



HAL
open science

Oration “Pone lacrimas” of Pope Pius II (16 October 1461, Rome). Edited and translated by Michael v. Cotta-Schönberg. 4th version.(Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 63)

Michael Cotta-Schønberg

► **To cite this version:**

Michael Cotta-Schønberg. Oration “Pone lacrimas” of Pope Pius II (16 October 1461, Rome). Edited and translated by Michael v. Cotta-Schönberg. 4th version.(Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 63). 2019. hal-01228205

HAL Id: hal-01228205

<https://hal.science/hal-01228205>

Submitted on 28 Nov 2019

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

(Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 63)

Oration “*Pone lacrimas*” of Pope Pius II (16 October 1461, Rome). Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg

4th version

2019

Abstract

In 1461, the rule of Queen Charlotte of Cyprus and her husband Louis of Savoy was successfully challenged by the queen's half-brother Jacques II de Lusignan. The queen fled to the West where she first went to the pope, Pius II, in Rome to beg for help. In his oration to the queen, the pope gave comforting words and promise of aid to her travel to her father-in-law, Duke Louis I of Savoy, and the promise of wine and grain to her besieged troops in Cyprus, but he also used the occasion to denounce the duke's refusal to contribute to the crusade against the Turk.

Keywords

Enea Silvio Piccolomini; Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini; Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini; Pope Pius II; Papa Pio II; Charlotte de Lusignan, Queen of Cyprus; Louis of Savoy, King of Cyprus; Louis de Savoie, King of Cyprus; Jacques II de Lusignan, King of Cyprus; Louis I, Duke of Savoy; Louis I de Savoie; Renaissance orations; Renaissance oratory; Renaissance rhetorics; 15th century; 1461

Editor and translator

Michael v. Cotta-Schönberg

Mag. Art. (University of Copenhagen)

Bachelier en Philosophie (Université de Louvain)

Emeritus Deputy Director of The Royal Library, Copenhagen

Emeritus University Librarian of the University of Copenhagen

ORCID identity: 000-0001-8499-4142

e-mail: typsita@gmail.com

Foreword

In 2007, I undertook a project of publishing the Latin texts with English translations of the orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II. Altogether 80¹ orations (including papal responses to ambassadorial addresses) are extant today, though more may still be held, unrecognized, in libraries and archives.

At a later stage the project was expanded to include ambassadors' orations to the pope, of which about 40 are presently known.

I do not, actually, plan to publish further versions of the present volume, but I do reserve the option in case I – during my future studies - come across other manuscripts containing interesting versions of the oration or if important new research data on the subject matter are published, making it appropriate to modify or expand the present text. It will therefore always be useful to check if a later version than the one the reader may have previously found via the Internet is available.

I shall much appreciate to be notified by readers who discover errors and problems in the text and translation or unrecognized quotations.

12 September 2019

MCS

¹ 81 orations, if the "*Cum animadverto*" is counted as a Piccolomini-oration, see oration "*Quam laetus*" [18], Appendix

Table of volumes in *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*. 12 vols. Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg

1. Introduction
2. 1436-1444 (Orations 1-5)
3. 1445-1449 (Orations 6-13)
4. 1450-1453 (Orations 14-20)
5. 1454-1455 (Orations 21-25)
6. 1455-1457 (Orations 26-28)
7. 1458-1459 (Orations 29-42)
8. 1459-1459 (Orations 43-51)
9. 1459-1461 (Orations 52-63)
10. 1462-1464 (Orations 64-77)
11. 1454, 1459 (Orations 78-80). Orthographical profiles. Indices
12. Appendix: Ambassadors' orations to Pope Pius II

Table of contents

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Context
2. Themes
3. Date, place, audience, and format
4. Text
 - 4.1. Manuscripts
 - 4.2. Editions and translations
 - 4.3. Present edition
5. Sources
6. Bibliography
7. Sigla and abbreviations

II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Context¹

In 1458, the fourteen year old Princess Charlotte de Lusignan, succeeded her father, Jean II, on the throne of Cyprus. She was crowned on 7 October, and a year afterwards she married her cousin, Louis de Savoie, who arrived in Cyprus on 4 October 1459 and was crowned king. The couple was not to enjoy their lordship over Cyprus for long, for already the year after, in 1460, the queen's illegitimate halfbrother, Jacques II de Lusignan, claimed the kingdom for himself. Louis was besieged in the castle of Kyrenia, and Charlotte fled to Europe to raise help to regain the kingdom.

First she came to Rome, in October 1461. She was received by Pius II on the sixteenth² and made her plea to him for help.³ Pius responded courteously, in the oration "*Pone lacrimas*", and provided money and horses for her travel to her father-in-law, Louis I of Savoy, who gave her a very cool reception, whereafter she returned dejectedly to Cyprus.

The royal couple was finally deposed in 1464 and came to Europe. Charlotte died in Rome, in 1484.

2. Themes

In his oration, Pius gave the queen words of comfort and assurance of aid for her further travel.

However, he could not resist the temptation to blame her misfortunes on the unfriendly attitude towards the papacy of the House of Savoy, and especially the refusal of Duke Louis I of Savoy to contribute to the crusade. It also rankled the pope that Charlotte's husband had not made an appearance at the Congress of Mantua on his way to Cyprus in September 1459.

The pope said:

Your sufferings are cruel, but not rare. The throne of a realm is unstable. No power lasts long. Fortune rejoices in elevating some and tearing others down, and now it is playing with your family: it has given the throne to your brother and sent you into exile. We believe that you are expiating the sins of your father-in-law and your husband. For when your father-in-law was asked, at the Congress of Mantua, to promise his aid to the defense of the Faith against the Turks, as did the other princes of Italy, he could in no way be persuaded to pledge even the smallest contribution. And when your husband set off to sail to you,⁴ he did not deign to come

¹ CO, VII, 7; Pastor, II, p. 176-178; Voigt, IV, pp. 653-656

² Pastor, II, p. 177

³ The probably rather fictive oration "*Infelices domus*" in the *Commentarii*,

⁴ In September 1459, during the Congress in Mantua

to Us in Mantua though it would have been quite easy for him to go via the Po to the mouth of the Mincio. Both father and son showed Us contempt.

Therefore We told the cardinals: “The House of Savoy despises the Church and does not see fit to promise its aid to religion. This young man, who is now going to Cyprus, will suffer for it. He believes that he shall have the kingdom as his dowry, but he is wrong: he will be expelled. Hopefully he will escape the enemy’s troops. His father, who arrogantly refused to help Us against the Turks, will come and beg Us to help his son.” [Sect. 1-2]

3. Date, place, audience, and format

The oration “*Pone lacrimas*” was given on 16 October 1461, in the Apostolic Palace in Rome.

The audience was restricted to a few people (*inter paucos*), and the format was a – somewhat informal – papal response to a princess.

4. Text¹

This oration was not included in the official compilation of Pope Pius II’s orations from 1462, but only in his *Commentarii*.²

4.1. Manuscripts

The two principal manuscripts containing the *Commentarii*, with the oration, are:

¹ Concerning the textual transmission of Pius II’s orations, see *Collected orations of Pope Pius*, vol. 1, ch. 5

² For the orations included in the *Commentarii*, see *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, sect. 5.1.4.

- **Roma / Biblioteca dell'Accademia dei Lincei**
Corsinianus 147, ff. 223r-223v (S)
- **Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana**
Reginensis Latinus 1995, ff. 324v-325r (R)

Of these, the Reginensis contains the first version of the *Commentarii* and the Corsinianus the final version, both made under Pius' personal supervision.

4.2. Editions and translations

Some important editions and translations of the *Commentarii* are¹:

- Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium que suis temporibus contigerunt*. Ed. A van Heck. 2 vols. Città del Vaticano, 1984. (Studi e testi; 312-313) / I, pp. 433-434
- Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Papa Pio II: *I Commentari*. 2 vols. Ed. Luigi Totaro. Milano, 1984 / II, pp. 1392-1393
[With an Italian translation]
- Pius II: *Commentaries*. Ed. and transl. by M. Meserve and M. Simonetta. Vols. 1 ff. Cambridge, MA, 2003 ff. (The I Tatti Renaissance Library) / III, pp. 385-386
[With an English translation]

The oration was also published in the:

- *Annales ecclesiastici ab anno MCXCVIII ubi Card. Baronius desinit*. Auct. Odoricus Raynaldus. Tom. XVIII-XIX. Roma: Varesius, 1659-1663. / Ad annum 1461, nr. 33
[And in later editions]

4.3. Present edition

For principles of edition (incl. orthography) and translation, see *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, ch. 9-10.

¹ For other editions, see *Collected orations of Pope Pius*, vol. 1, ch. 5

Text:

Though the Reginensis and the Corsinianus have very ably edited previously, the text has - as a matter of principle – been collated from the two principal manuscripts, with the Corsinianus as the lead manuscript.

Pagination:

Pagination is from the lead manuscript.

5. Sources¹

In this very brief oration, only one direct or indirect quotation has been identified, from Horace's Odes.

6. Bibliography

Pastor, Ludwig: *Geschichte der Päpste im Zeitalter der Renaissance*. 16 vols. Freiburg i.B., 1886-1933

Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt* [1464]

- Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt*. Ed. A van Heck. 2 vols. Città del Vaticano, 1984 (Studi e testi; 312-313)
- Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Papa Pio II: *I Commentari*. 2 vols. Ed. Luigi Totaro. Milano, 1984
- Pius II: *Commentaries*. Ed. and transl. by M. Meserve and M. Simonetta. Vols. 1 ff. Cambridge, MA, 2003 ff. (The I Tatti Renaissance Library)
- *The Commentaries of Pius II*. Tr. By Florence Alden Gragg. Northampton, Mass.: 1937 - 1957 (Smith College Studies in History; 22, 25, 30, 35, 43)

¹ On Piccolomini's use of sources in general, see *Collected orations of Pope Pius II*, ch. 8.

Pius II: *Orationes*. [1436-1464]

- Pius II: *Orationes politicae et ecclesiasticae*. Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759
- *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*. Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg. 12 vols. 2019-2020

Voigt, Georg: *Enea Silvio de' Piccolomini als Papst Pius der Zweite und sein Zeitalter*. 3 vols. Berlin, 1856-63

7. Sigla and abbreviations

R = Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Reginensis Latinus 1995

S = Roma / Biblioteca dell'Accademia dei Lincei / Corsinianus 147

Abbreviations

CO = Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt* [1464]

HA = Eneas Silvius Piccolomini: *Historia Australis*. Teil 1: Einleitung von Martin Wagendorfer. 1. Redaktion ed. von Julia Knödler. Teil 2: 2./3, ed. Martin Wagendorfer. 2 vols. Hannover, 2009. (Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptores Rerum Germanicarum. Nova Series; 24)

HB = Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini: *Historia Bohemica*. Herausg. J. Hejnic & H. Rothe. 2 vols. Köln, 2005. (Bausteine zur slavischen Philologie und Kulturgeschichte. Neue Folge. Reihe B; 20)

MA = Pius II: *Orationes politicae et ecclesiasticae*. Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759

MPL = Migne, Jacques-Paul: *Patrologia latina*. 217 vols. 1841-1865

RTA = Deutsche Reichstagsakten

WO = *Der Briefwechsel des Eneas Silvius Piccolomini*. Hrsg. von Rudolf Wolkan. 3 vols. Wien, 1909-1918

Decretum = *Decretum magistri Gratiani*. Ed. Lipsiensis secunda. Eds. A.L. Richter & A. Friedberg. 2 vols. Leipzig, 1879

Epistolarium = Enee Silvii Piccolominei *Epistolarium Seculare*. Ed. A. van Heck. Città del Vaticano, 2007

Rainaldus = *Annales ecclesiastici ab anno MCXCVIII ubi Card. Baronius desinit*. Auct. Odoricus Raynaldus. Tom. XVIII-XIX. Roma: Varesius, 1659-1663

Reject = *Reject Aeneas, accept Pius : Selected letters of Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini (Pope Pius II)*. Intr. and transl. by T.M. Izbicki *et al.* Washington, D.C., 2006

II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION

[1] {223r} Pone¹ lacrimas atque confide, filia: non te deseremus. Nota tua nobilitas et tua calamitas nobis est. Indigna pateris, non insolita. Instabile regni solium est. Nulla potentia longa. *Hos erigere, illos deprimere fortuna gaudet*, et nunc in tuo genere ludit: thronum tuum fratri dedit, te in exilium misit. Tui soceri, ut arbitramur, et tui viri peccata luis. Socer rogatus in Mantuano conventu ea pro defensione fidei adversus Turcos² promittere, quae reliqui Italiae principes pollicerentur, nullo pacto persuaderi potuit, ut vel minimi auxilii spem faceret. Vir tuus, cum ad te navigaret, haudquaquam dignatus est ad nos usque Mantuam proficisci, quod sibi erat facillimum per Padum ad hostia³ Mincii evecto. Contempsere nos ambo, pater et filius.

[2] Propter quam rem diximus inter cardinales: “Contemnit ecclesiam Sabaudiae domus nec religioni dignatur polliceri opem. Hic adolescens, qui modo in Cyprum navigat, poenas dabit. Dotale regnum se possessurum existimat. Fallitur: ejicietur. Utinam manus hostiles evadat. Pater ejus, qui nobis auxilia adversus Turcos impudenti voce negavit, ad nos {223v} supplex veniet filio rogaturus opem. Faxit Deus, ut nos opitulari possimus.”

¹ Pii responsio *nota marg.* R

² Turchos *et passim* S

³ ostia S

[1] Put away your tears, daughter,¹ and have faith: We shall not fail you. Your nobility and your misfortune are known to Us. Your sufferings are cruel², but not rare. The throne of a realm is unstable. No power lasts for long. *Fortune rejoices in elevating some and tearing others down*,³ and now it is sporting with your family: it has given the throne to your brother⁴ and sent you into exile. We believe that you are expiating the sins of your father-in-law⁵ and your husband.⁶ For when your father-in-law was asked, at the Congress of Mantua, to promise his aid to the defense of the Faith against the Turks, as did the other princes of Italy, he could in no way be persuaded to pledge even the smallest contribution. And when your husband set off to sail to you,⁷ he did not deign to come to Us in Mantua though it would have been quite easy for him to go via the Po to the mouth of the Mincio. Both father and son showed Us contempt.

[2] Therefore We told the cardinals: “The House of Savoy despises the Church and does not see fit to promise its aid to religion. This young man, who is now going to Cyprus, will suffer for it. He believes that he shall have the kingdom as his dowry, but he is wrong: he will be expelled. Hopefully he will escape the enemy’s troops.⁸ His father, who arrogantly refused to help Us against the Turks, will come and beg Us to help his son. May God give that We shall then be able to.”

¹ Charlotte of Cyprus (Lusignan) (1444-1487): Queen of Cyprus and Princess of Antioch, as well as titular Queen of Jerusalem and Armenia. Daughter of King Jean II of Cyprus. In 1458 she succeeded to the throne. Married Louis of Savoy in 1459. With the support of the muslim Egyptians, her illegitimate half-brother, Jacques, forced her to finally flee the island in 1463, and he was later crowned king. She made a military attempt to regain her throne, but was unsuccessful, and died childless in Rome

² “indigna”

³ Cf. Horatius: *Carmina*, 1.34.15: *hinc apicem rapax fortuna cum stridore acuto sustulit hic posuisse gaudet*

⁴ Jacques II (the Bastard) of Cyprus (Lusignan): (ca. 1438/1439 -1473): illegitimate son of Jean II of Cyprus and half-brother of Charlotte of Cyprus. In 1460, with support from the Egyptian Mamluk sultan, Jacques challenged her right to the throne, blockading her and her husband in the castle of Kyrenia for three years. After Charlotte fled to Rome in 1463, Jacques was crowned King

⁵ Louis I (1413-1465): Duke of Savoy from 1440 until his death. Son of Duke Amédee VIII, AKA antipope Felix V, eemployer of Enea Silvio Piccolomini from 1440-1442

⁶ Louis of Savoy (1436/1437-1482): King of Cyprus, reigning together with and in the right of his wife, Queen Charlotte of Cyprus from 1460 to 1464 when he and his wife had to go into exile. Louis was the second son of Louis I, Duke of Savoy, and his wife Anne of Lusignan, daughter of King Janus of Cyprus, queen Charlotte’s grandfather

⁷ In Autumn 1459, during the Congress in Mantua

⁸ Or “the enemies’ hands”

[3] Evenere praedicta. Utinam falsum fuisset vaticinium nostrum. Placuit Deo contumaciam plectere et Sabaudiensis et tuae domus. Quotiens mater tua apostolicae sedis mandata contempsit? Quanta fuit tuorum progenitorum aliquando superbia? Portant filii peccata parentum. Nemo sine causa miser est. Deus his te casibus probat, filia. Spera in eo, et ipse te liberabit. Horridam tempestatem placida serenitas sequitur. In quiete finitur labor. Quaecumque postulasti ex nobis feres. Equos dabimus, quibus ad socerum pergas, et sumptus itineris, frumentumque et vinum in Ancona rediens paratum invenies, quod navibus ad obsessos vehas. Exercitum ipsa in Sabaudia et in Gallia coges, quo regnum vendices.

[3] Our predictions have come true. If only Our prophecy had been false! It has pleased God to punish the defiance of both your own house¹ and the House of Savoy. How often did your mother² not spurn the decrees of the Apostolic See? How great was not sometimes the arrogance of your ancestors? Children bear the sins of their parents. Nobody suffers without cause. It is God who is trying you through these misfortunes, daughter. Put your hope in Him and He will make you free. After a terrible storm follows blessed peace, and trouble ends in tranquility. From Us You shall have what you ask: We shall give you horses and travel funds so you can go to your father-in-law. And when you return, grain and wine will be ready for you in Ancona which you may bring by ship to the besieged. An army to reclaim your kingdom you must gather yourself in Savoy and France.

¹ The Cypriote Royal House of Lusignan

² Helena Palaiologina (1428-1458): Byzantine princess of the Palaiologos family, who became Queen consort of Cyprus and Armenia, titular Queen consort of Jerusalem, and Princess of Antioch through her marriage to King Jean II de Lusignan of Cyprus and Armenia. She was the mother of Queen Charlotte of Cyprus