Gadaldini’s Library

A few years ago in *Mnemosyne*, Keith M. Dickson convincingly argued that the numerous notes in a Greek manuscript in the Royal Library of Copenhagen, *Hauniensis gr. E variorum donatione 29, 2°*, may well have been written by Agostino Gadaldini (1515-1575). By comparing them with Gadaldini’s emendations in his Juntine edition of 1554 of Stephanus’ *Commentary on Galen’s Ad Glauconem*, Dickson showed that the physician of Modena had probably used the Copenhagen manuscript directly. The manuscript came from the collection of Johann Rhode, a Danish physician who collected Greek manuscripts during his long stay in Padua (1623-1659), where it was seen by Jacopo Tomasini. Despite some excellent arguments, Dickson remained cautious in his conclusions, for he knew of no example of Gadaldini’s Greek handwriting that could provide a conclusive comparison.

However, it has long been suspected, ever since F.R. Dietz in the 1830s, that the marginalia in the Basle edition of Hippocrates (1538) now preserved in Milan (Biblioteca Ambrosiana, shelfmark S Q T VIII 9), were the work of Gadaldini. When the latest edition of Hippocrates *Airs, Waters and Places* was published, a comparison between the Copenhagen and the Milan marginalia was suggested by Jacques Jouanna. For some reason, it has not been made until now. There are also traces of Gadaldini in a sixteenth-century manuscript in Paris, *Parisin. gr.* 2383, that contains a part of Galen’s commentary on Plato’s *Timaeus* (ff. 27-34) and was used by Gadaldini for his Latin translation.

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2) Dickson 1990.


4) Jouanna 1996. Other notes attributed to Gadaldini were also to be found in a copy of the Aldina (1526) preserved in the Ambrosiana (shelfmark S Q E VIII 14), but it has been lost.

5) See Schroeder 1934, s.v.; see also Festugierre 1952. I originally doubted their conclusions, but changed my mind when comparing the hand with a reprographic copy of the Copenhagen manuscripts. See also Garofalo 2004, 292.

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We know little about Gadaldini’s library, and even less about Agostino Gadaldini himself; however, we do know that Gadaldini was a physician in Modena, and that his major work on Latin translations of Galen, which were revised on the basis of Greek manuscripts, could not have been made without sufficient manuscript material to hand. René Chartier, the seventeenth-century editor of the Greek Galen, used the Juntine editions of Galen and Hippocrates in order to improve (or simply alter) his Greek text, which is a sign of Gadaldini’s importance in the constitution of the Galenic corpus in early modern times. It must also be stressed that Galen’s readership from 1550 onwards knew the complete works of Galen mainly through the Latin editions prepared by Gadaldini for the Giuntas (therefore called Juntines). It is therefore crucial to try to discover more about the sources of such an important work. Why should this manuscript material have vanished entirely from sight? Why could it not be found, for example, in Gadaldini’s native city? Stefania Fortuna has suggested that Gadaldini may have used a Venetian manuscript for his revised translation of On Affected Parts. But, in general, modern editors of Galen have shed very little light on Gadaldini’s sources.

In a recent paper I drew attention to a series of Greek medical manuscripts in the Biblioteca Estense in Modena, arguing that they had been written in a short space of time as part of an editorial project. Despite the catalogue’s inaccuracies, direct inspection revealed that five manuscripts, Mutinens. gr. 211, 213, 217, 226 and 237, all written by the same unidentified scribe and containing exclusively works by Galen, must be dated after 1525 at the earliest. All of them have in their margins Greek notes of various kinds (collations, emendations, conjectures) by an identical hand that is also unidentified. In addition, I noticed strong connections with yet more manuscripts in the same library. The mysterious marginalia appeared in other Greek manuscripts of Galen (Mutinens. gr. 78,

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6) See Nutton 1987, 69. However, see the details given recently by Garofalo (2004, 284-6).

7) See Fortuna 1993, 27; Garofalo 2004, 283; Domingues 2004, 341-6; René Chartier obviously used one of the Juntines to improve Pseudo-Galen’s Introductio sive medicus, as I stated in my doctoral thesis (2004, 244-7), to be published in the Collection des Universités de France, Les Belles Lettres, Paris.

8) The Juntines were printed several times throughout the second half of the sixteenth century, with additions and corrections: the 1550, 1556 and 1565 editions are the most innovative and were all supervised by Agostino Gadaldini.
