



Libretto of an entertainment on the Arno

[Adimari, Alessandro]

Florence 1579 – 1649 Florence

Descrizione della battaglia del Ponte. Frà Abido, e Sesto nell'Hellesponto. Festa rappresentata in Arno, il dì 25. di Luglio 1618.

Florence, Zanobi Pignoni, 1618

QUARTO (200 × 145 mm), (4)ff. unsigned; not paginated or foliated. Woodcut device on title-page.

PROVENANCE prince Piero Ginori Conti, his heraldic exlibris¹ — Giannalisa Feltrinelli — Christie's South Kensington Ltd., 'The Giannalisa Feltrinelli library, Part six: the arts, fêtes and history of Italy, literature of the Grand Tour', London, 2 June 1998, lot 1270

Light spotting and browning.

BINDING early 20th-century boards utilising earlier decorative gilt paper.

LIBRETTO of the entertainment *La Battaglia del Ponte* performed on the Arno River during celebration of the Feast of Saint James, on 25 July 1618. This was a 'popular' festival (the following year it attracted 30,000 spectators), paid for and controlled by Grand Duke Cosimo II de Medici, which usually combined a theatrical performance with a *palio delle fregate* (race of the frigates) and pyrotechnical displays.²

The designer of the festival machinery was Giulio Parigi, designer also of floats built for Ferdinando Saracinelli's *Arrivo d'Amore in Toscana* enacted on the same feast day in 1615, and for Andrea Salvadori's *Battaglia tra tessitori e tintori* performed in 1619 (those floats are documented in prints by Jacques Callot).³ Regret-

¹ Egisto Bragaglia, *Gli ex libris italiani dalle origini alla fine dell'Ottocento* (Milan 1993), no. 2331.

² Robert Lamar Weaver and Norma Weaver, *A chronology of music in the Florentine theater, 1590-1750: operas, prologues, finales, intermezzos and plays with incidental music* (Detroit 1978), p.101.

³ See Arthur R. Blumenthal, *Theater Art of the Medici*, catalogue of the exhibition held at Dartmouth College Museum and Galleries, 10 October–7 December 1980 (Hanover, NH & London 1980), pp.92–95, 125–127.

tably, no visual documentation survives of Parigi's *apparati* for *La Battaglia del Ponte*.⁴

Five other copies are known to the writer

- Florence, Biblioteca Moreniana, A-2576 (Collocazione: 151 2)⁵
- Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Cicognara IV.M.105 (int.7)⁶
- Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, MISC 1016.019
- Washington, DC, Folger Library⁷
- Unlocated⁸

REFERENCES Giovanni Cinelli Calvoli, *Biblioteca volante*, edited by Dionigi Andrea Sancassani (Venice 1747), IV, p.428; Pasquale Augusto Bigazzi, *Firenze e Contorni: manuale bibliografico e bibliobiografico delle principali opere e scritture sulla storia, i monumenti, le arti, le istituzioni, le famiglie, gli uomini illustri, ec., della città e Contorni* (Florence 1893), p.123, no. 3434; Libreria Vinciana (Milan), *Autori italiani del '600*, edited by Sandro Piantanida, Lamberto Diotallevi, Giancarlo Livraghi (Milan 1948–1951), p.43 no. 175

⁴ Arthur R. Blumenthal, *Giulio Parigi's stage designs: Florence and the early Baroque spectacle*, Garland Outstanding Dissertations in the Fine Arts (New York 1986), pp.185–186, 219, 382.

⁵ Domenico Moreni, *Bibliografia storico-ragionata della Toscana* (Florence 1805), I, p.322; Angelo Solerti, *Musica, ballo e drammatica alla corte Medicea dal 1600 al 1637* (Florence 1905), pp.136–138 (text credited to Andrea Salvadori by Cesare Tinghi, but an annotation in the Biblioteca Moreniana copy attributes it to Adimari).

⁶ Leopoldo Cicognara, *Catalogo ragionato dei libri d'arte e d'antichità posseduti dal conte Cicognara* (Pisa 1821), no. 1425; cf. National Art Library (Great Britain), *Universal catalogue of books on art* (London 1870), I, p.569 (citing Cicognara).

⁷ Louise Clubb, *Italian plays (1500–1700) in the Folger Library* (Florence 1968), no. 749.

⁸ With the booksellers Mediolanum Libreria Antiquaria di Luca Pozzi (Milan), in April 2012 (price Euros € 1800).