



that this miscellany probably reflects the complete contents of that (lost) codex [Mynors, *loc.cit.*, followed by Sammut]. If this scenario were true, however, it would mean that Humfrey's *Isagogicon* manuscript was a highly unusual example of his owning an anthology of works by different humanists: all of the extant humanist codices from his collection include the work of only one author (with the exception of **CUL, MS.Gg.i.34 (i)** in which the different writers' letters have an obvious unity). Moreover, a prototype for this fascicule has been found in \*Padua: Biblioteca del Seminario, MS.119, which has the same items in the same order [*Iter*, ii, p.8b]. What is more, collation of the texts of the *Orationes Homeri*, translated by Bruni, has revealed that the texts appear to be directly connected [Thiermann, pp.51-3]. However, this manuscript, made in Florence c.1440, can not be identified with Humfrey's copy [*DHL*, p.87]. It could be posited that an intermediate copy was made which belonged to Humfrey but this would demand a remarkable achievement: that this unusual selection was transcribed in the same order and with such felicity that the extant codex is textually close to its own prototype. It is surely less complicated and more plausible to accept the possibility that the Padua manuscript came to England soon after its production. It would appear to have stayed in Oxford for at least ten years, as the *Orationes Homeri* in **Dublin: Trinity College, MS.438** were also apparently copied from it [Thiermann, *loc. cit.*]. On the other hand, it may have begun its long journey back to Italy soon after that as there is an indirectly-linked copy of the same text in \*Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, MS.lat.1616, written at Troyes, c.1450.

The implication, therefore, is that Gray was able to call upon the library resources of collectors other than Humfrey in having his own manuscripts transcribed. In other

words, it would seem that there was at least one other person in Oxford who owned humanist texts in the late 1430s or 1440s.

We do not know what happened to this manuscript during Gray's foreign travels; did he take it with him or, as would seem more likely, leave it in England for safe-keeping [cf. the fortuna of **Dublin: Trinity College, MS.438**]? All that can be said with certainty is that it was among the bequest of books to Balliol that Gray made and which were in the library from 1478.

\* \* \*

*DH&EH*, no.40; Sammut, pp.130-1; A.G.Watson, *Catalogue of Dated and Datable Manuscripts in Oxford Libraries* (Oxford, 1984) no.757; *DHL*, no.70.

P.Thiermann, ed., *Die Orationes Homeri des Leonardo Bruni Aretino: kritische edition* (Leiden,1993) pp.51-3.

For suggestion of what might have followed the *Isagogicon* in Humfrey's copy, see c.iii p.76n above.