STONE BY STONE: BUILDING THE GRAECO-ARABIC EDITION

OF GALEN’S ON SIMPLE DRUGS (BOOK 9)

Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies:
Looking back - Looking ahead
Hamburg, 26 September 2016

Dr. Matteo Martelli (BBAW) & Dr. Lucia Raggetti (FU Berlin)
Graeco-Arabic Methodological Thoughts

- The approach to the two textual traditions in their own independent development.

- How these two traditions entered in contact and communicated.

- The selection of the variants in the historical context of the Graeco-Arabic textual tradition.
Here is the explanation of the ingredients by the wise Zosimus
TRANSLATION AS RECONTEXTUALIZATION

- Implicit into explicit

- Hendiadys to render in Arabic the two main lexical spheres of a Greek word

- Galen’s erudite discussion of the archaic letter digamma

- *Oī Ἐλλήνες* (‘the Greeks’) → *al-nās* (‘the people’)

Copy of the Arabic translation of the *De Materia Medica*, Iraq 13th cent. (detail)
Greek Recensio 1

Combination of:

1) abridged version of Galen's *On Simple Drugs* (books VI-XI)

+ 

2) abridged version of Dioscorides' *De Materia Medica*

MS Vaticanus graecus 289 (10th c.)
"In this book the properties of the substances from mines and of any earthy substance is described as follows"
Urbinas gr. 67, fol. 240r: Passage on Armenian Earth

“It is complete”
COLLATION NOTES 1 — MS Florence BML, Or. 193, f. 218v

1. I collated it [this ms] in the palace of Seville -may God preserve it- in the year 536 H (1141 A.D.)

2. against the book of the noble Abū al-ʿAlā ibn Zuhr -may God have mercy of him- His father ʿAbd al-Malik ibn Marwān ibn Zuhr copied it

3. in Egypt in the year 436 H (1044 A.D.) from the library of al-Mustaʿlī

4. -bi-Allah from the folia (awrāq?) by the hand of Ḥunayn ibn Isḥaq and he (ʿAbd al-Malik ibn Marwān) collated it against them [the authograph folia], and God is the One who gives help.

5. I carried out its collation in Toledo, in the the days of our emigration there, in the year 545 H (1150 A.D.).

6. I carried out its collation in the year 550 H (1155 A.D.).
Abū Marwān bin al-Lawnīqa (d. 1105) & his father

Vizīr Abū al-Muṭʿarraf ilbn Wāfīd (d. 1075)

Abū ʿUṭmān Saʿīd bin Muḥammad bin al-Bağūniš

Muḥammad bin ʿAbdūn al-Ǧabālī (d. 995)

Muḥammad bin al-Tišāğa (?)

Sulaymān bin Čulğul (d. 995)

Muḥammad bin al-Husayn bin al-Kattānī (d. 1029)

Abū al-Ḫakam al-Kirmānī (d. 1066)

al-Zahrāwī ʿAlī bin Sulaymān bin Ḥalaf (d. 1013)

This copy
(1126 A.D)
Invisible Errors

K XII.161,15-17

τὰ στύφοντα δ’ ἀποκρούομενα τὸ περιεχόμενον ἐν αὐτοῖς τῷ ψύχειν τε καὶ συνάγειν καὶ πιλεῖν πέφυκεν.

ψύχειν Palatinus: στύφειν Monacensis, Urbinas

On the contrary, astringent medicines naturally drive away (the blood) contained in these parts by cooling down, bringing together, and closing up.

As for the astringent drugs, they are found to hold and leave the blood collected in the part on which they are applied, because it is part of their character to cool, bring together, and firmly tie the substance of the part.
K XII.189,11-12

άλλα καὶ ὀσπέρ ἐκείνης
λειομμένης οὐδὲν ἐμφέρεται
ψαμμώδες, οὕτως οὐδὲ τῆς
Ἀρμενίας.

λειομμένης Urbinas: omitit
Monacensis, Palatinus

But, as no sandy residue is
contained in this (rock) when
pounded, likewise in the
Armenian earth either.

Cambridge Mm 6.29

καὶ ὀπλάζεται μᾶλλον
οὐχ ἔχει μεγάλους θάλασσας
οὐδὲν ἔχει ἔθιμα ὑπὸ τῶν
μεγάλων ἀλλὰ λαμπάζεται μέγα
μέγα δέντρα.

As nothing sandy is found in
lime, when pounded, likewise in
this earth from Armenia either.

 وكا ان النورة اذا سُحِّقت لم يوجد فيها
شيء رملي كذلك لا يوجد في هذا
الطين الأرميني شيء من الرملية

Like in the lime there is no
sandy component, if pounded,
likewise there is no sandy
component in this Armenian
earth either.
K XII.204.2-7

καὶ ἄλλη τις λίθος, ἢς καὶ Νικάνδρος μέμνηται γράφων ὀυτώς.

'Ἡ σύ γε Θρηύσαν ἐνυφλέξις πυρὶ λάκαν ἢ θ᾽ ὄδατι πολυθέτος σελάσσεται, ἐσβεσε δ᾽ αὐγὴν τυτέραν ὀτ᾽ ὀσμίζεται ἐπὶ πολυθέντος ἔλατου, τὴν ἀπὸ Θρηύκιον νομές ποταμοῖο φέρουσιν, δὲν Πόντου καλέουσιν.

There is also another stone that Nicander mentioned by writing as follows (Nic. Th. 45-49):

'Or you could kindle in the fire the Thracian stone, which glows when sprinkled with water, yet quenches its brightness at the least smell of drop of oil. Herdsmen gather it from the river of Thrace, which they call Pontus.'
THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION