

MANUSCRIPT 57

Boccaccio, Giovanni, 1313-1375

Il Filocolo. Colophon dated Gualdo, Italy, 18 April  
1456.

MS 57

Italy

1456

Il Filocolo, a prose romance in five books on the loves and adventures of Florio and Biancofiore, was one of the earliest of Boccaccio's writings (ca. 1336) and was based on a conventional medieval theme. The Chicago codex is a copy made 120 years after the composition of the work, and the terminal note of the copyist (which he wrote in Latin, although the text is in Italian) is almost self-explanatory, and reads as follows: "Iste liber scriptus est manu mei Angeli Blasii de Gualdo in eadem terra gualdi sub anno domini millesimo iii<sup>o</sup>lvi [1456], indictione quarta, tempore sanctissimi in Christo Patris et Domini, Domini Calisti [Calixtus III, pope 1455-58] divina providentia pape tertii die vero decima octava mensis aprilis [18 April]. Amen." Gualdo, now known as Gualdo Tadino (formerly Gualdo de Nocera), is a small town in Perugia, Umbria, in the mountains some ten miles west of the famous paper-milling town of Fabriano. The copyist Angelo Blasi was a native of Gualdo, and wrote the codex at Gualdo. His name does not appear in the

standard bibliographies, and nothing more seems to be known about him. For further information, see the descriptions in Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, p. 67, and in De Ricci, Census, I, 562.

Folio, 30 x 21 cm.

160 leaves (every 10th leaf foliated).

Bound in an 18th-century half-calf binding, with a floral pattern on the outside boards, in blue and yellow, similar to the binding of MS 33.

A fair copy written in brown ink, in double columns, in the hand of Angelo Blasi of Gualdo. A large number of spaces have been left for the insertion of decorated initials, but none has been put to use. There is no decoration or rubrication of any kind. No index or table of contents. There are almost no marginal notes or signs. Extensive insect damage has been clumsily repaired with pieces of fresh paper. There are many water stains. The legibility of the text has not been impaired by the damage to the paper, most of which has occurred in the margins.

Part of the Berlin Collection.

3 February 1968  
T. Bentley Duncan