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Poggio Bracciolini is one of the most remarkable writers of the 15th-c. Renaissance. He was the author of historical and moralistic books.

"On theological problems ... he can speak in a language which *everyone could have taken to belong to one of the church fathers*, had it been freed of Poggio Bracciolini's signature" (everywhere in the sequel, the italics are due to us—A. F.) ([247], pp. 358-363).

He was the author of an archaeological manual for the study of Roman monuments and the well-known *History of Florence*, a work of the type of Tacitus' *Annals* ([247], p. 359).

"This brilliant imitator was, in the full sense of the word, the master of minds in his century. The critical circles placed him on the level with the outstanding Renaissance authors ... Many found it possible to call the first half of 15th-c. Italian history the 'Poggio age' ...". Florence erected in his lifetime a statute sculptored by Donatello ([247], pp. 358-363).

"The prolific way of life cost Poggio Bracciolini much ... and made him always be in need of money. The source of extra aid was his searching, preparing and editing copies of ancient author's manuscripts. It was a very profitable source ... for the 15th c. With the help of the Florentine scientist and publisher ... Niccolo de' Niccoli (1363-1437), ... Poggio Bracciolini organized something like a workshop to deal with ancient literature, and gathered a number of collaborators and counteragents, very educated, but all with a shadowy past ... Their first finds were discovered by Poggio Bracciolini and Bartolomeo di Monte Pulciano in the time of the Council of Constance ... In the lost, humid tower at St. Gall monastery in which a prisoner would not live through three days, they were lucky to find a heap of ancient manuscripts, viz., the works by Quintilian, Valerius Flaccus, Asconius Pedianus, Nonius Marcellus, Probus and others. This discovery was not only sensational, but also made a literary epoch" ([247], pp. 363-366).

Bracciolini "found" fragments "of Petronius" and Calpurnius' *Bucolica* some time afterwards (*ibid.*).

The circumstances in which all these finds were made were clarified by no one and nowhere. In addition to the originals, Bracciolini also traded in copies which he sold for enormous sums of money. For example, having sold a copy of Livy to Alfonso of Aragon, he bought a villa in Florence (*ibid.*).

"He asked one hundred ducats from the duke D'Estais (1,200 francs) for Jerome's letters, Poggio's clients were Medici, Sforza, D'Estais, aristocratic families of England, the duchy of Burgundy, cardinals Orsini and Colonna, such rich people as Bartolomeo di Bardis, universities which at the time ... either started to found libraries or fervidly extended their old book depositories. The principal copies of Tacitus' "first" and "second" Medicean mss. are kept in Florentine book depositories, among whose directors was Poggio. According to traditional history, these copies are the prototypes of Tacitus' all other ancient manuscripts. The first printed edition was made in 1470 from the "second" Medicean ms. or another manuscript kept in the Venetian Libreria Vecchia at St. Mark's.

"It vanished from there, and, possibly, had never been there" ([247], pp. 366-368).

"Two Medicean mss. ... supply a complete list of everything preserved from