Oration ”Habuisti dilecta filia” of Pope Pius II (28 May 1459, Mantua). Translated by Michael v. Cotta-Schönberg. Final edition, 1st version. (Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 42)

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February 2019
Copenhagen
Abstract

On 27 May 1459, Pope Pius II arrived in Mantua where he was to consult with representatives of the European princes on a crusade against the Turks. The pope was met among others by representatives of the family of Duke Francesco Sforza of Milan whose daughter, the 13 year old Ippolita, gave a charming speech to the pope, to which the pope responded kindly – and very briefly – with the “Habuisti dilecta”.

Keywords

Enea Silvio Piccolomini; Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini; Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini; Pope Pius II; Papa Pio II; Renaissance rhetorics; Ippolita Sforza; Renaissance orations; Renaissance oratory; Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan; 15th century; 1459

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This is the first version of the final edition of the present text. I do not, actually, plan to publish further versions of this text, but I reserve the option in case I – during my future studies - come across other manuscripts containing interesting versions of the oration or if important new research data on the subject matter are published, making it appropriate or necessary to modify or expand the present text. It will therefore always be useful to check if a later version than the one the reader may have found previously via the Internet is available in HAL Archives.

In 2007, I undertook a project of publishing the Latin texts with English translations of the orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II (altogether 77 extant orations - including papal responses to ambassadorial addresses - are extant today, though more may still be held, unrecognized, in libraries and archives). Later the project has been expanded to include ambassadors’ orations to the pope, of which about 40 are presently known.

I have published the preliminary editions of both the individual orations and the collected orations in the French digital research archive, HAL Archives, and I shall gradually be replacing them with the final edition until the whole work – Deo volente - is completed in 2020.

I shall much appreciate to be notified by readers who discover errors and problems in the text and translation or unrecognized quotations.

23 September 2018
MCS

1 78 orations, if the “Cum animadverto” is counted is a Piccolomini-oration, see oration “Quam laetus”, Appendix

1. General introduction
2. 1436-1444 (Orations 1-5)
3. 1445-1449 (Orations 6-13)
4. 1450-1453 (Orations 14-20)
5. 1454-1455 (Orations 21-25)
6. 1455-1457 (Orations 26-28)
7. 1458-1459 (Orations 29-42)
8. 1459-1460 (Orations 43-54)
9. 1460-1462 (Orations 55-66)
10. 1462-1463 (Orations 67-75)
11. 1463-1464 (Oration 76-77). Orthographical profiles. Indices
12. Appendix: Orations by ambassadors to Pope Pius II
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II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Appendix: Oratio Devotissimae Hippolytae Francisci Sfortiae filiae Ducis Mediolani ad Sanctissimum Papam Pium
I. INTRODUCTION
1. Context

On 27 May 1459, Pope Pius II arrived in Mantua where he was to meet with representatives of the European princes. The purpose of the Congress was to deliberate on a crusade against the Turks. The pope was met among others by representatives of the family of Duke Francesco Sforza of Milan including the duchess, Bianca, whose daughter the 14 year old Ippolita gave a charming speech to the pope. The pope responded kindly – and very briefly – with the “Habuisti dilecta”. Earlier the eldest son of the Duke of Milan had accompanied the pope from Bologna to Mantova. The meeting with the ducal family was not an anodine court episode. On the contrary it was charged with political significance as it clearly demonstrated the close ties developing between the pope and the Duke of Milan as a basis for their alliance in favour of King Ferrante and against French domination in Italy.

Though Mansi included Pius’ response in his edition of Pius’ orations and responses, the oration as such has no great significance. More interesting is Ippolita’s speech as an early manifestation of an education which would later mark her as one of the great classically formed Italian Renaissance princesses.

In his Commentarii, the pope wrote about the episode:

Pius entered Mantua on May 27, five days before the appointed date. The city was filled with foreigners and crowds of people had come in from the neighbouring towns. Among them was Bianca, duchess of Milan, the daughter of the late Duke Filippo Maria and the wife of Francesco Sforza, a woman of high spirit and extraordinary wisdom. She had with her a noble brood of sons and daughters, four boys as beautiful as angels from heaven and a girl, called Ippolita, lovely of face and character, who was betrothed to the son of the king of Sicily. ... The next day, the pope gave an audience to Bianca and Barbara, who kissed his holy feet and obtained the sacred blessings they had come to seek. Bianca’s daughter Ippolita delivered a Latin oration before the pope, her style was so elegant that all who heard her were lost in wonder and admiration.
Ippolita Sforza’s oration to the pope is only one of several instances in the Italian Renaissance when a child delivered a Latin oration at a solemn occasion, demonstrating, as D’Elia writes a fondness for child prodigies and a belief in the difficulty and importance of a classical education in Italian society. Another example is the oration Francesco Filelfo wrote for Galeazzo Maria Sforza, eldest son of the Duke of Milan, to deliver before the emperor at his arrival in Ferrara. And a third example is an oration that Poggio Bracciolini wrote for one of his sons to deliver before the emperor, though in the end nothing came of it.

As witnessed by the relatively great number of manuscripts with Ippolita Sforza’s oration and Pius’ response, these orations gained some popularity, not of because of their content but because of the illustrious persons involved and because of Ippolita’s reputation as one of the grand learned ladies of the Italian Renaissance.

2. Themes

The theme was a well-turned compliment to the young, cultured princess and her parents.

3. Date, place, audience, and format

According to Pius’ own Commentarii, the entry into Mantua took place on 27 May, and the audience for the Sforzas and the Margravess of Mantua, where Ippolita Sforza gave her speech and the pope replied, was held the day afterwards, that is 28 May 1459.

The venue was the pope’s residence in the Gonzaga palace.

The audience consisted of cardinals and members of the courts of Milan and Mantua, and possibly others, though the audience appears not to have had public, formal character.

The format was a fatherly papal response to a young princess.

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1 D’Elia: Renaissance, p. 48
2 Lazzeroni
3 Poggio Bracciolini: Opera, II
4 Bryce, p. 60; D’Elia: Mariage; King & Rabil, pp. 46-47
5 Gigli, I, p. 527, gives the date as 2 June
4. Text

4.1 Manuscripts

According to Kristeller (Digital Version), the oration is extant in the following manuscripts:

- **Padova / Biblioteca Universitaria**
  2161

- **Padova / Museo Civico**
  B.P. 1223, ff. 57r-58r

- **Paris / Bibliothèque Nationale**
  Nouv. Acquisitions 1703, ff. 195r-197v

- **Parma / Biblioteca Palatina**
  Parm. 1526, ff. 047v

- **Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana**
  Fondo Buoncompagno F 7, ff. 004v

- **Trier / Bibliothek des Priesterseminars**
  44, ff. 133r-133v

- **Trieste / Biblioteca Civica**
  II 05

- **Venezia / Biblioteca Marciana**
  Lat. XIV 128 (4333), ff. 154r-154v
  Lat. XIV 228 (4498)

- **Zaragosa / Biblioteca Capitolar de la Seo**
  15-85, ff. 104r-104v

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1 The oration appears also to be extant in a number of other manuscripts
4.2 Editions

The text has been published (at least) three times:

- Gigli, Girolamo: *Il diario Senese*
  
  [1 ed.] Lucca, Quinza, 1722 / Pt. 1, p. 70.¹


For other editions, see Corvisieri, p. xii

4.3 Present edition

Text:

The present edition is based on Gigli’s text, with collation of the text published by Mansi.³

Pagination:

Pagination is from Gigli.

5 Sources

In this very short oration, no quotations have been identified.

¹ It has not been possible to verify this reference which is from Mansi’s edition, p. 192
² Gigli does not indicate precisely which manuscript he used, but has this information, I, p. 527: Il Sig. Abbate Domenico Giorgi letterato amico nostro ... avendoci vedute tra le mani queste memorie di Pio II ... ha voluto arricchire tale relazione con un raro monumento inedito, qual’è un elegante latino ragionare, che fece nel Concilio de Mantova avanti quelli grani Pontefice Donna Ippolita figliuola di Bianca Maria, e di Francesco Sforza Duca di Milano
³ In a later version of the present text, the edition will be based directly on some of the manuscripts listed
6 Bibliography


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Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt* [1464]. Published as:

- *Commentarii rerum memorabilium que suis temporibus contigervnt.* Ed. A van Heck. 2 vols. Città del Vaticano, 1984 (Studi e testi; 312-313)

Pius II: *Orationes.* [1436-1464]

- Pius II: *Orationes politicae et ecclesiasticae.* Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759


Reinhardt, Volker: *Pius II. Piccolomini – Der Papst, mit dem die Renaissance begann.* München, 2013


### 6 Sigla and abbreviations

**GI** = Gigli, Girolamo: *Il diario Senese.* 2nd ed, Siena: Landi & Alessandri, 1854

**MA** = Pius II: *Orationes.* Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols.l. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759

**Abbreviations**

**CO** = Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt* [1464]
MA = Pius II: *Orationes politicae et ecclesiasticae*. Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759

MPL = Migne, Jacques-Paul: *Patrologia latina*. 217 vols. 1841-1865


II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION
Responsum sanctissimi domini nostri papae Pii

Beloved daughter, the oration you gave in Our presence was elegant, polished, and wholly enjoyable. We admire you, your intellect, and your virtue. Your mother,¹ who is present, and your father,² who is absent, may rejoice to be parents to such a daughter. Your excessive praise of Us We ascribe to your kindness. Your sparing praise of your parents We attribute to your modesty. Their devotion to Us, We shall respond to generously, together with these Our Most Reverend Brothers, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church. May God bless you, as We do. Amen.

¹ Bianca Maria Visconti (1425-1468): legitimized daughter and only heir of Filippo Maria Visconti, Duke of Milan, and wife of Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan
² Francesco Sforza I (1401-1466): Italian condottiero, founder of the Sforza dynasty in Milan, Italy. Duke of Milan from 1450 to his death
Appendix: Oratio Devotissima Hippolytae Francisci Sfortiae filiae Ducis Mediolani ad Sanctissimum Papam Pium<sup>1 2</sup>

(527) Tantam<sup>3</sup> esse hujus sanctissimae sedis auctoritatem, Beatissime Pater, saepius audivi, ut nemo unquam, quantivis ingenii, <sup>{528}</sup> eloquentiae, dignitatis, illam oraturos<sup>4</sup> selegerit<sup>5</sup>, quin trepidus Oratoris officio functus sit. Nil mirum<sup>6</sup> igitur, si cui aetas, sexus, imbecillitasque ingenii pudorem, pariterque verecundiam afferunt, apud te praesertim, qui gravissimorum omnium consensus doctissimus, atque sapientissimus judicaris, rubore suffusa, non modo te alloqui<sup>7</sup>, sed nec firma quidem oculorum acie, tuam audeam suspicere Sanctitatem. Vere quidem, et accepi pariter te facilitate<sup>8</sup>, summa humanitate, benignitate<sup>9</sup>, et clementia praeditum, trepide injungat; et quod parentum exequi jussa sanctissimum arbitror, etsi verecunde, ac trepide injunctum mihi dicendi munus agrediari, adventus nostri causam premunt. Dehinc devotionem, tandem desiderium, vel brevissima oratione explicatura<sup>10</sup>. Ubi enim acceperimus Beatitudinem tuam in hoc amplissimum solium sublimatam, tanta repente inclitos parentes meos, universamque familiam voluptas invasit, ut nusquam posse nobis quisquam<sup>11</sup> propius ad felicitatem accedere existimaremus, tum ad ingentem familiae nostrae spem, tum vel maxime ob publicam Christianae religionis utilitatem, quippe qui ... quodam ad regendum periclitatentem, ac pene submersam Petri naviculam coelo demissum esse arbitramur. Te enim non favoribus, aut gratia, sed virtute summa, atque sanctimonia in tanto christianae rei discrimine optimum gregi dominico Pastorem datum esse non ab re judicat.

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<sup>1</sup> As edited by Mansi, II, pp. 192-193. For other editions, see Corvisieri, p. xii
<sup>2</sup> In the manuscripts, Ippolita’s speech usually directly preceeds Pius response, see Introduction, sect. 4.1. According to Pastor, p. 43, it is also in the mss. Roma / Biblioteca Barberini / XXIX, 157, and München / Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Cod. Lat. 522 and 650
<sup>3</sup> Vulgavit Hieronymus Gigli in suo Diario Senens. par. 1. pag. 70 nota marg. Mansi
<sup>4</sup> oratenus MA
<sup>5</sup> se legerit MA
<sup>6</sup> nimirum GI
<sup>7</sup> alioqui GI
<sup>8</sup> felicitate MA
<sup>9</sup> Sensus turbatus nota marg. Mansi
<sup>10</sup> explicatum MA
<sup>11</sup> quidquam MA

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Translation - After King & Rabil, pp. 48-49

So great, I have often heard, is the authority and majesty of this holiest See, blessed [father], that no one, however intelligent, eloquent [or] worthy, has ever petitioned it who did not perform this task with trepidation. Certainly, then, I, who suffer shyness and timidity because of may age, sex and frailty of mind, am struck with fear, especially in the presence of such a judge as you, who are, by the consensus of all the worthiest men, most learned and wise. [Thus], blushing I am silent not merely because of that blush, but because, indeed, I have not the courage to look upon your Holiness with unwavering eyes. But since I am also aware that you are good-natured, extraordinarily humane, benevolent, and merciful, and because I know it is holy to obey one's parents’ commands, I shall undertake, bashfully and fearfully, the duty of speaking imposed on me. In a brief oration, I shall first explain the cause for our presence here, and then our petition.

When we learned that your Holiness had been exalted to this splendid throne, my illustrious parents and our whole family were suddenly overcome by such deep pleasure that nothing, I thought, could ever occur more contributory to our happiness, partly because of our family's great hopes, and partly, or rather particularly, for the sake of the general well-being of the Christian religion. For indeed, we believe you are a star sent down from heaven to govern the bark of St. Peter [which is today] imperiled and nearly submerged. It augurs well, they feel, that [in these times when] Christendom is so endangered, you were chosen as the supreme pastor of the Lord's flock, not because of favor or privilege, but because of your lofty virtue and saintliness.
Sed quid\textsuperscript{1} ego laudes tua attingere audeo, ut scilicet cui res illas, ac pene divinas, et aereas, aut\textsuperscript{2} luteas verbis inconditis meis, ac puellaribus reddam? Cum igitur audivismus in hanc urbem tuam proficisci Sanctitatem, instituerant quoque et ipsi parentes mei te coram venerari, colere, et adorare; et ipsa quoque, quod mihi facultas data fuerit hos beatissimos pedes osculari felicitatem mihi natam puto. Et quoniam Salvatoris nostri vicem geris in terris, multam tibi mortales reverentiam debent, multamque obedientiam exhibent; id tibi persuades oro, neminem pro tua ac\textsuperscript{3} Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae dignitate, aut bono vehementiori studio, ardentiorisque desiderio, obsequientiorem\textsuperscript{4} parentibus ipsis, promptioremque fore. Ego vero cum fortunarum nihil habeam proprium, voluntatem, quae libera est, tuae devoeov, et dedico Sanctoritati. Reliquum est, ut illustrissimos genitores meos, germanos, me remque omnium nostrorum faciam his tuis sanctissimis\textsuperscript{5} pedibus commendatos.

\textsuperscript{1} quidem GI
\textsuperscript{2} ut MA
\textsuperscript{3} omit. GI
\textsuperscript{4} observantiorem MA
\textsuperscript{5} sanctissimus GI
But to what end do I dare to praise you? Is it in order to use my crude and childish words to make filthy your golden and nearly divine virtues? When we heard, then, that your Holiness had decided to set out for this city, my parents decided likewise to come too, to revere, worship [and] adore you; and since, consequently, I, too, am able to kiss your blessed feet, I feel I have experienced not a small, but a tremendous happiness. For since you are on earth the vicar of our Savior, we earthly mortals owe you much reverence and show you much obedience. I pray that you believe this: no one more zealously obeys or more ardently desires your prosperity and welfare, or the prosperity and welfare of the holy Roman Church, than my parents. And I, indeed, though I have no fortune of my own, both devote and dedicate my will, which is free, to your sanctity. It remains to be said only that my illustrious parents, my brothers, myself, our whole condition, I commend to your Holiness.