

Abstract

For some years now, I have been working on the so-called *Fabula Penia*, partial translation of Aristophanic play *Plutus* (made by young humanist Rinuccio of Arezzo), with growing interest in a pioneering, multifaceted and still mysterious 15th-century operation in many respects: a text that translates the central narrative of *Plutus* (ca. Vv. 403-626), setting it within an autobiographical framework, embellished with Ovidian echoes.

Its composite architecture, its juxtaposition of the narrative plan with refined stylistic rhetoric, led to my visiting the places on Crete where, according to Buondelmonti's testimony, the fabula was conceived, my drawing insights into its nature and drafting. My 2004 book *Soldo Bifronte*, inspired by it, was an opportunity to take it on tour and share ideas and even perplexities on this *unicum* of the 15th century with academics and theatre people, until in 2006 it was performed in its world premiere (at the „Teatro Verdi“ in Pisa, Italy).

Until then, however, I had not dealt with the original Latin text handed down from the manuscript (published in full by Walther Ludwig in 1975), which, upon analyses and a closer look, turned out to be more correct than previous studies had shown (the Latin text of this only complete reference edition had some oversights on the basis of which conjectures or additions were often necessary). I realised that the text, preserved only in the Balliol College of Oxford (ms. 131 -ff. 37r-31r-, which belonged to the humanist William Gray) needed to be re-edited. That is why I tabled a critical edition of the Latin text, produced according to modern rigorous methods of philology and text criticism, that also brings together, synthesised of course, the articles I had presented at congresses and published in various scientific journals.

The present edition contains an extensive introduction on the history of studies on this author, who is best known as a translator of Aesop's fables, and a comparison with the original Greek text, with reference list and the most relevant bibliographical sources. The transcription from the manuscript reveals a substantially correct codex, albeit one that was produced in haste and therefore lacks titles. This is accompanied by footnotes references and followed by the first complete Italian translation of the Latin text.