

Dottori, Carlo de', conte

Padua 1618 – 1686 Padua

Aristodemo. Tragedia di Carlo de' Dottori. All'altezza Ser.ma del Signor Principe Leopoldo di Toscana.

Padua, Matteo Cadorino, 1657

QUARTO (220 × 160 mm), (82)ff. signed §⁶A–T⁴ and paginated (12) 1–144 (8), including engraved title-page (imposed on folio §1 recto) lettered *Aristodemo tragedia In Padoua p[resso] Mattio Cadorino 1657*. Printer's device on letterpress title-page.

PROVENANCE M. and L. Sordelli, exlibris and the same owners' red inkstamp S (within a circle) in lower margin of letterpress title-page — Christie's, 'Libri, autografi e stampe', Rome, 27 November 2002, lot 204.

A good, tall copy (uncut and last quire unopened).

BINDING nineteenth-century Italian leather-backed boards.

FIRST EDITION of this five-act verse drama (with a chorus following Act IV), the 'acknowledged masterpiece of Seicento tragedy',¹ first performed on 31 May 1655, by twelve Paduan gentlemen with Sertorio Orsato taking the role of Aristodemo. The play was afterwards revised for publication by the author, who incorporated advice tendered by several friends.² Since its rediscovery by Benedetto Croce the play has received constant scholarly attention.³

This first edition is scarce: no copy is listed in the printed catalogues of Italian plays in the Folger Library, universities of Chicago, Illinois, Toronto, or Biblioteca Casanatense in Rome. These copies are known to the writer:

¹ Peter Brand, *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature* (Cambridge 1999), pp.331–332.

² Antonio Daniele, *Carlo de' Dottori. Lingua, cultura e aneddoti* (Padua 1986), pp.130–154; Alberto Bentoglio, 'Un inedito padovano del Seicento: lo scenario per l' "Aristodemo" di Carlo de' Dottori con gli intermedi musicale de "La Cidippe"' in *Medioevo e rinascimento* 6 (1992), pp.251–274.

³ Benedetto Croce, *Storia dell'età barocca in Italia* (Bari 1929), pp.248–253; and his critical edition (Florence 1948). Giovanna Da Pozzo, 'Rassegna di studi su Carlo de' Dottori 1985–1990' in *Giornale Storico della Letteratura Italiana* 109 (1992), pp.95–127.



Aristodemo after he has slain his daughter Merope, and before falling on his sword. Anonymous engraving (reduced from 163 × 117 mm, platemark)

• Berkeley, University of California, Bancroft Library, PQ4621.D7 A75 1657 • Florence, Biblioteca nazionale centrale, Fondo Magliabechiano, 3.2.135 • Florence, Biblioteca nazionale centrale, Biblioteca Palatina, 12.7.5.2 • London, British Library, 1489.a.42 • Milan, Biblioteca nazionale Braidense, Racc. Dram. 5453 • Naples, Fondazione Bibliotheca Benedetto Croce⁴ • New Haven, Yale University, Beinecke Library, 2001 498 and Italian Festivals 62 (two copies) • Padua, Biblioteca del Seminario maggiore • Paris, Bibliothèque de l' Arsenal⁵ • Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 8-RE-3875 • Turin, Biblioteca centrale della Facoltà di lettere e filosofia dell' Università degli studi, Coll T 105 • Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Stamp. Ferr. V. 5284 • Venice, Biblioteca Marciana, Dramm. 1643. 003 and Dramm. 006 (two copies)⁶

REFERENCES Giovanni Salvioli and Carlo Salvioli, *Bibliografia universale del teatro drammatico italiano* (Venice 1894), col. 356; Natale Busetto, *Carlo de' Dottori, letterato padovano del secolo decimosettimo. Studio biografico-letterario* (Città di Castello 1902), p.383 ('Notizia dei manoscritti e dellé stampe delle opere edite e inedite di Carlo Dottori'); Lione Allacci, *Drammaturgia* (reprint Turin 1961), 110; Libreria Vinciana, *Autori italiani del '600* (Milan 1948–1951), no. 3890

⁴ Dora Beth Marra, *La biblioteca di Benedetto Croce: le note autografe ai libri*, Edizione nazionale delle opere di Benedetto Croce (Naples 1994), I, pp.191–192.

⁵ Suzanne Michel and Paul-Henri Michel, *Répertoire des ouvrages imprimés en langue italienne au XVII siècle conservés dans les bibliothèques de France* (Paris 1975), II, p.184.

⁶ Louise G. Clubb, *Italian drama in Shakespeare's time* (New Haven 1989), pp.230–247 (reproducing engraved title-page of Dramm. 006).