

Flavio Biondo, *Historia ab inclinatione Romanorum imperii***Flavius Blondus**

Codicology: Vellum, mm 310 x 223 (12.2 x 9 in.), ff. 202, 36 lines to a page. Cent. **xv (about 1442)**, in a good Italic hand, on white vellum. Doubtless written at Florence¹. It was in the collection (as we see from T. James^[James 1600]) before **1600**, but does not occur in Parker¹'s list.

Collation: 1¹⁰-4¹⁰ 5⁶ 6¹⁰-20¹⁰ 21 (six).

Provenance: Fol. 1r has a very fine full border of massive gold and colour, of characteristic Florentine work. Three times in the border occurs a blue shield with a representation of a barrel with a fire in it, set on an upright shaft upon a square base, and approached by a ladder. This is thought by George Williams, editor of the *Correspondence of Bishop Bekynton* (Rolls Series, I, xxxiii)^[Williams 1872a] to be the rebus of Thomas Bekynton¹ (Beacon-tun), Bishop of Bath and Wells. Flavio Biondo¹ (the author of the volume before us) was a correspondent of Bekynton's, and in a letter (I, p. 241) promises him a gift, which is probably this book. The letter in question was written at Florence¹ in **1442**.

Foliation: ff. i-ii + 1-202 + iii-iv.

Language: Latin.

Contents:**1.****1r-202v** **Flavio Biondo¹, *Historia ab inclinatione Romanorum imperii***

1r The initial has a half-length figure of a man in upright cylindrical red cap, and dark red robe, holding a book

This MS. contains the Third Decade of Flavius Blondus¹'s *Historia ab inclinatione Romani imperii*, beginning

1r *Incipit:* Laetanti iam mihi et exultanti
(Decas III, Liber I, ed. Basel, 1559^[Biondo 1559], p. 393)
and proceeds to Lib. X of this Decade

Then follow two books of a fourth Decade, of which the first is identical with the xith book of Decas III in the Basel edition. The second is inedited: an extract relating to a mission to Abyssinia¹ is printed by G. Williams (*Correspondence of Bishop Bekynton II*^[Williams 1872b], 227)
The books begin as follows

22v Liber II

42v Liber III

60v Liber IV

76v Liber V (initial cut out)

92r Liber VI

108v Liber VII

125r Liber VIII

139r Liber IX

156v Liber X

Ending

172v (174v) *Explicit* renouatueros expectare curauit

172v (174v) *Rubric:* Blondi Flavii¹ Forliuensis historiarum ab inclinatione Romanorum imperii decadis quartae liber primus

172v (174v) *Incipit:* Interea dum principio anni cuius gesta
Partial border with curious flourishing in silver
Ends

189r *Explicit* et in ueronensibus retenta

189r *Rubric:* Incipit quartae decadi(s) liber secundus foelicissime

189r *Incipit:* Annus hic primus et quadra[gra]gesimus supra millesimum et quadingentesimum
Ends

202v () *Explicit* et pacis constituendae arbitrium audiendum cremonam conuocari curauit

Each book has a fine initial on burnished gold (Liber IX on silver): and the first lines of each are in Roman hand

