

PROPEMPTICON FRANCISCI MANTELLI

recensuit ac adnotationibus criticis instruxit

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collaborantibus optimis

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WASHINGTONIENSI
EX TYPOGRAPHEO FACVL TATIS
LITTERARVM GRAECARVM LATINARVMQVE
VNIVERSITATIS CATHOLICAE AMERICAE

INTRODUCTION TO THE CRITICAL EDITION

The *propempticon Francisci Mantelli* is a prosimetric composition written in honor of a certain Frank Mantello. The *laudandus* was a professor of Latin of some note in late 20th and early 21st century Washington, DC. The work begins with a 21-line hexameter *incipit*, evidently to set a dignified tone. The author then transitions to prose, on the conceit that his praise should not be restricted by the constraints of meter. After several paragraphs in which the author narrates the *res gestae* of his *laudandus*, he transitions back to verse. Elegiacs are chosen as suitable for grief caused by the departure of his dear professor.

The work shows our author to be conversant with the Latin literary tradition. Formally it is indebted to Boethius' *Consolatio philosophiae*, though there seem to be few if any direct allusions. Of the classical poets, he reworks lines from Ovid, Vergil, and Propertius and alludes in passing to Lucretius and Horace. He alludes also to Prudentius' *Psychomachia* and goes still farther afield with what seems a reference to the *chateau d'amour*, a poem written in old French by Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln 1235–53. Evidently Professor Mantello had devoted a considerable portion of his scholarly work to Grosseteste.¹ Cicero naturally furnished the most important prose model, though the author does employ a looser form of the medieval latin cursus. This form does not dictate that the final word must be tri- or quadrisyllabic, and was common before the codifications of the 12th century.² The author may also be familiar with the rhetorical tradition, especially the dictates of Menander Rhetor. The most shadowy allusion is a rather obscure sermon of Robert Grosseteste, *In libro numerorum*.³ There are few references to Greek authors. The author may be less familiar with Greek; alternatively, as Professor

¹ v. e.g. Mantello/Goering (1984); Mantello/Goering (2010);

² v. Tunberg (1996), pp. 115f.

³ Mantello/Goering (2013)

Mantello is described as a *tolerator linguae graecae*,⁴ the author may have reckoned that allusions to Latin texts would be more pleasing. The author remains unnamed, but the composition is most plausibly the work of one or several of Professor Mantello's students. It must date to near his retirement in 2017.

MANUSCRIPTS:

A. Early 21st century. Gothic Cursive. Consistent word division with numerous abbreviations. Several features of the script ensure that it was composed in or around Washington DC, where it was recently found among the archives of the Department of Greek and Latin at Catholic University of America. The scribe's hand has also been seen in *mss* of Gregory of Nazianzus and Origen of Alexandria. This work appears to be a working draft. It contains several readings quite different from the more familiar B. Moreover, it carries *marginalia* from several different hands, the following of which have been identified:

- *A*¹ A correction by the first scribe
- *A*² This hand is also known to have worked with texts of Planudes and Isidore of Seville.
- *A*³ This hand has been detected in the margins of several important *mss* of Prudentius.
- *A*⁴ The hand of the scribe is particularly evident at clause end. The suggested corrections suggest that he or she is an expert in the Latin *cursus*.
- *A*⁵ This hand is identical to the hand in B.
- *A*⁶ This hand has also been observed in texts of a philosophical bent, in both Greek and Latin. His or her most important contributions are in *mss* of Maximus the Confessor and Lucretius.

B. April 27, 2017. *textualis media*. Our scribe, named in the *subscriptio* as a certain *uxor Abraam*, is one of the few female scribes known. Were it not for external evidence, it would be difficult to identify

this as an imitation. One imagines her name was Sarah, though Keturah would also be possible (*v.* Gen. 25:1). The hand is quite neat and elaborate. This *ms* was presumably presented to Professor Mantello upon his retirement.

A *stemma codicum* is unnecessary for such a simple tradition. It is nearly certain that B derives from A, and that B was intended as a presentation copy.

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⁴ *v. narratio* sec. 5, ... *semper graecam tulisti*.

Propempticon Francisci Mantelli

prooemion

Docta uirumque cano, Canadae qui primus ab oris
Americam Christo profugus Atlantiaque uenit
litora, non diuos portans ast omnia culta.
Flumen dulce mihi, Flamen mysteria scrutans,
5 inspira coepto; de puris fontibus hauriam
ut multis uersum stilis digne celebremus.

Roma habeat tela Aeneae spernentis Elissam,
Graeci Pelidae clipeum semper rabiosi;
cordibus est nostris aeternus malleus huius.
10 uates hesterni paene omnia temptauere.
hic cecinit nugas ueneris; ille horrida bella.
hic noua corpora fert; illi pastoris amores
dicuntur. alii cecinerunt Caesare gesta
aut stultam sophiam Graeci tot sacra negantis.
15 iam meliora canunt qui Christi flamina spirant,
qui bona demonstrant pugnancia noxia praua,
qui seri rudibus scripsere palatium Amoris.
uates paruus ego; sed coeptum haud uilius illis.
laudando digno uenio ut dem debitum honorem.
20 at quia laus huius non est quocumque liganda,
metrum soluendum est; dicam sermone soluto.

prooemion,1 ...3 culta] *cf.* Virg. *Aen.* 1.1–2, 6 9 malleus huius] The scholiast states *Fama est hunc uirum appellationem habuisse "malliferum" quia timorem Dei discipulis pigris imponit.* 11 hic¹...13 dicuntur] *v.* Ov. *Met.* and *Am.*; Virg. *Aen.* and *Ec.* | horrida bella] *cf.* Virg. *Aen.* 6.86 12 noua corpora] *cf.* Ov. *Met.* 1.1 13 Caesare gesta] *v.* Hor. *Odes* 14 stultam...negantis] *v.* Lucr. *De rerum natura.* 16 bona...praua] Prud. *Psych.* 17 palatium Amoris] *v.* Robert Grosseteste' *Chateau d'Amour*

prooemion,1 Docta *A*¹ p.c.B : Gesta *A*¹a.c. : Facta *A* 3 portans ast *A*²B : tenens sed *A* *contr. met.* | culta *A*¹ : docta *A* 8 rabiosi *A*¹B : rabientis *A* 13 Caesare *A*⁴ : -ari *A* *contr. met.* 16 praua *A*⁵ : mala *A* *contr. met.* 21 sermone soluto *A*⁵ : uerbis liberatis *A* *contr. met.*

The Propempticon for Frank Mantello

prooemion

Of learning I sing, and a man, the first to come from
Canada's coast to Atlantic shores, exiled for Christ, not bearing
gods but every kind of learning. O Spring of sweetness, O Spirit
that searches hidden things, breathe upon my task and grant that
I may draw from pure fonts that we may rightly laud this man so
versed in letters.

Let Rome have the arms of Aeneas as he spurns Elissa; let
Greece keep the shield of Peleus' son and his undying wrath.
We will ever cherish in our hearts the hammer of Mantello. The
poets of yesteryear have left no path untried. One sings of
trifling love, another the horrors of war. This one tells of
transformation, the other speaks of shepherds' love. Still others
praise the deeds of Caesar, or the foolish wisdom of that Greek
who denied all that is holy and sacred. Better themes were sung
by those who breathe the winds of Christ, who show the virtues
at war with evils foul, or still more recently have written *le*
chateau d'amour for those unlettered. I am a humble poet, but
my theme is no less grand than these. I come to give due honor
to a man worthy of praise. And yet, since my praise should in no
way be bound, the meter must go. I shall speak in liberated
speech.

narratio

Quamquam hīc saepissime hoc multos ex uobis uidere
soleo, o carissimi, tamen hodie maxime gaudeo, quia
congregati sumus ut hunc dignissimum uirum laudemus
5 celebremus extollamus. cui gratiae nobis agenda? cuius res
gestae memorandae ac diligendae? non ignotus sed
praeclarus; non celatus, sed caelestis. dicendum est de
doctoris Francisci Mantelli singulari eximiaque uirtute.
10 difficilius est autem finem talis orationis quam inuenire
principium. nam non copia sed modus quaerendus est satis
digne dicendi. quis enim tot et talia gesta satis extollere
possit?

Hic dignissimus natus eductus studia incepit in ciuitate
cuius affinitate atque amicitia quam maxime uti solemus.
15 qui enim propinquiores et cariores Canadiensibus? qui
fideliores in bellis? qui in pace constantiores? studiis autem
minoribus gradu perfectis apud uniuersitatem Manitobae
uenit Torontum et ad mediaeualium studiorum notissimam
sedem. nam cum optime cognosceret linguam latinam
20 omnium aeuorum, sicut ille Stagiritis uiam mediam secutus
inter tempora antiqua atque recentiora. doctus autem a uiro
claro Leonardo Boyle scrupulose scripsit dissertationem in
qua cuiusdam Nicholai historici praedicatorisque *Gesta
Temporum Edwardi Regis* recensuit. deinde Felicitate beata
25 nostrae uniuersitati benigne surridente hic ablatus a patria
sua nouam ciuitatem inuenit. nam abhinc paene quadraginta

narratio,2 Quamquam...12 possit] *cf.* Cic. *De imp. Gn. Pomp.* 4
20 Stagiritis] *i.e.* Aristoteles

narratio,4 laudemus...5 extollamus *AB* : c. e. l. *A*⁴ 5 nobis *A*⁴ : n. hodie
AB 6 ac *A*⁴*B* : atque *A* 7 sed *AB* : uero *A*⁴ 10 quaerendus...11 dicendi
*A*⁴*B* : s. dig. dic. q. e. *A* 13 incepit *A*³ : perfecit *A* 18 mediaeualium...
19 sedem *A*⁴ : ad s. m. st. illic n. *A* 24 recensuit *A*⁴*B* : r. ediditque *A*
Felicitate...25 surridente *A*²*A*³*B* : Felicitas beata n. u. b. surrisit et *A*

narratio

Although I am here accustomed to seeing many of you,
dearest friends, I am especially gladdened today, since we have
assembled to honor, to celebrate, and to extol the
accomplishments of this most distinguished scholar and teacher.
To whom do we owe our thanks? Whose accomplishments are
to be recounted and admired? He is not unknown, but
distinguished, not hidden but heavenly. Our task today is to
speak of the singularly distinguished virtue of Dr. Frank
Mantello. It is indeed much more difficult to end than begin this
sort of speech. One must search not so much for material as a
sufficiently gracious manner of speaking. For who could ever
adequately laud deeds so grand and numerous?

This most worthy man was born, reared, and began his
studies in that state whose nearness and alliance more than any
other we have long enjoyed. For who are closer and dearer than
the Canadians? Who more faithful in war? Who more constant
in peace? After completing undergraduate studies at the
University of Manitoba he arrived at Toronto, that most
renowned center of Medieval Studies. For though he was well
versed in the latinity of all ages, like the Stagirite he found a
middle way, between antiquity and the modern age. Under the
direction of the distinguished Leonard Boyle he carefully wrote
his dissertation in which he edited the *Gesta Temporum
Edwardi Regis* of Nicholas the Historian, O.P. Then, blessed
Felicity smiled upon our university as he was brought forth
from his homeland and found a new one among us. For nearly

annos docere quaerere laborare coepit apud Vniuersitatem
Catholicam Americae in urbe noui Cincinnati illius.
minoribus gradibus perfectis peruenit altissimum ad gradum
30 professoris, quia omnes, tam discipuli quam collegae, et
domini et ministri, non admiratione desinere poterant. nunc
non sine causa emeritus ascendit ad culmen secundi
scholasticae hierarchiae ordinis.

Cursus dicendi nunc nos ad munera atque honores
35 attulit. praetereo minora ut meliora monstrentur. nam non
semel nec bis neque ter quaterue, sed quinquies electus est a
nouo Maecenate nostrae Ciuitatis, ut ita dicam, uel Nationali
Patrono Artium Humanarum ut stipendarius academicas
quaestiones conduceret. abhinc VI annos honoratus est ab
40 Societate Canadiensi Studentium Mediaeualium. duobus
annis autem praeteritis doctissimi scholarii librum notum
studiorum Roberti Grossetesti huic professori dedicauerunt.
quanta praetereunda sunt ut progrediamur!

Quam ob causam tot honores recepit? quis possit
45 tantum unam eligere? nam indefatigatus articula studia libros
scripsit et edidit, quae nota sunt tam stilo clarissimo quam
maxima eruditione. non omnia possunt narrari, sed officio
deficerem nisi selecta nominarentur. uere uiridante enim
cursus sui adiuuante et collaborante Iosepho Goering
50 *Templum Dei* Roberti Grossetesti recensuit. deinde aestate
congregauit et edidit illum notissimum librum, quo permultis
collaborantibus discipulos latinitati recentiorum introduxit
annorum. autumno autem eodem Iosepho collaborante
epistolas Roberti Grossetesti conuersit. haud imaginari potest
55 quid annis uenientibus faciat. nam plenus uigore et iam
plenior scientia deo iuuante omnia potest.

32 secundi...33 ordinis] v. Mantello/Goering (2013), pp. 11f.

28 noui...illius A⁴B : i. n. C. A 32 secundi...33 ordinis A⁴B: sec. ord.
sch. h. A 36 ter quaterue A³B : ter nec quater A 38 academicas...39
quaestiones A⁴B : tr. A 52 introduxit...53 annorum A⁴B : tr. A

forty years ago he began to teach and to study at the Catholic
University of America, here in the city of that new Cincinnatus.
Passing through the lower orders he rose to full Professor, since
no one, neither student nor colleague, neither deans, nor
administration, could cease in their admiration. Now with just
cause he rises to the summit of the hierarchy and has gained the
appellation, “emeritus.”

The course of our address now brings us to grants and
other honors. I shall pass over the lesser so that the greater shine
more clearly. Five separate times he was selected by the NEH,
that new Maecenas of our nation, to conduct and direct
scholarly reasearch. Six years prior he received the Margaret
Wade Labarge Prize from the Canadian Society of Medievalists.
Two years later he was named the dedicatee of Robert
Grosseteste and His Intellectual Milieu: New Editions and
Studies, ed. John Flood et al. (Toronto 2013). How many we
must now pass over!

For what reason has he received such numerous honors?
Who could select but one? For he has tirelessly written and
published articles, studies, and books, all distinguished both for
clarity of style and abundant erudition. It would be impossible
to speak of them all, but I would be derelict in my duty if a few
were not mentioned. In the spring of his career he edited with
Joseph Goering the *Templum Dei* of Robert Grosseteste. When
summer came, he collected and edited his famous Introduction
to Medieval Latin. With Autumn’s arrival he then translated
along with the same Joseph Goering the letters of Robert
Grosseteste. One may scarcely imagine what he will do in the
coming years. One full of vigor and still more of knowledge
may do anything with God’s help.

O carissimi, dixi me gaudere, sed gaudeo triste.
 quomodo uiuemus nudi Mantello? quis timorem Dei in
 studentium historiae corda imponet? quis nos reget in mare
 60 recentioris latininitatis? quis studia manu scriptorum fouebit?
 quis principia recensendi et edendi docebit? nam tales faciles
 non inuentu. O Doctor, quis carior possit? quis fidelior
 doceat? semper linguam latinam fouisti; semper graecam
 tulisti. semper dignitatem philologiae seruasti; semper
 65 discipulos benigne duxisti. te recedente non possumus nisi
 tristes. finis dicendi nunc quaerendus, sed talis uir tantum est
 uersibus digno otio committendus.

peroratio

Heu, utinam liceret, Francisce, recedere tecum
 et placidis ruris uere uirente frui.
 at nobis uia tenditur in regione dolorum
 5 qui miseri non iam suscipimus requiem.
 aerumnis tantis nunc haud toleranda feretur—
 Mantelli absentis temporibus trahimur.
 tantum sub Christo possunt tot tristia ferri
 Christus qui aerumnis auxiliatur oui.
 10 cui insigni pietate deo te credimus, alte,
 ut pacem donet, Matre precante, tibi.
 tum tibi si qua mei ueniet non immemor hora
 uiuere nos certus sidere eris Fabii.

peroratio,10 cui...de] *cf.* Virg. *Aen.* 1.10 **12** tum...13 Fabii] *cf.* Prop.
 1.6.35f.

57 gaudeo triste *A⁴B : tr. A* **58** Mantello *AB : post Mantello ins. nam*
cum nudi essemus, nos operuisti A⁶ **59** studentium...imponet *A⁴B : c. st.*
his. im. A **61** faciles...62 non *A⁴B : tr. A* **64** tulisti *A⁴A¹B : tolerasti A*
peroratio,2 Heu...3 frui *A³B : A non liquet* **5** qui...requiem *A⁵B : qui*
requietem non accipimus miseri A **9** aerumnis *A¹ : expulso A* **11** Matre
precante A¹ : Virgine orante A

O beloved friends, I said that I was glad, but it is a bitter
 gladness. How shall we live bereft of our Mantello? Who shall
 put the fear of God in the history students? Who shall guide us
 in the sea of medieval Latin? Who shall foster the study of
 manuscripts? Who teach the principles of textual criticism?
 Such are not easily found. O Professor, who could be more
 dear? Who could teach more faithfully? You have always
 fostered the study of Latin; you have ever tolerated the study of
 Greek. You have zealously defended the dignity of philology;
 and you have always directed your students with tenderness and
 care. At your retirement we cannot but feel sad. We must now
 seek an end to our address, but such a teacher and scholar ought
 only in verse to be sent off to a retirement well-deserved.

exordium

Alas, that we could retire with you, Frank, and enjoy the
 country's sweet delights in the bloom of spring! Our path
 extends instead through the land of sorrows, for we have not yet
 taken leave to rest. To all these bitter hardships another will
 soon be added, scarcely to be borne— we are thrust into a time
 without Mantello. Only through Christ can we such sorrows
 bear, through Christ, who always helps his sheep in hardship.
 To this God, renowned for his fidelity, we entrust you, honored
 one, and pray that through his Mother's prayers he grant you
 peace. And if some day you shall think of us, know that we now
 live under Fabio's star.