

MANUSCRIPT 31

Bruni, Leonardo Aretino, 1369-1444  
De primo bello Punico.  
MS 31

Italy (in Latin)

Ca. 1460

Bruni's work on the First Punic War consists of a collation of materials derived directly from Polybius and Plutarch, and was first printed in 1498 under the title Polybius de primo bello Punico et Plutarchii paralelia. Bruni is chiefly remembered today as the author of one of the earliest biographies of Dante; he is also known for his history of Florence, a work originally written in Latin, but which has usually been published in Italian translations (Istoria fiorentina [Florence, 1861]).

The Chicago codex--which is written in a fine, clear, well-rounded, Italian, "humanist" minuscule--originated before the appearance of printed books, and belongs to the period 1450-1470. A close study of the watermarks in the paper (crossed arrows, a ladder, etc.) indicates that it was probably manufactured in Northern Italy during the years 1451-1461, and some of it may have been produced in Venice in 1454 (see Briquet, Les Filigranes, watermark No. 6269). It seems certain that this copy was made less than 20 years after the death of Bruni.

4<sup>o</sup>, 22 x 14 cm.

97 leaves of text, plus 16 blank leaves, or 113  
in all. (Foliation is marked on every tenth  
leaf.)

Original wooden boards and half-leather binding, with rough nails. Fragments of a metal clasp.

Fair copy, written in brown ink, in a single unidentified hand. Caption titles at the beginning of each of the three books, written in red ink (but there is no other rubrication). Spaces left for decorated initials have not been filled. A few marginal annotations. No index or table of contents. Water stains in places.

The inside front cover has the following note, written in ink: "Leonardi arretini de primo bello punico / Thome de Vincentiis de Fano 1560" (Tomaso da Vincenzo? of Fano, Italy). See Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 30-1; and De Ricci, Census, I, 558. Part of the Berlin Collection.

6 December 1967  
T. Bentley Duncan