

THE MANUSCRIPT TRADITION OF DEMOSTHENES'

ORATION 54, *CONTRA CONONEM*

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Sh Codex gr. Carl Gustaf Bielke¹³² (olim Skokloster 2 Brahé), in the Carl Gustaf Bielke Library, Skokloster Castle,¹³³ Sweden, 15th – 16th century, paper, 214 x 152 mm., ff. 361, contains twenty-two orations of Demosthenes in the following order: 1-4, 6-10, 15, 16, 19, 24, 54, 20, 55, 27, 38, 41, 51, 48, 53. The hand of **Sh** shows many signs of the late 15th century, including variety of letter forms and sizes, and many abbreviations, especially above the line, and ligatures. These letter forms point to a 15th century dating: β, τ, ϑ, ει, ρο, ται, λ, γαρ, φ, ω. There are regularly twenty-three lines per page. The overall appearance is neat, despite the varying sizes of letters and numerous abbreviations.

As indicated on the inside front cover,¹³⁴ codex **Sh** was presented as a gift to Count Carl Gustaf Bielke (d. October 23, 1739) while he was governor of Gävle. Count Bielke collected many manuscripts for his library at Salsta Castle, and these were later transferred to Skokloster Castle in 1755 when one of Count Bileke's granddaughters married into the Brahé family. In 1930, the last male member of the Brahé family died, and the von Essen family inherited the palace. They lived at Skokloster Castle until 1967 when the estate was bought by the Swedish government. In 1968 the entire Skokloster collection was moved to the Riksarkivet in Stockholm for safe-keeping while the castle was restored. At that time, **Sh** was not included on the inventory lists of manuscripts due to an oversight. Upon return of the manuscripts to the Bielke Library

¹³² I wish to thank Dr. Rolf Linde at the Riksarkivet in Stockholm, Dr. Arne Losman, former head of the Skokloster Museum, and, in particular, Ms. Elisabeth Westin Berg, who assiduously searched the archives of Skokloster Castle for ms. **Sh** which had been misplaced among Turkish printed books. Without their persistence, I could not have collated **Sh** for this study.

¹³³ See Passweg, 103-4; Canfora, *Inventario*, 64; Richard, *Répertoire*, 56, who, citing P. O. Kristellar, said that **Sh** was among the Brahé collection that had been moved to the Riksarkivet in Stockholm; A. C. Graux and A. Martin, "Notices sommaires des manuscrits grecs en Suède," *Nouvelles archives des missions scientifiques et littéraires*, 3^e série, 15 (1889) 79-80. MacDowell does not consider **Sh** for or. 19.

in 1972, **Sh** may have been misplaced because it was wrapped in 18th century vellum and Turkish paper. Thus, **Sh** was temporarily lost until Ms. Berg rediscovered its whereabouts within Skokloster Castle in the summer of 2002.

vr Codex Vaticanus Urbin. gr. 114, in the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome,¹³⁵ 15th century, parchment, 276 x 181 mm., ff. 225, contains twenty-four orations of Demosthenes in the following order: 1-6, 9-11, 7, 8, 22, 21, 23, 18, L19, 19, 24, 14, 13, 16, 15, **54**, 60, 17. Codex **vr** along with codex **Vg** have been identified through a comparison of facsimiles as the product of Ioannes Scutariotes,¹³⁶ a 15th century scribe. Scutariotes copied manuscripts under Pope Nicholas V (AD 1447-1455), and worked in Florence from AD 1442-1494. The hands of **vr** and **g** are identical. The script of Scutariotes is very neat overall, employing few abbreviations and ligatures. There are 30-31 lines per page. The occasional grossly enlarged letter as well as certain letter forms betray a 15th century dating, e.g., the use of the stigma and the double-bowed β .¹³⁷

On the first folium of the codex the label of Federico da Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino from AD 1422-1482, can be seen. The back cover displays the emblem of the bookplate of Pope Pius VI (AD 1775-1779) and Cardinal Zelada, who was prefect of the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana from AD 1780-1801.

¹³⁴ The following information I received from correspondences with Dr. Rolf Linde, dated 19 July, 2002, and with Ms. Elisabeth Westin Berg, dated 31 July and 6 August, 2002.

¹³⁵ See Irmer, "Genealogie," 28, 44-46; Passweg, 105-6; MacDowell (who assigns the siglum **Xq** to this codex), *Embassy*, 47-48; Voemel (siglum **Urb^b**), 251-52, 272; Drerup, *ADA*, 575; C. Stornajolo, *Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae...codices Urbinates graeci*, 180-183.

¹³⁶ Passweg, 105; *RGK*, vol. 3, 120-21; Vogel and Gardthausen, 197-99, 203.

¹³⁷ Vogel and Gardthausen, taf. 11.