locavitatur quas aptiores com-
tes quorum humanitatem et de-
monstrum deterrim: quorum:
item teneris laudis elipsum:
quarum prima mea: proxii
occupatione: terrae angustis:
per tana: prehens: cum
qua maxime: probo: eis tam:
post commendatio: part
se audetum: cum, nomen ex
quo munere: quibum -
omnia tamem humanissima et
clementissima: sanitas:
us abba referam. Quis cum
Carthaginem suam legat ad
captivus redimendos in urbem:
emissent: proximus:
nulla pecunia accepta reddidit:
meones numeros
duumamilium et sepem
erat:
quadruplum et
plentes: tantum hoshum
exercitum
secum contemperat.
nullam: munus:
tam:
apos: legatos
obstupisse
arbitror: ad secum
(s e o
muntentem gentis Romanis
devorum bene,
tur et quandam.
O eam nostram lectionem
supuer
felixem: num
beneficium quod
nunquam
dedisse
accepimus. Illud
quod non
parvum
humanitatis
Sermum
nemum
est.
Stephensem
emini:
quandam
opulentum
num
Numidiae
reper.
captivum
in
capto
dia
Tabu-
von
mortum:
publico
funere
cenit
esseram
ut

nunquam
honorem
sepulture
adorerem. Consilium
clementia
in
Persa
us
et
Nam cum
Albe
inqua
capto
di causa
rependere
erat:
decepi:
que:
qui
cum
publico
funere:

et
vel
regias
iacere
inhonoratus
pateretur:
hoshum
hec.

Poole 24 (93v)
15. Valerius Maximus, *Facta et Dicta Memorabilia*

Northern Italy, ca. 1500
Poole 24

210 leaves; 12.5x18.8cm. (8x13.4cm.); vellum
Humanistic script; nine large decorated initials, numerous smaller decorated initials
Blind-tooled 15th-century brown calf binding

Like Poole 23 (item no.14), this manuscript is also a complete copy of the *Facta et Dicta Memorabilia* by Valerius Maximus. Poole 24 dates about 100 years later, and provides an interesting comparison.

In the overall layout of the book, Poole 24 is quite similar to the earlier copy of Valerius. A table of contents also precedes the first book of this manuscript and the division into books and chapters follows the same format. The only major discrepancy is due to a scribal error in the Poole 24 table of contents where book eight has seventeen chapters instead of the usual sixteen, since the scribe has accidentally inserted a chapter number for the second line of the previous chapter title. However, the two books have numerous differences in their production. Poole 24 is smaller in format, with only one column of 29 lines of text per page in contrast to the two-column layout in Poole 23. Despite its smaller size, the book's high quality is attested to by very fine vellum, generous margins, and regular, clear humanistic script.

The decoration though modest in this copy of Valerius Maximus is nonetheless interesting. Typically, the title page of Poole 24 (which also opens the text) receives the most decoration. Fifteen lines of display lettering in blue, red, gold, and purple are enclosed in a plaque-like frame outlined with blue shading, and adorned at the base with two cornucopias filled with pineapples and a coat of arms. Nine decorated initials plus numerous gold and colored initials set in the margins mark text divisions. Display lettering forms a transition between initial and text in each book.

The text begins with an illuminated initial of delicate green, red, and pink foliage contoured in black and inhabited by a lute-playing putto. Eight of the nine decorated initials are incorporated in a similar format with foliage around the letters. Most of the delicately modeled initials in Poole 24 are set on an intricately pat-
terned square background and are surrounded by finely drawn foliate forms, usually in green, red, and blue, but sometimes featuring other colors. The smaller size and deviation from the normal floral ornamentation of the initials to Books IV and VI (69v and 118v) represent only a slight variance from the overall decorative program, and it is entirely possible that the artist was merely copying from two different models.

Other elements, such as dolphins, cuirasses, daggers, and urns are sometimes included in the design. This type of decoration has no precise symbolism, and the motifs used simply derive from an established (and frequently copied) decorative tradition reflecting the contemporary humanistic milieu of the Renaissance and its classicizing concern with antique references. For example, the initial for Book V (93v) incorporates a dolphin wrapped around the letter “L” which is surrounded by blue, red, and purple vegetation detailed with yellow tracery and enclosed within a green patterned ground. Book VI features only a tilted urn set against a schematic geometric background.

Based on its fine humanistic script and general decorative scheme, Poole 24 appears to date about 1500; but the exact location of its production is less certain. Stylistically, the manuscript appears to be northern Italian. The blue shading and structural framework on the title page, as well as the decorative motifs used throughout, correspond with northern Italian manuscripts, perhaps from the region of Venice or Padua. Comparison can be made with the work of the Master of the Putti, active in Venice in the 1470’s and 1480’s. He and his workshop illuminated manuscripts and printed books in a classicizing style like that of Poole 24 (Armstrong, figs. 55, 61, etc.). Though the initials in the Lilly manuscript are not the fully-developed littera mantiniana type with its illusionistically-modeled letter frames characteristic of the work of the Putti Master, many of the motifs used in Poole 24 are also found in his work. It is possible that the “all’antica” style of the Lilly artist was influenced by that of the Putti Master.

The relative paucity of decoration in this manuscript prevents a precise localization, and the coat of arms on the title page remains unidentified; however, an approximate date of 1500 and a northern Italian origin (perhaps in the region of Venice to Padua) seems most likely.
PROVENANCE
Acquired by George A. Poole, Jr. from Laurence Witten, New Haven, 1956; Indiana University, 1958

S.M.H.