

Tacitus' historical works" (*ibid.*).

However, Tacitus' name, as well as the names of other ancient authors, disappeared for many centuries up to the Renaissance (see [245*]—the Russian edition of Tacitus' works, V. 2, p. 203).

P. Hochart and J. Ross supply the complete survey of all instances of mentioning "Tacitus" before his work was found by Poggio in the 15th c. It turns out (we omit the details) that all of them, though there are very few, are of general character, and may refer to people having nothing to do with "the historian Tacitus" [247]. Moreover, no information about the existence of the manuscripts of "the historian Tacitus'" was available during the Middle Ages until the 15th c; therefore, whoever the author of Tacitus' works may be, we have to agree with P. Hochart and J. Ross that no one had the slightest idea of Tacitus the historian (until the 15th c.) [247].

"In November 1425, Poggio in Rome informed Niccolo de' Niccoli in Florence that a 'certain monk' ... offered him a number of ancient manuscripts ..., in particular, 'several of Tacitus' works unknown to them' ..." ([247], p. 382).

Niccolo de' Niccoli immediately agreed to the deal, but it was to last for many months.

"Poggio procrastinated the affair under various pretexts ... Asked by Niccolo de' Niccoli, he gave a rather confused reply from which it was only clear that Tacitus' book was not in his hands at the time ... Poggio was mercilessly lying and inventing excuses, saying that the monk was a friend of his, but, being in Rome, failed to visit Poggio ..., that the books were in Hersfeld, and they had to be received in Nuremberg, etc." (*ibid.*).

"Vexed, Niccoli asked Poggio to give him the catalogue of books 'discovered' by Poggio, and found that it contained no Tacitus" (*ibid.*).

"In this strange train of misunderstandings, which had the appearance of artificiality, 1427 and 1428 A.D. passed" (*ibid.*).

Finally, Poggio informed Niccolo de' Niccoli in 1428 that the mysterious monk had again arrived in Rome, but without the book!

"For almost five years, Poggio's discovery had been made public before it was made, and strange rumours circulated, which made Niccolo de' Niccoli very agitated, whereas Poggio replied that he did know all the songs sung on his account ... And when Cornelius Tacitus arrived, he would purposely take it and hide it from the stranger's eyes. As P. Hochart notes justly, the most natural guard against ill rumours would seem to show the manuscript to the whole scientific community, explaining all the ways, means and secrets of its origin. On the contrary, Poggio again started his evasive tactics ..." ([247], pp. 374–382).

P. Hochart and J. Ross found that "... in a much later edition of his letters to Niccolo de' Niccoli, and omitting the date of his correspondence about Tacitus in 1425–1429, Poggio falsified, for some secret purpose, the dates of December 28, 1427, and June 5, 1428, in two newly publicized letters" (*ibid.*).

Poggio asked Niccolo de' Niccoli to send (!?) him another copy of Tacitus, which allegedly was already in the latter's possession. Comparing the dates of correspondence and texts of the letters, P. Hochart stated that this mysterious "second copy" was nothing less than the "first" Medicean ms. (allegedly discovered only many years afterwards). He believed that "... the dates of the letters were falsified post