

More, Lily and the Palatine Anthology: More Evidence?

More than thirty years ago Alan Cameron began to argue that Thomas More had once owned the manuscript, which includes the *Palatine Anthology*. The starting point for the argument is the presence in Thomas More and William Lily's 1518 *Progymnasmata* of a Greek epigram, which is not found in the Planudian edition of the *Greek Anthology*, but does appear in the small collection of poems added to the front of the manuscript of the *Palatine Anthology*. Since it is likely that John Clement, a protégé of More, owned the manuscript later in the 16th Century, Cameron argued that Clement had inherited the manuscript from More, along with other material from More's library.

There was resistance to Cameron's argument among scholars. Some of Cameron's suggestions about who had had the manuscript in Italy before it, theoretically, travelled to England were shown to be incorrect. Grantley McDonald (2013), however, argued for Cameron's proposal and provides some supporting evidence based on careful readings of the text of the Greek poems in the *Progymnasmata*.

This paper presents further evidence for Cameron's thesis from the Greek text of the *Progymnasmata* and Latin poems by Lily found in the Harley MS 540. While no one part of the evidence could be said to be absolute proof, and all the examples could be explained away, the accumulation of evidence makes More's ownership of the manuscript the most efficient solution. In addition, the paper will, briefly, argue that the Greek text of the *Progymnasmata* indicates that More and Lily used the 1503 Aldine edition of the *Greek Anthology*, rather than Lascaris' 1494 edition.

Bibliography

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