

PREFACE

In 1997 I came across the texts in the Brussels manuscript with the famous title-page (see plate 1) in 1997 by chance,¹ for the contents of the manuscript had not been described by Lowe or Bischoff or anyone else.² It was immediately clear that they represented an unknown landmark in the history of Latin grammar which had escaped the attention of specialists.

Vivien Law had expressed interest in the texts in the Brussels manuscript and we had begun to work on an edition shortly before she passed away.³ Elke Krotz, who has for many years been preparing a monograph on the glosses found in the oldest manuscripts of Priscian's *Ars*, then offered to transcribe and edit the *Quaestiunculae in Priscianum* and to correct the other texts in this volume.

The various grammatical texts that are associated with the name of Peter of Pisa probably constitute the most important unpublished grammatical texts from Charlemagne's reign. It is always dangerous to publish the editio princeps of a previously unstudied text, but nevertheless we hope that the appearance of these texts will allow experts in the history of Latin grammar to give them the attention they deserve. They should stimulate the study of Latin grammar in the early medieval period, especially

¹ 'Peter of Pisa and the *Quaestiunculae* Copied for Charlemagne in Brussels II 2572', *Revue Bénédictine* 110 (2000), p. 238-260; reprinted in *The Study of the Bible in the Early Middle Ages* (Florence, 2007), p. 276-298. The list of works in the Codex Diezianus, p. 218-219, which had been misinterpreted (by Bischoff and others) to be a library catalogue, was published with colour plates in 'The Oldest Lists of Latin Books', *Scriptorium* 58 (2004), p. 50-53 + pl. 15-16 & 24-25; the nature of this curious document could not be appreciated from the low quality black and white facsimile or from the poor diplomatic edition published by Bischoff in 1973. On the theory that the Codex Diezianus might have been connected with Verona, see the disclaimer in *The Study of the Bible in the Early Middle Ages* (Florence, 2007), p. xiv.

² The manuscript is not listed by Marina Passalacqua, *I codici di Prisciano* (Roma, 1978), and the texts are not cited by Margaret Gibson, 'Milestones in the Study of Priscian, circa 800-circa 1200', *Viator* 23 (1992), p. 18, where Peter of Pisa is mentioned.

³ Michael Lapidge, 'Vivien Ann Law (1954-2002)', *The Journal of Medieval Latin* 12 (2002), p. v-vii.

the rediscovery of Priscian, and provide medievalists with new insights into the Latin culture that began to flourish in elite circles in the first years of Charlemagne's reign. They constitute the starting point for an evaluation of the figure of Peter and the learned men he was associated with while in Charlemagne's service.

With the texts in hand for the first time, specialists and students can discover additional sources and point out similarities with related texts and improve on the versions given here.

In the first four works (p. 1-221) modifications to the original texts are highlighted by printing in bold the words inserted in the original texts so that the reader can quickly see how Priscian and the other authorities were manipulated. In the *Ars Petri* (p. 223-285) and the *Ars Dieziana* (p. 287-333), which often appear to be commentaries on Donatus, the words of Donatus are set in italics. In the *Ars Dieziana*, the passages which are found only in Berne 207 are indented from the left and right margins.

Many literary texts from the Carolingian period remain to be uncovered or studied anew. The next step in the rediscovery of grammatical teaching from Charlemagne's era would be an edition of the *Ars Ambianensis*, based not on the codex Ambianensis, Amiens 426, but rather on St Gall 877.⁴

⁴ Vivien Law, *The Insular Latin Grammarians* (Woodbridge, 1982; reprinted 1987), p. 67-74.