

4 Letter to Palla Strozzi

As already noticed by Alessandro Perosa, despite of the lack of explicit indication of the year, the epistle can be dated back to the year <1459>.¹ It represents the last piece of evidence on Andronikos' first sojourn in Bologna (1453–1459). The text has been published for the first time in Perosa 1953 (= reprinted in Perosa 2000, 89–101), without any translation. As far as I am concerned, it is handed down only in the autograph by Kallistos,² which is today kept in the Biblioteca Comunale di Forlì (Raccolte Piancastelli, Sezione Autografi Secc. XII–XVIII, *ad vocem* Andronico Bisanzio).

I have edited the text preserving every original orthographic feature (see e.g. both μέχρι τουνῶν [line 4] and μέχρι τοῦ νῶν [line 9]) and correcting two small oversights which are found in Perosa 1953 (χαλεποτάτων *in* χαλεπωτάτων [line 8]; ὡς *in* ἧ [line 15]).

¹ See *supra*, § 1.3.3.

² As already presented in Orlandi 2014a, 166 n. 12. For a reproduction, see Plate 9.

Τῷ εὐγενεῖ καὶ σοφῷ ἀνδρὶ κυρίῳ Παλλάντι τῷ Στρογιᾷ Ἀνδρόνικος Βυζάντιος εὖ πρᾶττειν.

Θαυμάσεις ἴσως ὅτι τοῖς προτέροις ἐκείνοις γράμμασιν ὑποσχόμενος ἀφίξε-
σθαι ἅμα ἔαρι ὡς ὑμᾶς ἀνεβαλόμην μέχρι τουνῦν· ἀλλ' ἦν τὴν αἰτίαν εἰδῆς, παύση
θαυμάζων. βουλόμενος γὰρ πρὸ τῆς ἑορτῆς τῆς ἱερᾶς ἀναστάσεως ἀφικέσθαι, 5
ἐκωλύθη τῆς τοῦ ἀρχιερέως ἕνεκεν εἰς Βονωνίαν μελλούσης ἐπιδημίας, ἣ
γέγονε μὲν οὐπω, ἔσται δὲ οὐ μετὰ πολὺ. Ἴν' οὖν μὴ τὴν θεὰν ἐκείνην τῆς εἰσόδου
τῆς θαυμαστῆς ἀπολέσω (ὃ δὴ μοι τῶν χαλεπωτάτων ἔδοξεν ἄν, εἰ τοιαύτης ἑορ-
τῆς ἀθέατος ἔμεινα), ἀνεβαλόμην μέχρι τοῦ νῦν. ἐπειδὴν δὲ τῆς τε ἱερᾶς ἐκείνης
ἑορτῆς μεταλάχω καὶ τῆς τοῦ θειοτάτου καρδινάλεως συνουσίας (ἐλεύσεται γὰρ 10
κάκεινος σὺν τῷ ἀρχιερεῖ), τότε καὶ πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἀφίξομαι ποθοῦντας ποθῶν.
πέπεισμαι γὰρ τὴν περὶ ἐμὲ ὑμῶν εὖνοιαν ἀμετάβλητον μένειν, εὖ εἰδῶς τὸ ὑμέ-
τερον ἐπεικὲς καὶ φιλάνθρωπον, ἃ δὴ σοὶ τὲ αὐτῷ καὶ τοῖς σοῖς ἔμφυτα τυγχάνει
ὄντα ἀγαθὰ, καὶ ἅμα τὸ σόν, ὧ θαυμάσιε, περὶ τὴν Ἑλλάδα φίλτρον φωνήν. Ἐπει-
δὴν δὲ ἀφίκωμαι, τὴν τε ἑορτὴν ὑμῖν διηγῆσομαι καὶ τὰ περὶ ἐμὲ εἰς πλάτος, καὶ ἦ 15
ἂν ὑμῖν δόξη ποιήσω. εὐτύχει.

Ἵσταν γράφης, πρόσσεχε τίμη μέλλεις πέμπειν τὰ γράμματα· τὸ γὰρ πιστὸν ἐν
ὀλίγοις νῦν τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστίν· οἱ γὰρ πλείους κακίους. τὴν Μάρθαν καὶ πάν-
τας τοὺς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ προσαγόρευσον ἀπ' ἐμοῦ.

Ἐν Βονωνίᾳ πρὸ τεσσάρων καλανδῶν Μαΐου

20

(verso)

Magnifico ac sapien-
tissimo viro d(omino) Pal-
lanti Strogie stre-
nuo equiti.

25

Patauii

18 οἱ γὰρ πλείους κακίους] cf. Hom., *Od.* 2,277 et e.g. Ael. Arist., Πρὸς Πλάτωνα ὑπὲρ τῶν τεττάρων 226,33 Jebb

12–13 ἡμέτερον cod. 18–19 πάντας in ras.

Andronikos of Constantinople greets the noble and learned Lord Palla Strozzi.

You may be surprised that, although I promised in the previous letter that I would come to you with the arrival of spring, I have so far postponed; however, if you knew the reason, you would immediately stop wondering. I intended to arrive before the feast of the holy resurrection, but I was prevented from doing so because of the Pope's imminent visit to Bologna, a visit that has not yet taken place, but will soon. So, in order not to miss the spectacle of the extraordinary arrival (it would really seem to me to be one of the worst things ever, if I remained without having seen such a celebration), I kept delaying until now. After I have attended this sacred celebration and met the cardinal (he will in fact also come together with the pope), then I will come to you, for I am desired by you as much as I desire you. I am sure that your benevolence towards me has remained unchanged, since I am very familiar with your amiability and affection, values which are inherent in you and in those around you, and at the same time your love for the Greek language. And when I arrive, I will tell you everything inside and out, and I will do whatever you require. Take care of yourself.

If you intend to write something in response, be careful who you intend to deliver the letter to: there are very few men who can be trusted now. The majority are not. Greetings to Martha and all those who live in your household from me.

Bologna, 28 April <1459>

