

R. Weiss, *Humanism in England during the Fifteenth Century*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., ed. D. Rundle and A. J. Lappin (Oxford, 201

TEXT G1: Preface and Epilogue to *Gnomica*, addressed by George Hermonymos to George Neville, Archbishop of York (1475?)

As Weiss explains at pp. 222 – 23 above [Weiss<sup>3</sup>, pp. 146 – 47], George Hermonymos's year-long stay in England did not leave him with happy memories. However, during his brief time in the country, he did dedicate a set of *Gnomica* to Archbishop Neville, whose release from prison he had been sent by the pope to attain.

The base text is London: BL, MS. Harl. 3346 (= H1 below), the presentation copy to Neville, including at fol. 4<sup>v</sup> a full-page illumination depicting his coat-of-arms (erroneously quartered with those of the see of Canterbury), held by two red-winged angels.

For typescript transcriptions of the preface from this manuscript, see Part I (18). This copy has not previously been collated with the acephalous copy in BL, MS. Harl. 3348 (= H2 below). This latter manuscript is likewise a set of gnostic sayings, though there is little overlap in content with H1. Despite having lost its first folio, it is clearly collected together by Hermonymos, also for a patron described as 'Reverendissimus'. It has been assumed that it constitutes an abandoned first attempt at a presentation copy: see Kalitzi, 'Hermonymos', p. 55. However, a third related manuscript came to light in 2017 when it was put up for sale at Christie's of London, as lot 17 in their sale of 12 July (= U below). This is a near twin of H1, with the same layout of a full-page illumination on the verso facing the preface, but with the arms held by the angels different (sable, three covered pitchers argent) and the dedication redirected to William, abbot of St Albans (there are two possibilities for identification as, in 1475, William Albon was succeeded by William of Wallingford in that role). This copy is included for the first time in this edition, though differences in the text of the preface are confined to altering the addresses to the recipient, reflecting his lower ecclesiastical status. The scribe of this entire copy is the same as the one providing solely the opening title in the manuscript for Neville.

The epilogue, nearly identical in all three manuscripts, has not previously been transcribed or published.

[fol. 5] Georgij hermonymi in aliquorum probatissimorum virorum<sup>1</sup> sententias ad Reverendissimum in christo patrem et dominum d. Georgium archiepiscopum eboracensem dignissimum Proaemium[sic].<sup>2</sup>

Magno profecto ac miranda pater Reverendissime et domine prestantissime<sup>3</sup> fama ipsa de tuis singularibus virtutibus fert quae quidem cum ad meas pervenissent aures dignum esse arbitratus sum talem virum decus pene et gloriam [fol. 5<sup>v</sup>] gentis anglicae necnon cultorem virtutum non solum visitarem sed etiam aliquid pro viribus meis futurum gratum efficerem. Verum cum sepe numero maximis etiam longe meae peregrinationis laboribus vexatus cogitarem quid tuae dominationi offerre possem, quod tibi foret acceptum meamque in te

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<sup>1</sup> probatissimorum virorum U: philosophorum

<sup>2</sup> ad Reverendissimum ... Proaemium U: ad Reverendum patrem dominum Gulielmum Abbatem sancti Albani dignissimum. Proemium.

<sup>3</sup> pater ... prestantissime U: pater Reverende et domine honorande

devotionem testaretur. Post multas variasque mentis revolutiones tandem mea in hoc me<sup>4</sup> deduxit sententia ut de [fol. 6] lucubratiuncularum mearum fructu (si quis est) te participem facere deberem. Gnomica<sup>5</sup> quaedam seu preclare dicta aliquorum probatissimorum auctorum<sup>6</sup> quae ex splendoribus litterarum graecarum latina nuper confeci, tibi presuli<sup>7</sup> dignissimo<sup>8</sup> praesidio patrocinioque omnium studiorum dicavi, qui miro amore ac benivolentia eruditos quosque et litterarum studiosos amplecteris, foves, extollis parvum quippe munus[fol. 6<sup>v</sup>] culum, non tamen, ut spero, praestantiae tuae ingratum,<sup>9</sup> in his enim dignum philosophis gravitatem brevitatemque dicendi recognosceres. Quod si tuae Reverendissimae dominationi<sup>10</sup> studium meum<sup>11</sup> placere intellexero, maiora deinceps aggrediar et immortalis nomini tuo libens dicabo. Sed iam Gregorium nostrum theologum per excellentiam cognominatum<sup>12</sup> legamus.

...

#### [fol. 32<sup>v</sup>] EPILOGUS

Hoc te munusculo donatum<sup>13</sup> esse volo domine Reverendissime<sup>14</sup> quod meam in te devotionem ostendet ita namque miro amore ac desiderio tuae paternitati que sua mirabili sapientia ac virtutum splendore non tantum Angliam orbem alterum sed ecclesiam totam illustrat deditus sum ut si vigiliarum mearum labores tibi gratos esse persensero [fol. 33] ad maiora aggredienda me tardum fore ne cogites. Perlege hoc igitur rogo et quantum in his summis viris ingenij ac probitatis fuerit considera tu qui nullo eorum sapientia ac virtutibus inferior<sup>15</sup> existimaris ac tuum Heronymum commendatum habe. VALE

File revised by David Rundle: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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<sup>4</sup> H2 *opens here*.

<sup>5</sup> Gnomica H2: Gnomicha igitur

<sup>6</sup> probatissimorum auctorum H2: prestantissimorum virorum

<sup>7</sup> nuper ... presuli H1: *corrected order supplied by superscript letters, with text originally reading* tibi nuper presuli confeci H2: nuper confeci tibi

<sup>8</sup> presuli dignissimo H2: *om.*

<sup>9</sup> ingratum H2: ingratum que silet dona ex largientis affectione pensare.

<sup>10</sup> Reverendissimae domination: U: paternitati

<sup>11</sup> meum H2: *om.*

<sup>12</sup> Gregorium ... cognominatum H2: Alexandrum nostrum mace[fol. 2]donum Regem legamus.

<sup>13</sup> donatum H1: dona tum [*sic*]

<sup>14</sup> Reverendissime U: Reverende

<sup>15</sup> inferior H2: *\inferior/*