

Feltrio, Orazio, fl. 1625

Conatus irriti Ossunae Ducis ne à regimine Neapolitani Regni amoveretur. Liber unus. Ad lectorem auctore Horatio Feltrio Neapolitano viro patritio.
 Colophon: "Horatius Feltrius aut. fil. Marci Nepos. An. MDCXXV."

MS 20

Italy (in Latin)

1625

This 60-page pamphlet, which may never have been published, fiercely attacked Pedro Tellez Giron (1575-1624), 3rd duke of Ossuna, for his policies when he served as Spanish viceroy of Naples during 1616-1620. The author, an obscure Neapolitan, represented Ossuna as a rebel against Spain, as well as the enemy of the Italians. Ossuna directed the full weight of his naval forces, and all his influence, against Spain's enemy, the Republic of Venice--and entered into intricate and secret anti-Venetian conspiracies that were disapproved of by Madrid. His refusal to obey Madrid's orders gave rise to the charge, repeated in the Conatus irriti ("The thwarted attempt"), that he aimed at making himself an independent prince in Naples. The evidence in support of this accusation is somewhat flimsy: the fact that Ossuna, in upholding Spanish interests, flouted his instructions from Madrid need not imply that he entertained a treasonable conspiracy against the Spanish crown. When he was dismissed from office, he returned obediently to Spain, where he was arrested and died in prison four years later.

The anti-Venetian conspiracy of 1618 has been the subject of a monograph by Leopold von Ranke--Ueber die Verschwörung gegen Venedig im Jahre 1618 (Berlin 1831), translated into Italian as the Storia critica della congiura contra Venezia nel 1618 (Capolago, 1838). Ranke, who worked directly from Italian archival materials, does not seem to mention Orazio Feltrio or the Conatus irriti. Feltrio's name does not appear in the larger library catalogs, nor in the standard bibliographies, nor in the Italian encyclopedia, nor yet in the best-known histories of Naples, some of which are very extensive and detailed. The author has not been identified beyond the terms by which he referred to himself in the codex. It seems likely that the Conatus irriti has never been printed.

Folio, 27 x 20 cm.

31 leaves.

University of Chicago binding, boards.

A fair copy, probably in the author's own hand, with marginal annotations (including grammatical corrections of the Latin) in another hand. There is a blank leaf inserted between fols. 7 and 8, but there is no break in the text. Has a preface, but no table of contents or index. Foliated.

See Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 19-20; and De Ricci, Census, I, 556. Purchased before 1910.

29 November 1967
T. Bentley Duncan