

In 1553, a bold young scholar who went by the name Giovan Battista Pigna, (1529-1575), published a volume which contained five books of his own Latin poems, and three books by an older poet, Celio Calcagnini (1479-1541), and two by none other than Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533):

*IO. BAPTISTAE PIGNAE CARMINUM LIBRI QUATUOR,
AD ALPHONSUM FERRARIAE PRINCIPEM.
HIS ADIUNXIMUS CAELII CALCAGNINI CARM. LIB. III.
LUDOVICI AREOSTI CARM. LIB. II.*

VENETIIS, EX OFF. ERASMIANA, VINCENTI VALGRISII. MDLIII

The Index lists poem titles by the three authors alphabetized together.

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=RmfiQRCXZpkC&pg=GBS.PP4>

There are modern editions of Ariosto's Latin works, which I will list below, but (in 2015) there were not modern editions of the plucky anthology put together by the 24-year-old Pigna. I wanted to read these poems and thought it would be easier if they were digitized, so I tried to digitize the text using an OCR program. The optical character recognition was not as successful as I had hoped and I spent a good deal of time trying to correct the text before giving up. At that time, the OCR program I used obliterated uppercase letters, and every line of verse started with an uppercase letter... But the fruits of my abandoned labors may be useful to others, so I humbly offer them.

Giovan Battista Pigna

I look forward to reading some day soon, I hope, about why Pigna thought it was a good idea to publish Ariosto's carmina with his own and Calcagnini's often erudite, often licentious verse.

At some point I discovered that Pigna's *Carmina* and *Satyrae* had already been mercifully digitized:

http://carmina-latina.com/cariboost_files/PIGNA_CA_TWD.pdf
http://carmina-latina.com/cariboost_files/PIGNA_SA_TWD.pdf

Later I found that these files were part of a remarkable site, Carmina-Latina.com, by Jacobus Pellio, who has even metrically scanned all these poems, and those of many other authors.

Celio Calcagnini

Here is what I have, a mere beginning of a digitized text:

[http://folengo.com/Calcagnini Carmina Pigna 1553.pdf](http://folengo.com/Calcagnini_Carmina_Pigna_1553.pdf)

The young Pigna seems to have had a sense of humor: he followed up *Ad Leonem X* immediately with *Descriptio cunni*, *Descriptio culi*, *Priapi fortitudo* and two other poems of a similar bent, pp. 190-3.

A selection of Latin poems by Celio Calcagnini is found in a multi-volume Eighteenth century anthology by Giovanni Gaetano Bottari: *CARMINA ILLUSTRUM POETARUM ITALORUM*, G. G. Bottari, Florence, Gio. Gaetano Tartini e Santi Franchi, 1719, vol. 3, pp. 65-108.

<https://archive.org/stream/carminaiillustriuo3bott#page/64/mode/2up>

The carmina offered by Bottari are in quite a different order than those in the 1553 Pigna edition, and there are also poems not found in the 1553 volume, for example *Iano Patri votum*, pp. 100-1, which can be found in Calcagnini's *Opera aliquot*, Basel, Froben, 12544, p. 426.

Ludovico Ariosto

Ariosto's *Carmina* are available on the Perseus site,

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3atext%3a2011.01.0720>

Thanks to the Poeti d'Italia in lingua latina

<http://www.poetiditalia.it/public/testo/testo/codice/ARIOSTO%7Ccar m%7C001>

And with Italian translations: Ludovico Ariosto, *Opere minori*, edit. and translated by Cesare Segre, Milano, Ricciardi, 1954.

<https://archive.org/details/ludovicoariostoo000834mbp>

And soon to be available in English through I Tatti