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**VITAE POMPONIANAE:
Lives of Classical Writers
in Fifteenth-Century
Roman Humanism**

ed. Marianne Pade

Preface

The present volume contains the proceedings of the conference “*Vitae Pomponianae: Biografie di autori antichi nell’Umanesimo romano/Lives of Classical Writers in Fifteenth-Century Roman Humanism*” held at the Danish and American Academies in Rome 23–24 April 2013. The conference was organised by Giancarlo ABBAMONTE (Università di Napoli Federico II), Chris CELENZA and Marianne PADE (of the American and Danish Academies in Rome respectively), Johann RAMMINGER (Thesaurus linguae Latinae, München/Wien), Fabio STOK (Università di Roma Tor Vergata, which covered participants’ travel expenses), and by the *REPERTORIUM POMPONIANUM*.

The aim of the conference was to investigate the extraordinary surge in the production of lives of ancient Roman writers which we find in late fifteenth-century Roman humanism. Many of these lives either break with the medieval tradition or deal with writers of whom no previous lives existed. The majority of them were compiled by Pomponio Leto (1428-1498) and his circle, a group that has been the object of renewed scholarly interest during the last fifteen years. Suffice it here to mention the 2008-monograph by Maria Accame, *Pomponio Leto. Vita e insegnamento*, Biblioteca pomponiana (Tivoli), the conference held to celebrate Pomponio’s life and work in Teggiano in 2008, the proceedings of which have been published as *Pomponio Leto tra identità locale e cultura internazionale*, edd. Anna Modigliani, Patricia Osmond, Marianne Pade, Johann Ramminger, RR inedita 48, saggi. Roma 2011), and last but not least, the on-line bio-bibliographical *Repertorium Pomponianum* (www.repertoriumpomponianum.it).

It is well known how Pomponio for teaching purposes compiled biographical sketches of the more important writers he lectured on at the Roman *Studium*. In the works of his pupils and collaborators we find the same interest. The participants in the conference were invited to discuss *how* an ancient writer was depicted in these lives, *which* biographical models they followed, and *to what degree* the lives in question might be said to be innovative, to break with a medieval biographical tradition of the *accessus*. At the conference, papers were presented on the lives of Theocritus (Trine Johanne Arlund HASS, Aarhus University), Varro (Maria ACCAME, Sapienza Università di Roma), Sallust (Patricia OSMOND, Iowa State University),

Virgil (Fabio STOK, Università di Roma Tor Vergata), Lucretius (Ada PALMER, then Texas A&M University, now University of Chicago), Ovid (Frank COULSON, Ohio State University), Seneca (Lucia GUALDO ROSA, Sapienza Università di Roma), Lucan (Elettra CAMPERLINGO, Università di Salerno), Silius Italicus (Frances MUECKE, University of Sydney), Statius (Marianne PADE, Accademia di Danimarca), Martial (Johann RAMMINGER, Thesaurus linguae Latinae – München/Wien), and Juvenal (Giancarlo ABBAMONTE, Università di Napoli Federico II). The papers were all followed by lively discussions from which this volume has profited immensely. At the end of the two days the main issues that had been debated were lucidly summed up by Concetta BIANCA (Università di Firenze): though each life is unique in the problems it poses, the conference showed that the approach of Pomponio and his circle was indeed novel and that the texts discussed in the present volume for the most part constitute a critical review of the medieval tradition and an *iter ad fontes*. This we hope will also be evident from the individual articles in this volume. Not only do they discuss one or more ‘Pomponian’ lives of an ancient writer; as some survive only in manuscript form and others in early imprints, many articles also contain critical editions of these texts, with English or Italian translation and – as far as possible – an extensive *apparatus fontium*. A number of these *Lives* will be also published in the *Repertorium Pomponianum*.

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Marianne Pade
Rome, 23 June 2015

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