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Grzegorz z Arezzo i jego komentarz do Farsalii Lukana

Gregory of Arezzo and his commentary on Lucan's Pharsalia

SUMMARY

The author of this text wanted to present the personality of Gregory of Arezzo (Gorus de Aretio) – a not well known Italian humanist living at the turn of the 13th century – and his *Commentum in Marci Annaei Lucani De hello civili libros I-V* preserved in the library of Cracow University.

Firstly: Lucan's *De hello civili* – a historical, epic poem popularly called *Pharsalia* was here reminded. This Roman poem was strictly connected with many different sciences like philosophy, philology, rhetorics, medicine, biology, geography, astronomy, political and social sciences. It was the main cause of its popularity in Middle Ages. For many mediaeval commentators *Pharsalia* was a compendium of ancient science and an ethical work fighting against a civil war and a corrupt political system.

Secondly: *Commentum in M. Annaei Lucani De hello civili libros I-V* by Gregory of Arezzo was here described. Then his life and his literary works were accurately talked over. The author reminded that Coluccio Salutati spoke of Gregory of Arezzo in his *History of Latin Language* as a promoter of classical studies in Italy.

Thirdly: Main purposes of the discussed commentary were presented. The author emphasized that Gregory of Arezzo, commenting Lucan's *Pharsalia* did not want to condemn particular political parties or authorities. Similarly to Lucan, he wanted to criticize a state as a powerful instrument of oppression and extermination. His opinion was that a civil war is a natural result of the egoistic policies of all social groups. According to Gregory of Arezzo this problem is typical for a developed state (*imperium*) contrary to a social mutualism and a traditional family community of the early republic.

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