



Seminarium
Philologiae
Humanisticae

The Reception of Roman Historiography in Italian Humanism: The Case of Pier Candido Decembrio

Hester Schadee (University of Exeter)

*Caesar and the Renaissance Rhetoric of Exemplarity:
Pier Candido Decembrio's Translation of the Commentaries*

Gary Ianziti (University of Queensland)

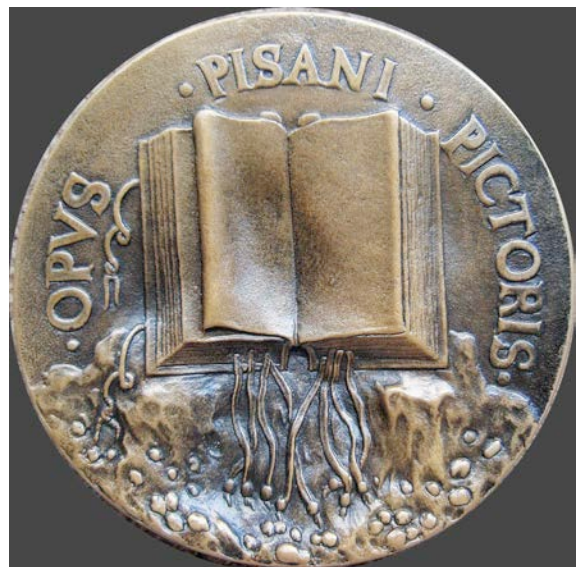
Pier Candido Decembrio, Suetonius, and the Rhetorics of Princely Biography

Thursday 17 September 2015 • 4 – 6 pm

Arts Faculty – KU Leuven

Museumzaal MSI (room 02.08), Erasmusplein 2 – B-3000 Leuven

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The Quattrocento humanist **Pier Candido Decembrio** (Pavia, 1399 – Milan, 1477) was educated by his father, Uberto Decembrio. In 1419 he entered the service of Filippo Maria Visconti, whose secretary he would remain for 28 years. Having sided with the Ambrosian Republic against Francesco Sforza after the Duke's death in 1447, he moved to the chancery of Pope Nicolas V and then to the court of Alfonso the Magnanimous in Naples. Eventually he reconciled with Sforza and in 1459 he returned to Milan. Decembrio translated Appian and Plato's *Republic* into Latin, and Curtius Rufus and Caesar into Italian. His own writings include *De laudibus Mediolanensium urbis panegyricus in comparationem Florentinae urbis* (1436), the *Oratio in funere Nicolai Picinini* (1444), numerous letters and various biographies: *Vita Philippi Mariae Vicecomitis* (1447), *Vita Francisci Sfortiae* (1462) and *Vita Herculis Estensis* (1471).

Hester Schadee, University of Exeter (UK), obtained her BA, M.Phil., and D.Phil. from the University of Oxford. She then held a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University, followed by a two-year Research Fellowship at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. As of 2014, she is employed as Lecturer in European History at the University of Exeter. She specialises in Italian Renaissance humanism and has published on humanist historiography and political thought. She is currently preparing a collection of translations entitled *Poggio Bracciolini: On Princes and Tyrants* for the I Tatti Renaissance Library (Harvard University Press) together with David Rundle. Her volume *Evil Lords: Theory and Representation from Antiquity to the Renaissance*, co-edited with Nikos Panou, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press. She has published an edition of Pier Candido Decembrio's prefaces to his translation of Caesar's *Commentaries*, in preparation for her monograph on the reception of Julius Caesar in Renaissance Italy.

Gary Ianziti, University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia), obtained his PhD at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and then held a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. In 1979 he took up a lectureship in Italian Studies at the University of Wollongong (Australia). He returned to Italy in 1988 to teach history at the University of Trieste. In 1994 he moved to Brisbane, where he served as Associate Professor of European Studies and later Director of the Humanities Research Program at QUT. He is a specialist in Italian Renaissance humanism, with a particular focus on the humanist contribution to the development of modern historiography. His publications in this area include two books: *Humanistic Historiography under the Sforzas: Politics and Propaganda in Fifteenth-century Milan* (Clarendon Press, 1988), and *Writing History in Renaissance Italy: Leonardo Bruni and the Uses of the Past* (Harvard University Press, 2012). He is currently preparing an edition of Pier Candido Decembrio's *Lives of the Milanese Tyrants* for the I Tatti Renaissance Library.