STEFANUS BYZANTIUS

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FORTUNA

Stephanus Byzantius, a professor in the Court Schools of Constantinople under Justinian, is known only from his one work, the Ethnica, an alphabetical dictionary of geographical proper names giving their correct adjective derivatives, with abundant citations of ancient texts for their occurrence. Written about A.D. 535, the original work was of some fifty books, but only an epitome of a few hundred pages is extant. See Christ-Schmid II 2 (1924) 1084-85; E. Honigmann in Pauly-Wissowa 6A (1929) 2369-99.

I. Ethnica


Translations
1. Anonymus

An anonymous translation made by an Italian was contained in a manuscript lost during the last war. It was presumably autograph, but incomplete, extending only to the entry Phrada.

Manuscript:


2. Benedictus Aegius

Stephani Byzantii de urbibus populisque commentarii luculentissimi Benedicto Aegio Spoletino interprete Pio III pont. optimo maximo dicandi per Aegii praelegationem.

[Inc.1]: Abae urbs est Phociensis a recto singularis Aba Abae. . . . . [Expl1]: hoc etiam videtur esse Zygopolis iuxta Trapezuntem. Strabo libro duodecimo. Gentile Zygianus, -na.

Manuscripts:

Vatican, Vat. Lat. 5734, cart. s. XVI. Cf. Kristeller, Iter II 335. With corrections by another hand, probably Egio himself. Copied by Jacobus Deymius Batavus Haganus. The order is adjusted to the Latin alphabet.

— Barb. Lat. 115, cart. s. XVII. A copy of the other ms., made for Lucas Holstenius. Kristeller, Iter II 442.
3. GULIELMUS XYLANDER

In the preface to his edition of Stephanus Byzantius (Greek without Latin, Basel, Oporinus, 1568) Xylander says: Iampridem hunc Geographicorum propriorum nominum Indicem in Latinam linguam converserit ita sum aggressus, ut urbium, regionum, montium, fluviorum, aliqua id genus nomina ab autore omissa adicerem ex aliis Geographis, Strabone puta, Plinio, Mela, Ptolemaeo, nec non Historicis Poetisque, Graecis iuxta Latinisvel; vel quae hic brevius aut confusius proponuntur, ex ipsis scriptoribus plenius atque distinctius exponerem. Quod nostrum opus aliquandui internissum, hoc tempore persequevisur, et espes est confore, ut Graeci huius libri editionem confessim subsequatur ipsius quoque in publicum emissio. Again in the preface to his edition of Strabo (1571): Etenim cum instituissetusma de urbibus emendationem atque versionem (qua deinde commentatio ab nobis gravibus de causis est in Onomasticon geographicum traducta)... The Onomasticon geographicum is cited in his notes on Horace (1575) I 7.13 and IV 14.11, but on his death in 1576 it was unpublished and unfinished.

Stephani Byzantii de urbibus et populis liber Guilelmus Xylandro Augustano interprete.

[Inc.]: Abae urbs est Phocidis. ./. .

[Expl.]: Dystus urbs Euboeae, Theopompus Philipppon XXIV.

The order is adjusted to the Latin alphabet, but the work progresses only through the letter D. Additional material from Strabo and other sources, as stated above, is incorporated in Annotationes after the respective articles, but some new articles are interpolated.

Manuscript:

Vatican, Barb. lat. 159, cart. s. XVI, autograph. Cf. Kristeller, Iter II 443.

Biogr.:

See below under Strabo, I, 3.

4. GASPAR SARDIUS

The translation appears anonymous in a miscellaneous manuscript of the sixteenth century, written by the same hand that has been identified by Dott. Pietro Puliatti as that of Alessandro Sardi. The translation may be attributed to his father Gasparo Sardi who used Stephanus as one of his major sources in his unpublished Toponomasiae libri XVIII, as he states in the preface of that work dated 1561 (see Bern, Burgerbibliothek, ms. 174, written by the same hand as the Modena ms.). The translation is not complete; the entries are much abridged and rearranged according to the Latin alphabet.


Manuscript:

Modena, Biblioteca Estense, Est. lat. 50 (Alpha 0 7,19), cart. s. XVI, fols. 73-199. Kristeller, Iter II 542. Partial microfilm kindly supplied by Cav. Carlo Orlandini.
Biogr.: 
Gaspar Sardius (Gasparo Sardi), a Ferrarese scholar and writer of varied interests. He was born about 1480, was a student of Battista Guarini and Ludovico Carbone and died in 1564. He published a history of Ferrara (in Italian, 1556), and his letters (in Latin, 1549, followed by a treatise De triplici philosophia). He left many writings in manuscript, including poems, historical, philological and theological notes. His Toponomasia survives in the above cited manuscript in Bern, and in two manuscripts in Modena (Est. lat. 179 and 481, with indices in cod. 293).

Bibl.: Cosenza IV 3194; L. Ferrari, Onomasticon 609; Kristeller, Iter I (index); Tiraboschi (1824) VII 1274-77; G.A. and L. Barotti, Memorie istoriche di Letterati ferraresi II (Ferrara 1793) 68-73.

5. Late Translations
Since none of these translations was ever published, attention should be called to the seventeenth-century translations that were repeatedly printed, one by Abraham Berkelius (first printed in Leyden 1688) and one by Thomas de Pinedo Lusitanus (first printed in Amsterdam 1678). Notes on Stephanus Byzantius by Lucas Holstenius were repeatedly printed (first in Leyden 1684; the autograph ms. is in Florence, Laur. Acquisti e Doni 141, see Studi italiani 6, 1898, 100), but his Latin translation survives only in manuscript (Vatican, Barb. lat. 174 and 319, cf. Kristeller, Iter II 443 and 444).