, 79.D.107, f. 168r

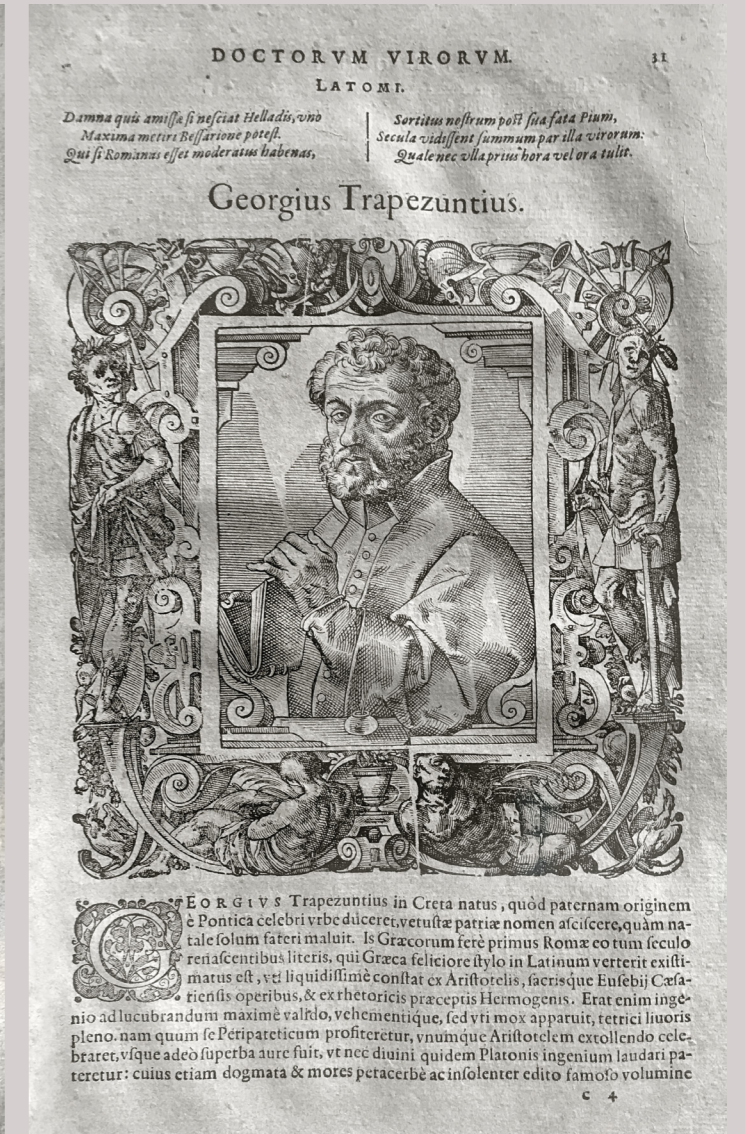
5 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, 161.D.10

Printed in 1577, mm 345 × 220 × 20. Title page + [VII] + 151 pp. Title: "Pauli Iovii [...] Elogia virorum literis illustrium [...] quotquot vel nostra velavorum memoria vixere". [...] Petri Perna Typographi. Basil. Opera ac Studio.

This book was never part of Bessarion's library (printed in 1577).



5a Venezia, BNM, 161.D.10.4, p. 30: Bessarion



5b Venezia, BNM, 161.D.10.4, p. 31: Georgios Trapezuntios

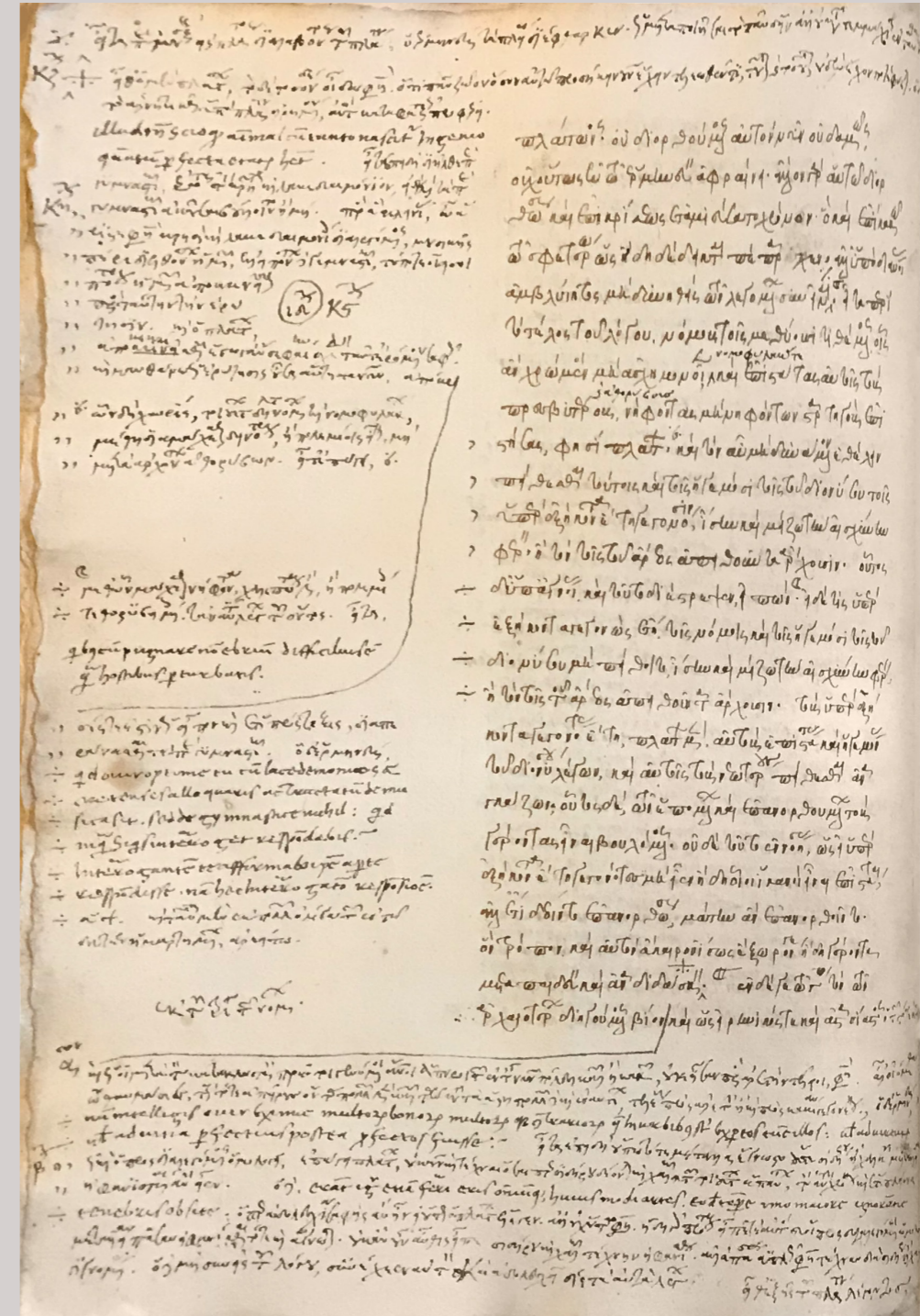
III Working with Plato

6 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 199 (604)

Paper, middle of XV c., mm 298 x 212, ff. VI + 225 (+ 176 bis), lineis plenis 16-21 in ff. 1-32, 87-96v, 20-27 in ff. 33-76v, 25 in ceteris foliis; spatium scripturae mm 180/195 x 110/135 in ff. 1-76v et mm 200 x 95 in ceteris foliis.

It contains Bessarion's working copy of the Greek version of Bk. 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the ICP (Bk. 1, ff. 1-39v; Bk. 2, ff. 39v-97; Bk. 4, ff. 97v-182v; Bk. 5, 183-224v).

Bessarion's library	no locus
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 518	"Eadem [sc. 'Defensio Platonis' ut B 516] in papiro, prima manu, consita in coperto pergameno"
Literature	Gasparrini Leporace, Mioni 1968, 7-8; Mioni 1981, 310-11; Mariev 2022 (forthcoming)



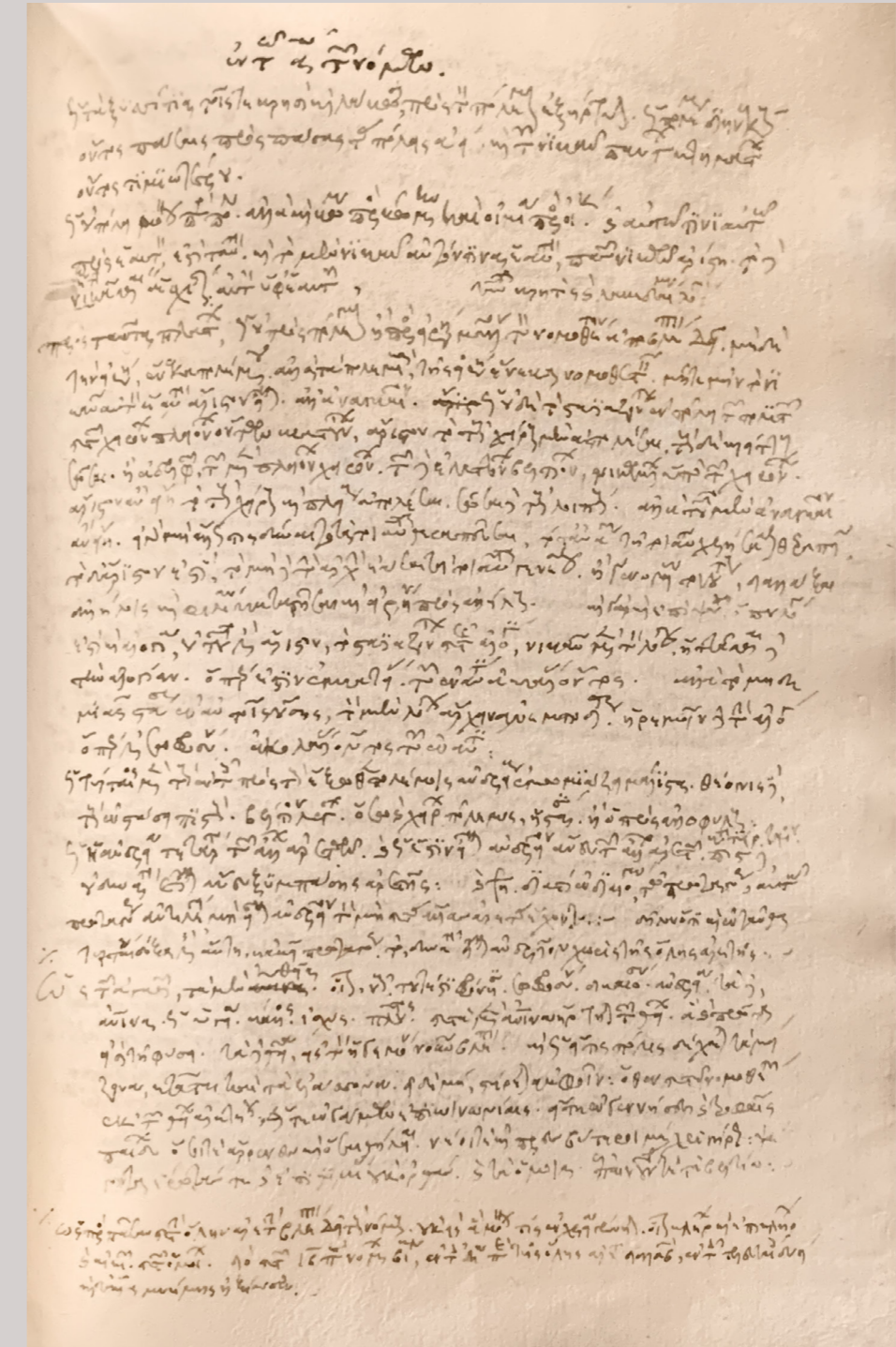
6 Venezia, BNM, Gr. Z. 199 (604), f. 197v

7 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 526 (776)

Paper, middle of XV c., mm 220 x 145 (mm 200 x 145 on ff. 64-100, 108-111), ff. I, 225, lineis plenis 26-39, spatium scripturae ca. mm 160/190 x 130/90. F. 1v index; 2-3v Plutarchus Vitae parallelae, excerpta ex vitis Timonis, Luculli et Themistocli; 4-24v Herodotus Historiae Excerpta; 25-47 Thucydides; 48-59v Xenophon historicus Hellenica Excerpta; ff. 60-63v are empty; 64-97v Plutarchus Vitae parallelae; 97v Porphyrius Vita Plotini; 100-107v Plato Leges; ff. 108-111v are empty; 112-135v Compendium operum Platonis; 136-148v Hermogenes rhetor De inuentione Excerpta; 149rv Plutarchus Apophthegmata Laconica; 149v-150 Plutarchus Vita Homeri; 150-151v Lucianus De saltatione Excerptum; 152-164 Proclus philosophus Institutio physica; 164v-167 Sententiae ex auctoribus ecclesiasticis collectae; f. 167v is empty; 176-195v Ptolemaeus Claudius Syntaxis mathematica; praemittitur varia geometrica et astronomica in lingua latina (ff. 168-175v); sequuntur definitiones mathematicae latine (ff. 196-199); ff. 199v-207v are empty; sequuntur geometrica et quaedam calculatoria (ff. 208-211 et 216-225); ff. 211v-215v are empty. Bessarion has been identified as the scribe of the entire volume with the exception of ff. 152-167.

It contains, most importantly, a collection of excerpts from Plato's Laws, attesting Bessarion's particular interest in this dialogue and his profound knowledge of it.

Bessarion's library	locus 76
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 592	"Excerpta quaedam ex Herodoto, Thucidide, et Xenophonte, et ex paralellis Plutarchi, et ex legibus Platonis, et epithoma legum eiusdem Platonis, et epithoma de ideis rhetoricis Hermogenis, et elementatio naturalis Proculi, et aliqua astronomica, in papiro"
Literature	Mioni 1981, 410 ff. ; Rigo 1991; Papademitriou 1968



7 Venezia, BNM, Gr. Z. 526 (776), f. 112r

IV Bessarion's Plato

8 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 187 (742)

Parchment, middle of XV c., mm 260 x 175, ff. III. 311 (+ 287 bis), lineis plenis 31/39, spatium scripturae mm 170/180 x 110/125. F. 1rv index; 2-107 Plato Republica; 107v-135v Plato Timaeus; 136-139v Timaeus De anima mundi et natura; f. 140 is empty; 141-153v Plutarchus De animae procreatione in Timaeo; 154-159v Plato Critias; 159v-162v Ps.-Plato Minos; ff. 163-166v are empty; 167-282v Plato Leges; 283-289 Ps.-Plato Epinomis; 289v-309 Ps.-Plato Epistulae. Numerous annotations in Bessarion's hand.

It contains, most importantly, Plato's Laws, which were used by Bessarion in the process of correcting Georgios Trapezuntios' translation into Latin.

Bessarion's library	locus 53, antea 77
Inventory A 430	"Item Platonis respublica, leges et epistolae, in pergameno, liber pulcherrimus"
Inventory B 525	"Eiusdem respublica, leges et epistolae, in pergameno"
Literature	Mioni 1981, 299; Pagani 2011



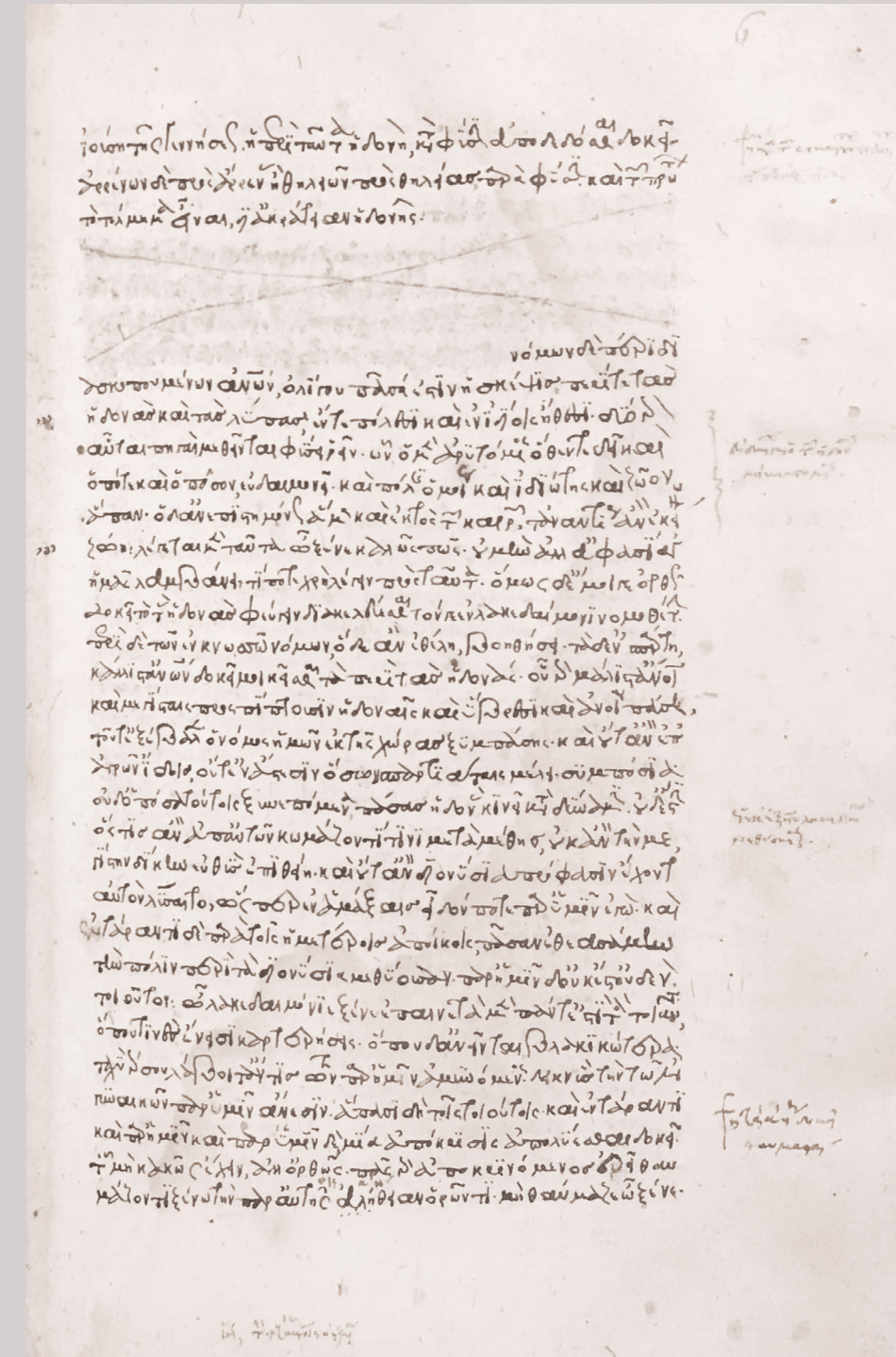
8 Venezia, BNM, Gr. Z. 187 (742), f. 176r

9 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 188 (1022)

Paper, beginning of the XV c., mm 245 × 170, ff. I. 178, *lineis plenis* 31/32, *spatium scripturae* 185 × 110. 1-131 Plato *Leges*; 131v-138v Plato / Ps.-Plato *Epinomis*; 138v-141v Ps.-Plato *Demodocus*; 141v-143v Ps.-Plato *Sisyphus*; 144-145 Lucianus *Halcyon*; 145-152v Ps.-Plato *Eryxias*; 152v-155v *Definitiones*; 155v-176 Plato / Ps.-Plato *Epistulae*; 176v-178 *Excerpta brevia ex operibus Luciani varii manu Bessarionis*.

It contains, most importantly, Plato's *Laws*, with some passages that had been 'censored' by Bessarion's teacher Georgios Gemistos (Plethon).

Bessarion's library	<i>locus</i> 53
Inventory A 421	"Item leges Platonis, dialogi quattuor noti, et epistolae eius, in papyro"
Inventory B 528	"Platonis leges, epistolae et dialogi nothi, in papiro"
Literature	Mioni 1981, 300; Pagani 2009



9 Venezia, BNM, Gr. Z. 188 (1022), f. 6r

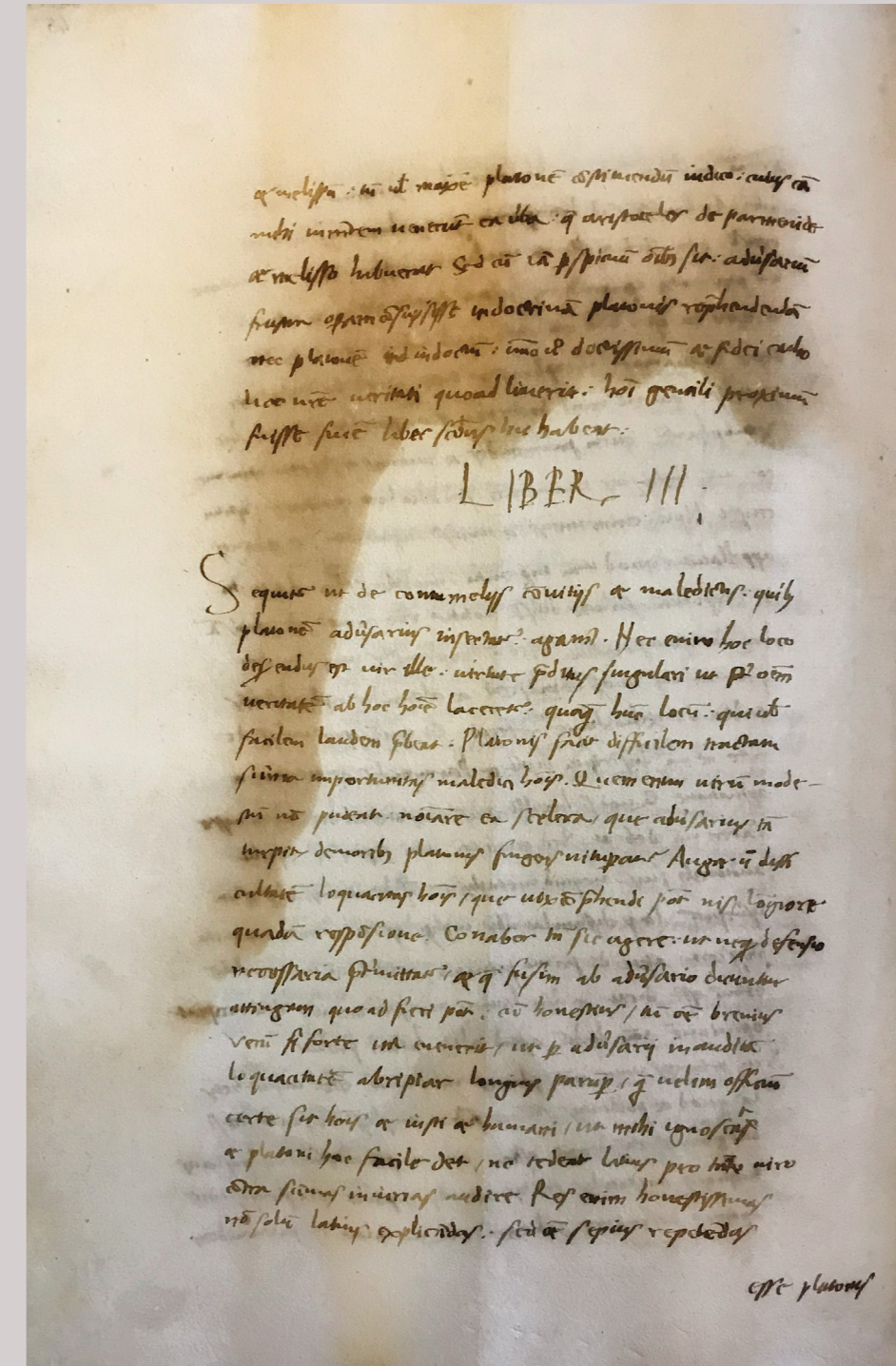
V Change of Plan: Gatti's *Notata* and the Reworking of the Treatise

10 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Lat. Z. 226 (1636)

Paper, middle of XV c., mm 315 × 230 × 40, ff. 152, *spatium scripturae* mm 220 × 130, *lineis plenis* 25-27. The folios are numbered in the upper corner and in the lower corners (modern). The modern numbering is reported here with an asterisk. Numbers without asterisk refer to the older folio numbers in the upper corner. Viktor Tiftixoglou made a note about the foliation of this codex on the inner cover, his note is dated May 23 1985. 1*-12*=1-12; 13*-48*=49-84; 49*-84*=13-48; 85*-151*=86-152. Bk. 1 of *Liber defensionum* begins on f. 1*=1; Bk. 2 on 31*v=68v; Bk. 3 on 84*v=48v; f. 138*rv=139rv contains the letter of *Johannis de Rupeforti, iudicis maioris Fuxi civitatis, cardinali Albiensi*. The codex is written in Bessarion's hand (Mohler 1923-42, 1: 364; Gasparrini Leporace, Mioni 1968, 10).

It contains an early version of Bessarion's reply to Georgios Trapezuntios' *Comparatio Platonis et Aristotelis* in Latin with the title *Liber defensionum contra obiectiones in Platonem*. After extensive revision, Bk. 1 and 2 of the *Liber defensionum* became Bk. 1 and 2 of the *ICP*, Bk. 3 became Bk. 4 of the *ICP*.

Bessarion's library	no <i>locus</i>
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 889	"De eadem materia [sc. 'Defensio Platonis' ut B 886], tres libri, in quinternionibus, litteris ser Petri"
Literature	Valentinelli 1871, 4: 5; Mohler 1923-42, 1: 364 and 2: VIII; Gasparrini Leporace, Mioni 1968, 10



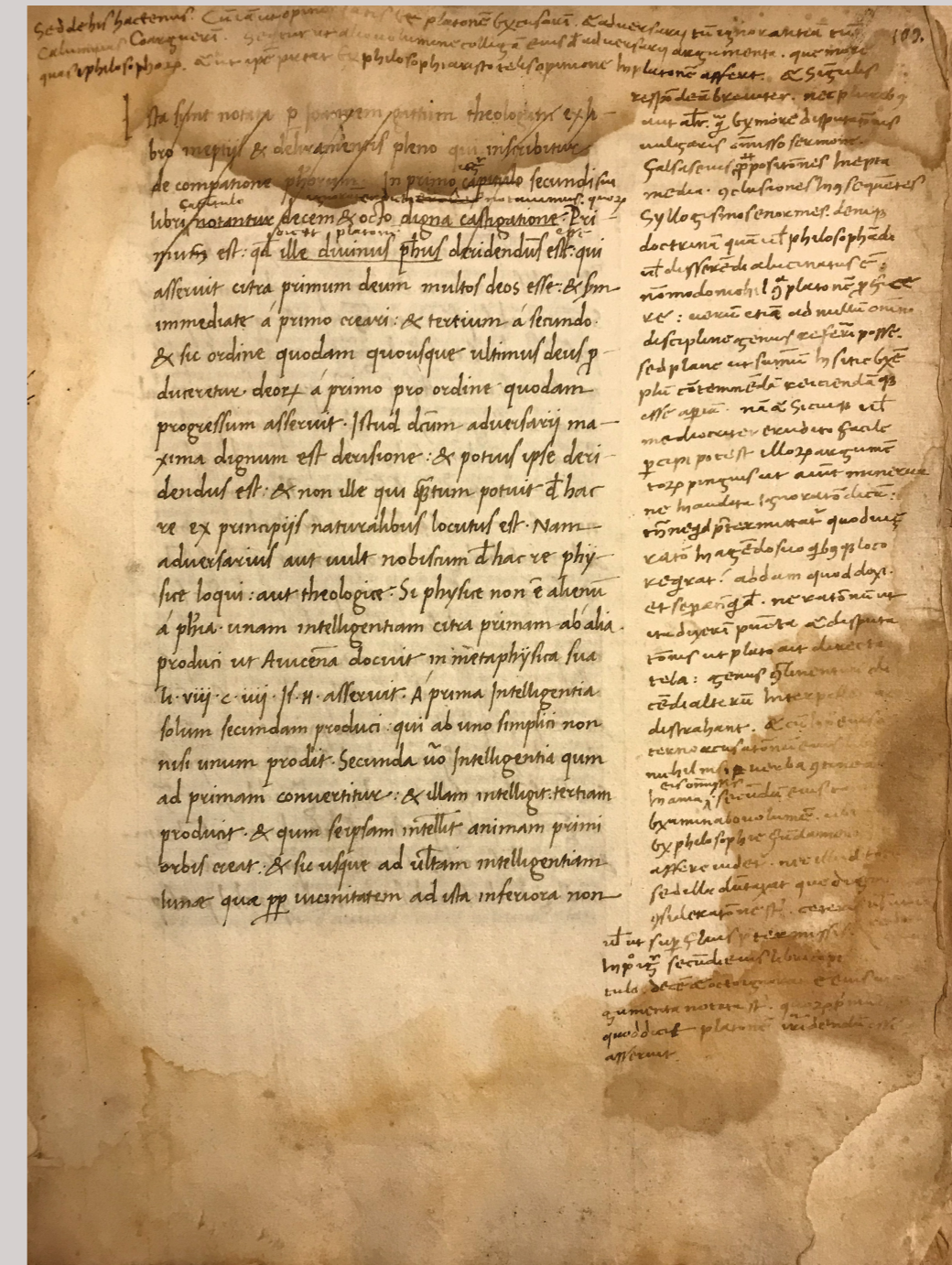
10
Venezia, BNM,
Lat. Z. 226 (1636),
f. 48v = 84*v

11 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Lat. VI, 61 (2592)

Paper, middle of XV c. (ff. 1-152) and XVII c. (ff. 153-158) ff. II + 158 + I, mm 300 × 220 × 40. The following description refers to the first part (ff. 1-152) of the codex only. *Spatium scripturae* ff. 1-70v: mm 200 × 150, *lineis plenis* 31-32; *var. Spatium scripturae* ff. 71-152 185 × 115, *lineis plenis* 24.

It contains: ff. 1-70v a draft version of Bk. 3 of the *ICP*; 71-152 Giovanni Gatti *Notata ex libro ineptiis et deliramentis pleno, qui inscribitur De comparatione philosophorum* (on the significance of this work and its relation to Bk. 3 in the final redaction of the *ICP*, cf. the article of John Monfasani at the end of this volume). The quires are misbound, as established by Monfasani 2021a, XLIX, the correct order of folios is 103-104, 102, 109-111, 112, 107, 105-106, 113-152, 71-101, 108.

Bessarions' library	<i>no locus</i>
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 892	"Secundus liber pro Platone, in papiro"
Literature	Valentinelli 1871, 4: 6-7; Gasparrini Leporace, Mioni 1968, 10-11; Monfasani 2021a, XLIX-XLIX



11 Venezia, BNM, Lat. VI, 61 (2592), f. 103r

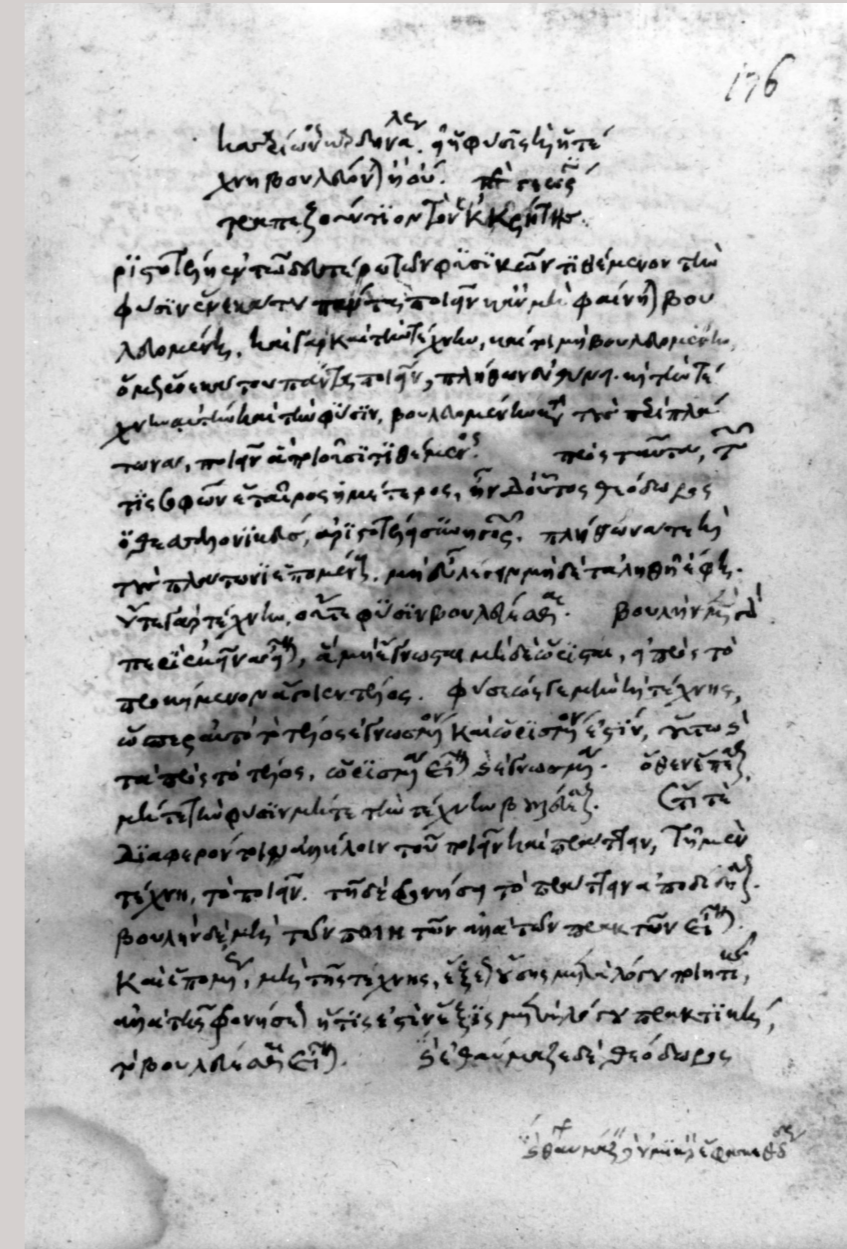
VI **De natura et arte**

12 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 527 (679)

Paper, middle of XV c., mm 210 × 145, ff. I 247 (+ 160 bis, 197 bis, 200 bis), *lineis plenis* 24-29, *spatium scripturae* ca. mm 145/160 × 80/100. Ff. 1-16v *De processione Spiritus Sancti*; 17-44v *Oratio dogmatica de unione*; 45rv *Ad dicta Plethonis in Aristotelem*; ff. 46-49v are empty; 50-54v *Refutatio syllogismorum Planudae De Spiritu sancto*; ff. 55-57v are empty; 58-92 *Refutatio Marci Ephesini De Spiritu sancto*; f. 92v is empty; 93-103 Marcus Eugenicus *Capita syllogistica adversus Latinos*; ff. 103v-105 are empty; 106-142v *De sacramento Eucharistiae*; 143-153v *Encyclica ad Graecos*; ff. 154-159v are empty; 160-174v *In Ioannem* 21:22-23; f. 175 is empty; 176-199v *De natura et arte (versio graeca)*; ff. 200-201v are empty; 202-234v *De natura et arte (versio latina)*; 240-244v *Epistulae*; ff. 245-247v are empty. A number of rubrications throughout the text. Several texts in Bessarion's hand, both in Greek and in Latin.

It contains the Greek version of *De natura et arte* (= Bk. 6 of the *ICP*) and an earlier Latin redaction of this work written in Bessarion's hand (published for the first time in Mariev, Marchetto, Luchner 2015), without the changes by Niccolò Perotti that characterise the final Latin version of this work.

Bessarion's library	<i>locus</i> 52
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 510	"Opera Domini Reverendissimi de spiritu sancto, et de sacramento eucharistie, et de 'sic eum volo manere', in papiro"
Literature	Mohler 1923-42, 3: 91 <i>et passim</i> ; Mioni 1981, 411 ff.; Mariev, Marchetto, Luchner 2015, XXIII-XXVII



12 Venezia, BNM, Gr. Z. 527 (679), f. 176r

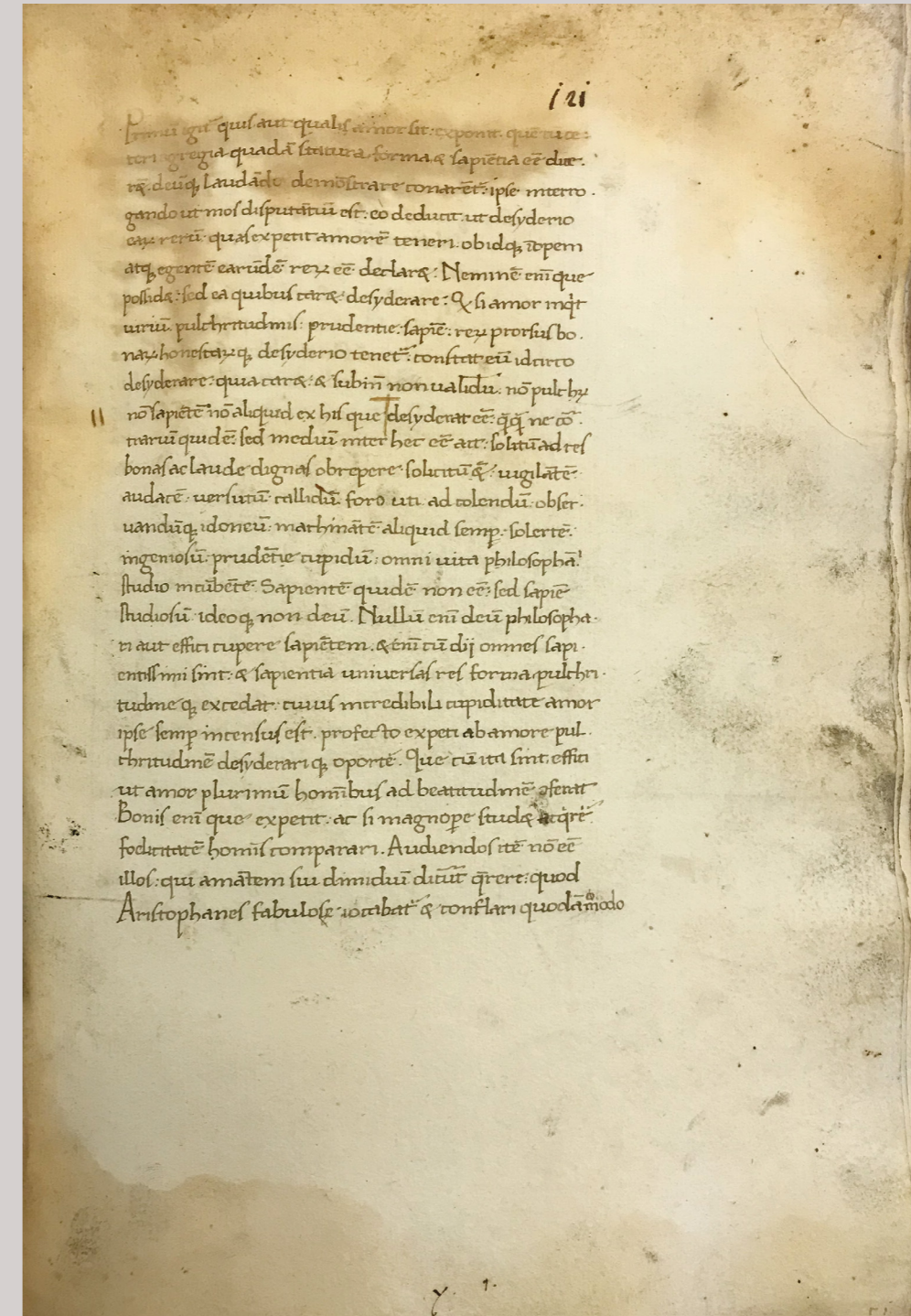
VII Printer's Copy

13 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Lat. Z. 228 (1671)

Paper, middle of XV c., mm 295 × 201 × 50, *spatium scripturae* mm 175 × 115, *lineis plenis* 28, ff. 182. Each quire is given a letter and its folios are numbered, e.g. A1-5 for the first quire (ff. 1-10), B1-5 (ff. 11-20), etc. The last, recto folio of each quire bears a catchword (f. 10v, f. 20v) that conventionally prefigures the first word of the recto of the next quire. This is the case for the composition of ff. 1-96 (labelled with letters A-K). There is no catchword on f. 96v and the next quire is numbered V1-5 (ff. 97-108), which means that there is a gap in between. The absence of a catchword on f. 96v may indicate that Bk. 3 of the *ICP*, which would fit this gap and for which it probably was made, actually never constituted part of this codex. However, the fact that next quire in order is labelled with a letter V may indicate that a certain space (L-V) was already allotted for this book. The final words of Bk. 4 on f. 180v confirm that, in the design of the work, this was already a book 4: "... quarto quoque volumine finem imponamus". Ff. 1-96 are written in a cursive script; ff. 97-180v in a humanistic round script. Already Valentinelli (1871, 4: 6) identified the black stains visible throughout the later part of the codex from f. 97 on as *typographorum maculae*. Hellinga (2015, 102 fn. 4) confirmed that this one of the exceptionally rare cases where a copy that was actually used for printing is preserved.

It contains a nearly complete version of Bk. 1, 2 and 4 of the *ICP*. Bk. 1, ff. 1-33; Bk. 2, ff. 33v-96; Bk. 4, ff. 96v-180v.

Bessarion's library	no locus
Inventory A	absent
Inventory B 888	"De eadem materia [sc. 'Defensio Platonis' ut B 886], omnes quinque libri, in quinternionibus, in papiro, manu nostrorum diversorum"
Literature	Valentinelli 1871, 4: 6; Gasparrini Leporace, Mioni 1968, 13 ff.; Hellinga 2015, 102 fn. 4



13
Venezia, BNM,
Lat. Z. 228 (1671), f. 121r

VIII *Editio princeps*

14 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Inc. 218

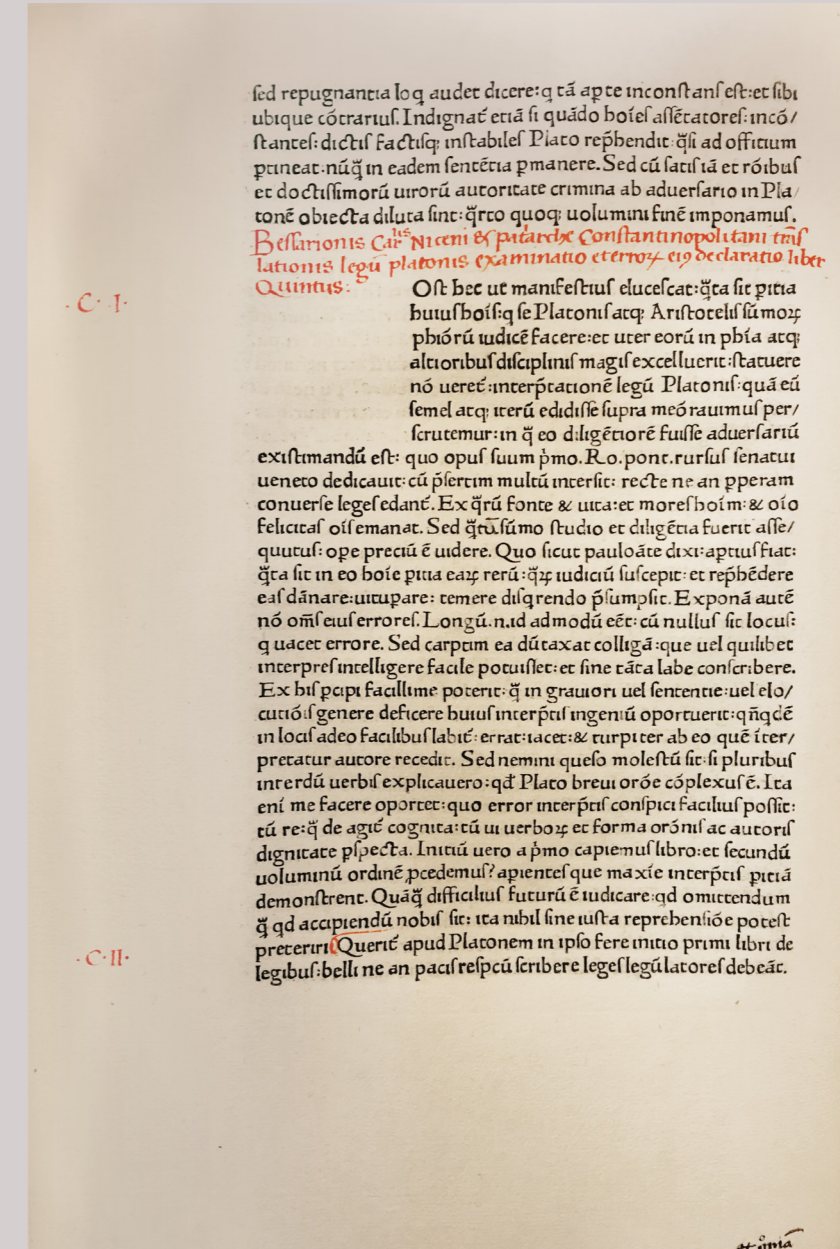
Printed in 1469, mm 335 × 230 × 70, ff. 233, f. 1 and f. 233 are empty. Colophon:
 "Aspicias illustris lector quicumque libellos [...]"

It contains *ICP* Bk. 1, ff. 16-36v; Bk. 2 37-74v; Bk. 3 75-124v; Bk. 4 125-176v;
 Bk. 5 176v-219v; Bk. 6 220-232v.

Bessarion's library no locus

Inventory A absent

Inventory B 806/807 "Duo volumina defensionis platonicae, in papiro"



14
 Venezia, BNM,
 Inc. 218, f. 176v

15 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Inc. 219

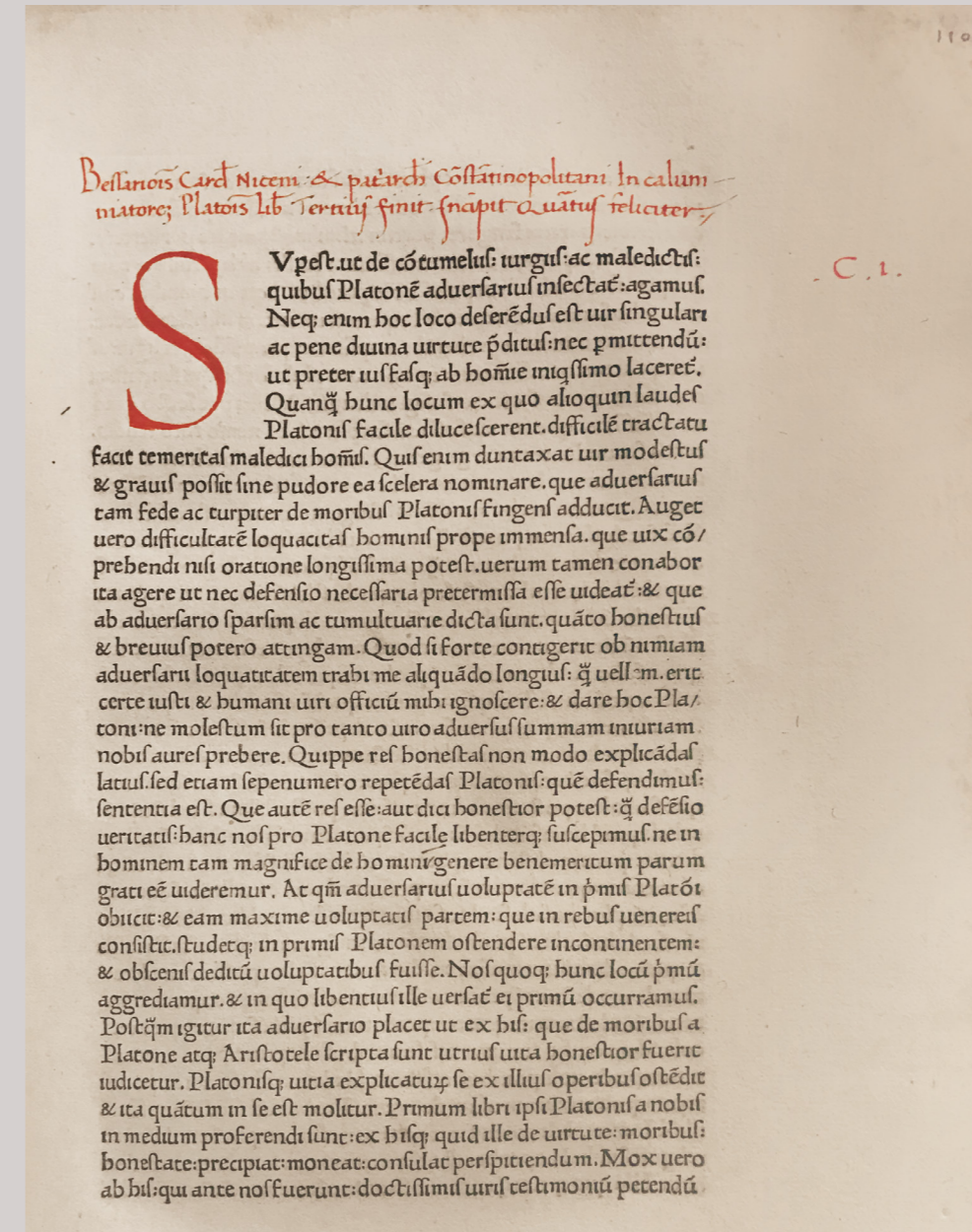
Printed in 1469, mm 335 × 230 × 70, ff. [I-VX] + 218, ff. 217-218 are empty; on f. 21v signs of a longer text that has been erased and is no longer legible; on f. 113v an extensive marginal note; on f. 49v at the bottom a long note in red ink “Quae sit auctoris in hoc tertio libro intentio”; on f. 204 an extensive marginal note. Colophon: see description of Inc. 218 above. Initial letters added on ff. 1 (red, blue and black), 22 (red), 50 (black), 110 (red), 160v (black), 204 (red). Corrections in Bessarion’s hand throughout the text.

It contains *ICP* Bk. 1, ff. 1-21v; Bk. 2, ff. 22-49v; Bk. 3, ff. 50-109v; Bk. 4, ff. 110-160v; Bk. 5, ff. 160v-203v; Bk. 6, ff. 204-216v.

Bessarion’s library no locus

Inventory A absent

Inventory B 806/807 “Duo volumina defensionis platonicae, in papiro”



15
Venezia, BNM,
Inc. 219, f. 110r

IX Reprints of the *editio princeps*

16 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Aldine 145

Printed in 1503, mm 320 × 215 × 27, ff. [IX] + 111 + [2]. Colophon: "Venetiis in aedib. Aldi Romani, Iulio mense MDIII".

It contains introductory material and "index eorum omnium, quae singulis libris pertractantur" (ff. I-IX, not numbered, first page is empty) and Bessarion's *In Calumniatorem Platonis* in six books (ff. 1-111). Final two pages are empty.

This book was never part of Bessarion's library (printed in 1503).

BESSARIONIS CARDINALIS NICENI: ET PATRIARCHAE CONSTANTINOPOLITANI IN CALUMNIATOREM PLATONIS LIBER PRIMVS.

Quae causa autorem ad scribendum impulerit.
 Confutatio de tribus vitis obiectis Platoni: imperitia: discrepantia a christiana religione: & uita turpitudine.
 Reprehensionem Platonis fidei Orthodoxae magnum detrimentum afferre.
 Cur a nostris doctoribus in primis Platonis testimonia citentur.
 Detrahentes Platoni infidelium impietatem adiuuare.
 Nostrae aetatis Latinos pauca habere Platonis opera: & raro ea legere.
 Maiores nostros Platonem omnibus philosophis praeposuisse.
 Qui sit ordo & series totius operis. Caput Primum.

INCIDIT NVPER IN MANVS NOSTRAS LIBER quidam: qui Platonis: atq; Aristotelis comparationem pollicebatur. Eum mox libenter: atq; amplexi: post habitis ceteris rebus: incredibili desiderio legere orsi sumus. Sperabamus enim fore: ut utriusq; philosophi: siue de rebus naturalibus: siue diuinis: siue iis: quae ad mores pertinent: siue ad differendi rationem: quae uocantur logicen: expositione aliquam: comparationemq; inueniremus: quomodo inuicem duo summi uiri: aut conueniant: aut discrepent: quibus id rationibus probetur: & utrum prima: an secunda substantia prior sit: quid apud Aristotelem materia: & forma: quid apud Platonem magni: & parui: quo pa-

sto entelechia: motu: quo per se anima mouetur: conueniat: An formae aliqua separatae sint: an profus inseparatae: q; si separatae sunt: utrum per se subsistant: an in secundis animi conceptibus positae sint. Tum quomodo equiuoce: quomodo uniuoce ens de entibus praedicatur: ut ratio illa diuidendi: quam Plato philosophiae sepe appellat: idem cum demonstrandi scientia sit: ut diuersum. An mundi haec compago ingenta: atq; aeterna: an genita: fluxa: q; licet an uero & genita simul: & ingenta: atq; aeterna: & quomodo genita: quomodo ingenta: tum haec tum anima dici possit. Vtrum praeterea deus ipsius substantia: an duntaxat motus naturalium rerum causa sit: atq; opifex. Quintum ne simplicium corporum dici caelum oporteat: an unum ex quatuor: quis praeterea ultimus hominum finis censeri debeat: uirtus ne atq; honestum: an scientia contemplandi. His aliisq; huiusmodi summorum philosophorum opinionibus: ne in singulis immeremur: plenum fore librum existimabam. Hoc enim ueteres pleriq; tum graeci: tum latini fecerunt: Platonis alii: Alii Aristotelis rationibus fauentes: & haec quidem probantes: illa refellentes. Fuerunt etiam qui conuenire inter se duos philosophos summo ingenio nixi sunt ostenderent: apud graecos i pleriq; Simplicius fecit: apud Latinos factum se pollicitus est Boetius: an impleuerit: nescio. Nullum enim tale illius opus aetate nostra uenit in lucem. Existimabam itaq; autorem huius libri: quo sibi gloriam apud posteros compararet: & doctrinam suam: ingeniumq; ostentaret: hoc idem fecisse: & uel conciliasse inter se duorum philosophorum opiniones: uel alteri inhaerentem: quibus ad id rationibus duceretur: explicasse. Quod si praeferebas Aristotelis opiniones: Platonis uero contemnendas existimaret: causam eius rei demonstratione: ut par erat: ac necessariis rationibus exposuisse. Laetabar itaq; ea spe mirum in modum: & librum singulari quadam auiditate legebam. Quamuis enim in ipso fere primordio iurgis: ac maledictis plenus occurreret: id tamen a quo animo patiebar: sperans fore: ut quod optabam progressu temporis appareret. Tam uero ubi perlecto libro pro thesauro quos sperabam: Carbones (ut dici solet) inueni: & desiderio frustratus nihil animaduerti praeter conuicia: & contumelias: & iurgia in Platone. His enim duntaxat erat liber ille referendus: in ista ueteris comedia: immo ut plane oes: quae unquam fuerunt: comedias excederet: obstupui uehementer tantae rei nouitate attonitus. Neque enim fieri posse existimarem: ut tale opus in lucem unquam prodiret: A ut quis ex omni hominum genere: tam aperte & ueritati: & communi omnium sententiae contradicens: non modo non erubesceret: sed potius quasi praefato quodam inuento gloriaretur: & more galli ignobilis: ut Plato iquit a disceptandi certamine dissiliens caneret: gestiret: seque ipsum circumspiceret. Quippe Aristotele cui Platonem comparat extollit laudibus: quod quidem reprehendi non potest: Dignus est enim: qui maxime laudetur Aristoteles: Platonem uero contumelias afficit: & iurgis maledictisq; per-

to diuiden' quo a Platone vocatur

Simplicius lo. Pectus hoc idem se factum e pollicetur

Pro thesauris carbonis

10.

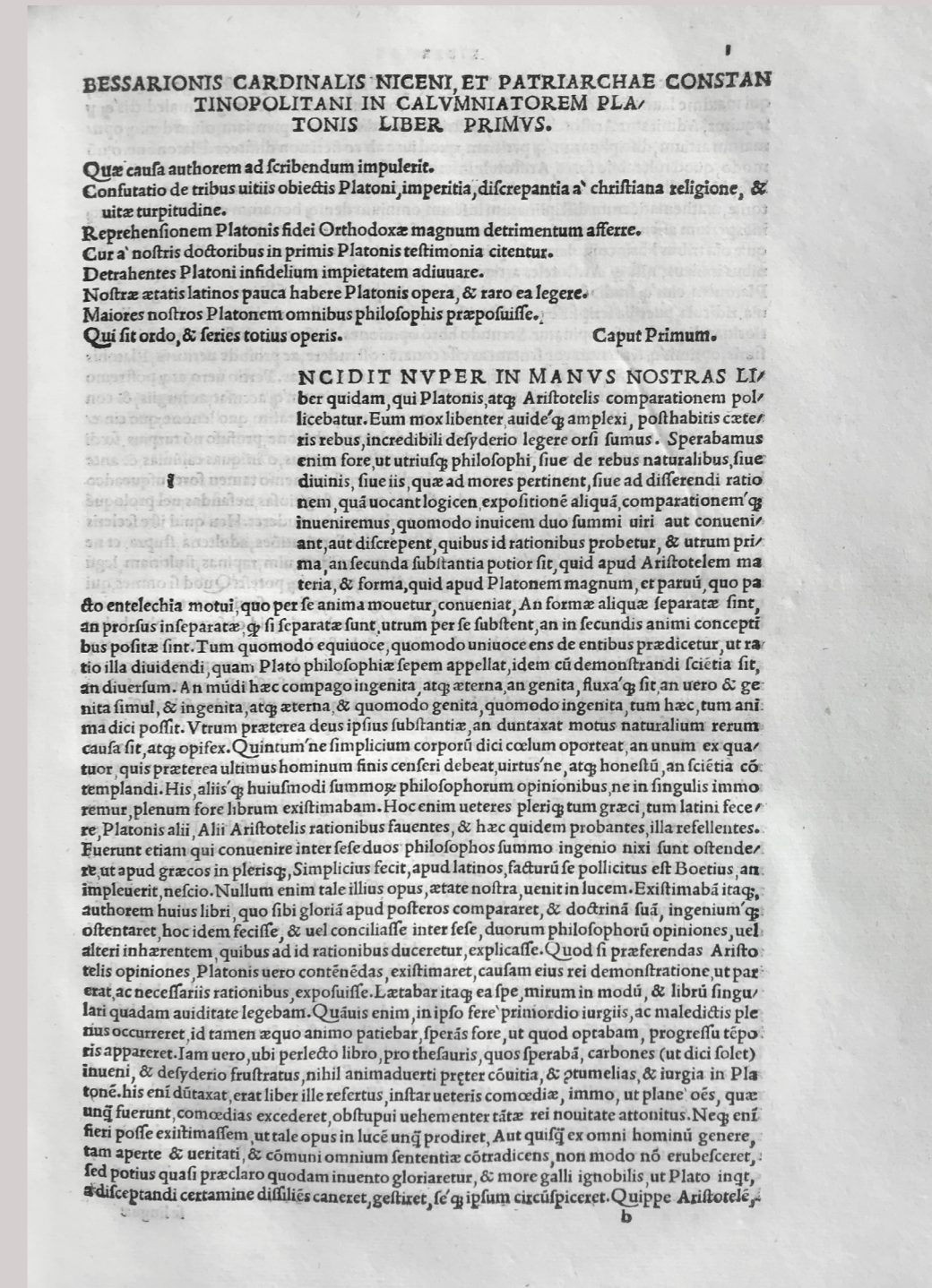
16 Venezia, BNM, Aldine 145, f. 1r

17 Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, 387.D.29

Printed in 1516, mm 320 × 215 × 35, ff. VIII + 116 + 53. Colophon: "Venetiis in aedibus Aldi, et Andreae soceri mense septembri MDXVI".

It contains *In Calumniatore Platoni* in six books (ff. 1-116), Bessarion's *Metaphysicorum Aristotelis XIII Librorum Tra[ns]latio* (ff. 1-50) and Teophrasti *Opusculum* (ff. 50v-53).

This book was never part of Bessarion's library (printed in 1516).



17
Venezia, BNM,
387.D.29, f. 1r

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