

GERGŐ GELLÉRFI

BARTOLOMEO DELLA FONTE: ANNOTATIONES IN IUVENALEM INTRODUCTION AND TEXT

Bartolomeo Fonzio (B. della Fonte, Bartholomaeus Fontius), the 15th-century Italian humanist and professor at the University of Florence, who had Hungarian connections as well,¹ gave a lecture series on Juvenal in 1487, which may have been his answer to his archenemy's, Angelo Poliziano's² public lecture on the satirist that had taken place two years earlier. A few years later, Fonzio wrote the *Annotationes in Iuvenalem* containing his observations on the first six Satires of Juvenal. The work was dated to 1489–1490 by Marchesi, the author of the only monograph on Fonzio,³ and this dating has been accepted by Sanford, among others.⁴ However, the date 1489–1490 seems to be unacceptable, and 1492, the publication date of Antonio Mancinelli's *Familiare commentum* can be designated as the *terminus post quem* of the *Annotationes*.⁵ The work fits well into the Quattrocento's increased interest in Juvenal, which can be traced back to various causes: the enigmatic nature of his poems, the popularity of contemporary satire, and the suitability for the exposition of the commentators' own erudi-

¹ Cf. TAKÁCS, L.: Bartholomaeus Fontius and His Works in the Bibliotheca Corviniana of King Matthias. In KOVÁCS, P. – SZOVÁK, K. (eds.): *Infima aetas Pannonica: Studies in Late Medieval Hungarian History*. Budapest 2010, 294–308.

² On Fonzio and Poliziano, see DANELONI, A.: Tra le carte di Fonzio: nuove testimonianze dell'Expositio Iuvenalis del Poliziano. In GARGAN, L. – SACCHI, M. P. (eds.): *I Classici e L'Università Umanistica: Atti del Convegno di Pavia 22–24 novembre 2001*. Messina 2004, 507–607.

³ MARCHESI, C.: *Bartolomeo Fonzio*. Catania 1900, 125.

⁴ SANFORD, E. M.: Renaissance Commentaries on Juvenal. *TAPhA* 79 (1948) 106; SANFORD, E. M.: Juvenal. In KRISTELLER, P. O. (ed.): *Catalogus translationum et commentariorum: Medieval and Renaissance Latin Translations and Commentaries I*. Washington 1960, 227.

⁵ For more details, see GELLÉRFI, G.: Scholarly Polemic: Bartolomeo Fonzio's Forgotten Commentary on Juvenal. In ENENKEL, K. A. E. (ed.): *Transformations of the Classics via Early Modern Commentaries*. Leiden 2013, 114. Cf. DANELONI (n. 2) 529–530.

tion.⁶ From the middle of the century, some prominent Italian humanists dealt with Juvenal: Guarino da Verona, Giovanni Tortelli,⁷ Gaspare Veronese, Angelo Sabino, Domizio Calderini, Giorgio Merula, Giorgio Valla, as well as the aforementioned Poliziano, and Mancinelli, among others.

Fonzio's *Annotationes*, dedicated to Lorenzo Strozzi,⁸ is preserved in one manuscript only (Florence, Bibliotheca Riccardiana, codex 1172). It has never been published, and it is not mentioned by later commentators either. Concerning the work's characteristics, we must first observe that Fonzio's main purpose was to question and refute earlier views, since he cites the opinions of other scholars in the case of every examined *locus*. Valla, Merula, and Calderini play the most important role in the *Annotationes*, as the whole work seems to have been written as an attack against them. Although Angelo Poliziano was a bitter enemy of the author, he is much less important for the *Annotationes*, as he is mentioned only three times. Fonzio's aggressive tone, which can be observed in the disputation and vituperation of his rivals, makes the work peculiar. Some of his comments on Merula, Giorgio Valla, and Poliziano are very offensive, and he even gets personal on a few occasions. However, his attitude toward Calderini is different, as he always speaks about him in a tone of respect, and he never makes sarcastic comments about him or his views. Moreover, Fonzio's *Annotationes* is not only a peculiar and unpublished Renaissance commentary, but also has philological value. Comparing his refutations with modern views,⁹ there are only two passages out of the seventy-one where modern scholars accept the opinion that Fonzio rejected. Thus, regarding the criticism of his contemporaries, Fonzio's work is almost perfect in the light of modern views.

In the present edition, Fonzio's text has remained almost unchanged apart from a few necessary emendations and the use of capital letters that is inconsequent in the case of proper names and titles. {Braces} indicate the author's insertions except in cases when the insertion only corrects a typo. <Angle brackets> indicate a text deleted by the author, if necessary. Ancient texts are quoted in italics; line breaks are marked with a slash. Within the quotes, the variants of modern editions are represented in [brackets] unless the difference is merely orthographical. The differences in interpunctuations are marked only if the given difference also influences the meaning. The modern editions used are listed below.

Ammianus, *Rerum gestarum libri qui supersunt* (in 2 vols). Ed. W. SEYFARTH. Leipzig 1978.

The Aratus ascribed to Germanicus Caesar. Ed. D. B. GAIN. London 1976.

⁶ SANFORD (n. 4) 96–97.

⁷ SANFORD, E. M.: Giovanni Tortelli's Commentary on Juvenal. *TAPhA* 82 (1951) 207–218.

⁸ Daneloni identifies 'Laurentius Stroza' as Lorenzo di Filippo Strozzi (1489–1549); see DANELONI (n. 2) 530.

⁹ Examining the achievements of Fonzio, I have compared his views with the two most recent full commentaries on Juvenal, Braund's commentary on Book 1, as well as the translation and notes of Ramsay's Loeb Classical Library edition: COURTNEY, E.: *A Commentary on the Satires of Juvenal*. London 1980; Juvenal, *The Satires*. Ed. J. FERGUSON. New York 1982; Juvenal, *Satires, Book I*. Ed. S. M. BRAUND. Cambridge 1996; *Juvenal and Persius*. Ed. G. G. RAMSAY. London – Cambridge 1961.