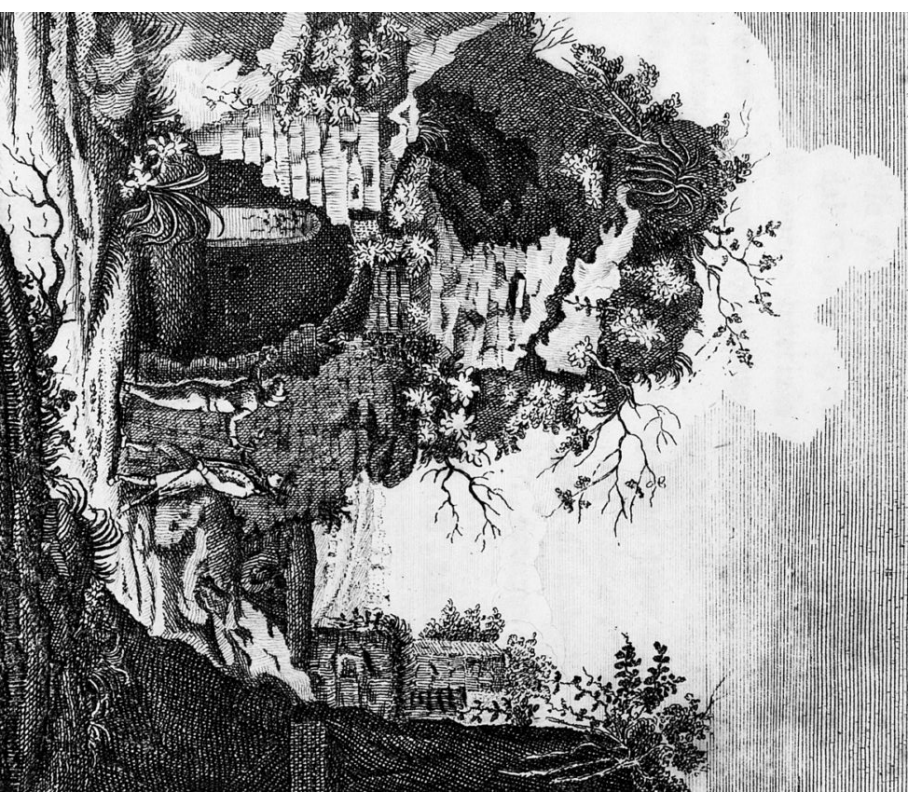
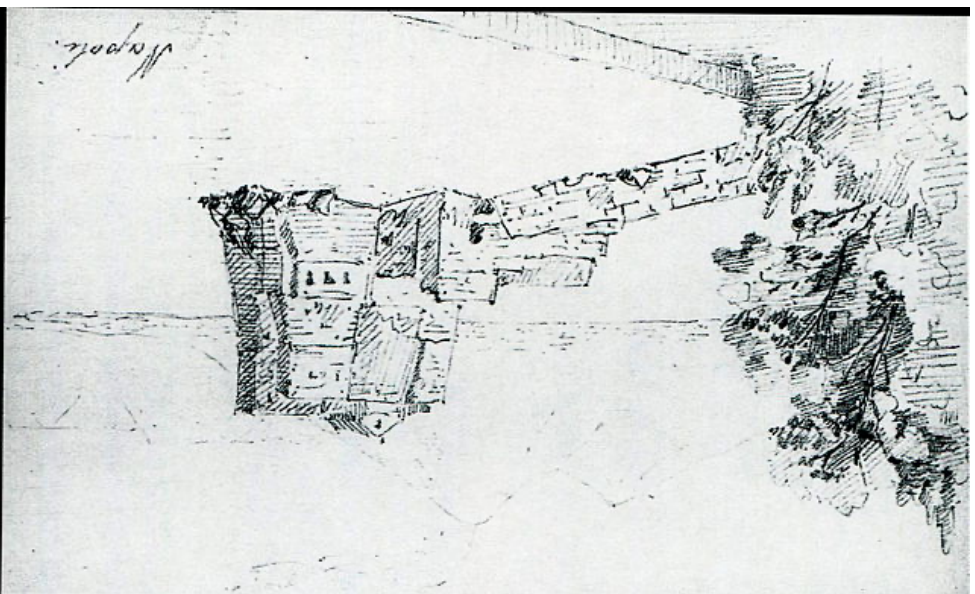


De Sepulchro Vergilii



from the
Otia Imperialia
by
Gervase of Tilbury

Edited by Hugh McElroy



Front Cover Image:

View of the Tomb of Vergil by Benedetto Cimarelli (1792)

Back Cover Image:

19th c. sketch of Castel Dell'Ovo

Front cover type: 1501 Manutius

Main type: Tahoma

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1 Siculus, -a, -um	Sicilian
Rogerus, -i m.	Roger (name)
nātiō nātiōnis f.	race
Anglus, -a -um	English
postulō (1)	to demand
mūnificus –a –um	dutiful; generous
illūstris illūstre	distinguished
petītor –oris m.	one who tries to obtain
summe	something; an asker, seeker
litterātus –a –um	extremely
trivium –ī n.	versed in literature, cultured
	the Trivium, the core
	curriculum of logic, rhetoric,
	and grammar, which formed
	the core of a classical
	education
quadrivium quadrivī n.	the Quadrivium, the higher
	liberal arts taught after the
	Trivium, namely arithmetic,
	geometry, music, and
	astronomy
acūtus –a –um	sharp, clever
physica, -ae f.	physics, natural science
operōsus –a –um	full of labor, industrious
astronomia –ae f.	astronomy

5 Magister ergō mīlitum cum turbā cīvium ossa coniūncta cōpulat et in culleō reposita in Castellō Maris¹² urbis ipsius cōnfinium dēferunt, ubi per mediās crātēs ferreās intuerī volentibus¹³ ostenduntur. Requisītus autem magister¹⁴ quid dē ossibus factūrus erat¹⁵ respondit sē per coniūratiōnēs effectūrū quod¹⁶ ad eius interrogatiōnem ossa omnem Virgiliī artem ipsī panderent; quīn immō satisfactum sibi prōposuit sī per quadrāgintā diēs eī ossium cōpia¹⁷ darētur¹⁸. Asportātō ergō librō solō magister abijt.

¹² *Castellum Maris* - Castel del'Ovo, the Castle of the Egg, in whose walls, according to legend, Vergil had hidden an egg which would protect the city from destruction so long as it didn't crack.

¹³ *intuerī volentibus* - "to those wishing to look at them"

¹⁴ *magister* - the scholar, not the *magister mīlitum*

¹⁵ *quid.. factūrus erat* - "what he had been going to do"

¹⁶ *effectūrū quod* - "he would make it so that"

¹⁷ *cōpia* - "access"

¹⁸ *quīn immō...sī...darētur* - "but even so...if...were granted to him"

5 magister mīlitum	the head of the army
coniungō coniungere coniūnxī	to join together
coniunctus	
copulō, copulāre, copulāvī,	to bind, join
copulātum	
culleus, -ī m.	a bag, leather sack
repōnō repōnere reposuī	to put back
repositus	
castellum -ī n.	castle
cōnfinium -ī n.	boundary, confines
crātēs or crātis -īs f.	bars
ferreus -a -um	made of iron
intueor intuērī intuitus sum	to look at
requirō requirere requisivī	to seek, ask
requisitus	
coniūratiō coniūratiōnis f.	magic arts
quod ossa...panderent	"that the bones would reveal..."
interrogātiō -ōnis f.	questioning, inquiry
pandō pandere pandī passus	to spread out, reveal
immō	no indeed
satisfaciō or or satis faciō -	to satisfy
facere -fēcī -factum	
quādrāginta	40
asportō -āre	to carry away, transport

1 Tempore rēgis Siculī Rogeri¹ quīdam magister², nātiōne Anglus, ad rēgem accessit postulāns aliquid ā rēge mūnificō darī. Cumque rēx, illūstris genere et mōribus, arbitrarētur aliquid ā sē beneficium peti³ respondit: "Pete quod vīs beneficium, et dabo tibi." Erat enim petitor summē litterātus, in triviō et quadriuiō potēns et acūtissimus, in physicā operōsus, in astronomiā summus.

¹ Roger II, King of Sicily (1095-1154 CE)

² magister - "scholar"

³ aliquod beneficium...petī - "some favor was being asked"

2 temporālis –e	temporary, transitory
sōlācium sōlāci(ī) n.	comfort, aid, assistance
vīlis vīlis vīle	cheap
vidēlicet	namely
Virgilius, -i m.	the poet Publius Vergilius Maro, author of the <i>Aeneid</i> .
	Later tradition held him to be a sorcerer.
ubicumque	wherever, whenever
īnfriā	within
mēta mētae f.	boundary
annuō –ere –nuī	to agree; with dat.
littera, -ae f.	letter, letter of introduction
acceptis litteris rēgiis	ablative absolute
Neapolis, -is f.	Naples, the old Greek colony of Parthenope
porrigō porrigere porrēxi	to stretch forth, present
porrēctum	
oboedientia, -ae f.	obedience
ignārus –a –um	ignorant
sepultūra –ae f.	a burial, interment, place of burial
libenter	willingly
impossibilis, -e	impossible

4 Ad haec populus Neāpolītānus, attendēns speciālem affectiōnem quam habuerat Virgilius ergā cīvitatē, tīmēns nē ex ossium subtractiōne ēnorme damnum cīvītās tōta paterētur, ēlēgit susceptum rēgis mandātum ēlūdere quam¹⁰ oboediendō tantae urbis excidiō occasiōnem praebēre. Arbitrābātur enim eō cōnsiliō Virgilium sibi in montis arcānō tumulum posuisse¹¹ nē ossa eius ēvecta artificiorum suorum importārent interitum.

¹⁰ *quam* - "rather than"

¹¹ *arbitrābātur...posuisse* - the people believed that Vergil had intentionally sited his tomb where it wouldn't be found

4 Neapolitanus, -a, -um	Neapolitan, of Naples
attendō, attendere, attendī,	to heed, consider
attentus	
specialis –e	particular, special
affectiō –ōnis f.	disposition, affection
ergā	towards
subtractio, -onis f.	removal
ēnōrmis –e	terrible
mandātum –ī n.	order, commission
ēlūdō ēlūdere ēlūsī ēlūsus	to cheat, thwart
quam	"rather than"
oboediendo	"by obeying"
excidium –īī n.	destruction
occāsiō occāsiōnis f.	opportunity, chance
arcānus –a –um	secret, secret place
ēvehō –ere –vexī –vectus	to carry forth; carry up
artificium artifici(i) n.	craft, art
im–portō –portāre	to bring in, introduce
interitus interitūs m.	death, ruin, catastrophe

2 Ait ergō rēgī sē nōn temporālia sōlācia petere sed potius quod apud hominēs vīle putātur, ossa vidēlicet Virgiliū, ubicumque possent inveniri infrā mētās rēgnī suī. Annuit rēx, et magister, acceptūs litterīs rēgīīs, Neāpolim vēnit ubi Virgilius studium ingenii suī in multis exercuerat.⁴ Porrectis litterīs, populus oboedientiam parat⁵ et, ignārus sepultūrae, libenter annuit quod prō impossibili crēdēbat existimandum.⁶

⁴ *exercuerat* - "had pursued", "had applied"

⁵ *parat* - historical present: provided, offered

⁶ quod prō impossibili crēdēbat existimandum - "because they believed it was thought to be impossible", i.e, because they couldn't conceive of it working

3 tumulus tumulī m.	mound, tomb
ad quem	"where"
scissura -ae f.	fissure, seam, crack
dīnōscō –ere	to discern, see, perceive
fodiō fodere fodi fossus	to dig
effodiō –ere –fodi –fossus	to dig out
continuus –a –um	connected, intact
notorius, -a, -um	of or belonging to writing in ciphers
inscribō inscribere inscripti	to write on
inscriptus	
character, -eris m.	magic sign
levō (1)	to raise; make light
pulvis pulveris m.	dust
magister magistri m.	master, chief, teacher
extrahō extrahere extrāxi	to draw out
extractum	

3 Tandem magister, arte suā ad manum ductā⁷, reperit ossa infra tumulum in medio montis cuiusdam, ad quem⁸ nec signum scissurae dinoscēbātur. Foditur locus et effoditur post longos labores tumulus, in quo inventur continuum corpus Virgilii et ad caput liber, in quo ars notoria⁹ erat inscripta cum aliis studiis eius characteribus. Levatur pulvis cum ossibus et liber a magistro extrahitur.

⁷ arte suā ad manum ductā - "with his art being lead to his hand", i.e. "using his magic arts for the task"

⁸ ad quem - "where"

⁹ ars notoria - a grimoire or magic book containing magic symbols; some such books dealt in necromancy or demonology, others claimed to bestow rapid mastery of magical arts