

The Secret Writing of Michele Zoppello: An Introduction

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Abstract

Michele Zoppello is an insufficiently studied figure within the late medieval cryptographic landscape. Although his biography remains largely uncertain, it is enriched by the existence of a treatise on cryptography, which provides valuable insights into a rapidly evolving intellectual milieu.

This paper takes a case study from his treatise, *Litterarum Simulationis Liber*, to examine the cipher system he devised, with particular attention to its strengths and limitations, thereby clarifying its role in the history of cryptography and its implications in the period. This study provides a basis for future research and further analysis of both Zoppello's figure and his treatise, representing an initial step toward introducing this subject into scholarly debate on the history of cryptography.

1. Introduction

This study aims to provide an initial framework for further analysis. Michele Zoppello's work fits within the evolving context of secret writing and represents an early example of a cryptographic treatise of the fifteenth century. The *Litterarum Simulationis Liber* is dedicated to the highest figure of authority: the pope.

It was primarily intellectuals who engaged in the creation of these ingenious forms of secret writing, both to demonstrate their own skill and

to provide a service to those who could benefit from it, whether clerics, ambassadors, or other figures of power involved in encrypted communication. Indeed, it was power itself, and its political role, that drove the adoption of ever-new systems to protect messages, as the information they contained could determine the success or failure of a given strategy.

Another fundamental aspect was military use, which Zoppello himself mentions in parts of his treatise, providing example letters that could plausibly be employed in various contexts.

The method adopted by Zoppello appears to rely on a nomenclator, which could be modified as needed. He organized it alphabetically to make the operation of the system clearer. Nomenclators had already been in use previously. When a sender composed a letter using the nomenclator, they had to replace the key words with those listed in the nomenclator; conversely, to reconstruct the message, even without rewriting the letter, the recipient needed to substitute the corresponding words from the nomenclator with the appropriate current equivalents.

Between 1325 and 1327 (Meister, 1906), during the conflicts between the Guelphs and Ghibellines, some letters from Pope John XXII Duèse to his Angevin ally Robert of Naples were disguised: names, titles, and places were replaced with fictitious words. Despite this, enemies

sometimes managed to break the ciphers and decrypt the papal correspondence.

Consequently, it was essential to continually update the system to prevent adversaries from understanding the messages. The oldest surviving document using this encryption method, dating to 1326–1327, concerns the battles fought between Guelphs and Ghibellines at Orvieto and Viterbo, fueled by Ludwig of Bavaria's Roman campaign. The document mentions several prominent figures, representative of the political realities of the early fourteenth century.

For illustrative purposes, only two examples of this cipher are presented here:

“Item pro Viterbio: Civitas nova:, eo quod de novo fuerit in civitatem et sedem episcopalem erect[a]. [...]

Item per Gebellinis predictorum latorum vel aliorum: egyptii: Et per Guelfis: filii israel;”

As can be observed, the toponym Viterbo is concealed through the expression ‘*Civitas Nova*’, accompanied by an etymological explanation linked to its recent elevation to an episcopal see. Similarly, the Ghibellines are identified as the ‘Egyptians’, while the Guelphs are referred to as the ‘sons of Israel’.

A similar principle of substitution with alternative words is also present in Zoppello's treatise. However, a closer reading reveals more complex substitution dynamics, which are more closely aligned with the use of nomenclators that, from the fifteenth century onward, characterized monoalphabetic substitution ciphers.

2. Historical context of the Treatise

The figure of Zoppello remains insufficiently known, with only a few fragmentary references attested. Future research will aim to reconstruct his biography and provide a more comprehensive analysis of his treatise, complementing the work presented here.

Michele Zoppello was a Venetian from Sacile and served as secretary to Duke Ludovico of Savoy. He is mentioned in several diplomatic letters, which allow for the reconstruction of brief episodes from his life, including his imprisonment and subsequent release by order of Francesco Sforza (Herman, 2019; Soffiatti, 2011).

His cryptographic treatise is entitled *Liber Litterarum Simulationis et Dezifris*, also known as *Litterarum Simulationis Liber*¹. The variation in the title arises from the wording on the verso of the cover and that recorded in the incipit of the work, where the second formulation appears:

“Ad Beatissimum sanctissimum et dominum nostrum Domini Callisti Papae III mei Michaelis Zopello Sacilensis Litterarum Simulationis Liber Incipit”²

The book is dedicated to Pope Callixtus III Borgia³, pontiff from 1455 to 1458, a

¹ This treatise has been digitalised from University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. Url: <https://bibliophilly.library.upenn.edu/viewer.php?id=LJS%20225#page/1/mode/2up>.

² English translation: *To the Most Blessed, Most Holy, and our Lord, Lord Callistus Pope III, me Michaelis Zopello of Sacile - book of the Simulation of Letters - incipit.*

³ In 1455, Alonso de Borja was elected pope, assuming the name Callixtus III. His pontificate (1455–1458) was largely dominated by the crusade against the Turks

circumstance that allows the treatise to be chronologically placed within the few years of his pontificate.

The historical context follows the Ottoman capture of Constantinople in 1453, the Peace of Lodi the following year, and the subsequent creation of the Italian League in 1455, established to counter the foreign threat.

Callixtus III's main objective was the implementation of an anti-Turkish crusade, promoted throughout Europe, but which received limited support from the major political powers of the time. With the exception of Hungary, which was directly threatened by invasion, most European powers were primarily concerned with defense, consolidation, and the expansion of their own authority.

For the Papal States, the main source of instability remained the Italian peninsula, where Alfonso of Aragon attempted, through the condottiero Jacopo Piccinino, to besiege Siena.

This action contributed to weakening the balance of the Italian League and, indirectly, to obstructing the Pope's anti-Turkish ambitions, forcing him to concentrate his efforts on stabilizing the political situation in Italy, ultimately neutralizing the pro-Aragonese condottiero through an economic agreement.

Within this context, Zoppello's treatise appears to have been conceived for a specific purpose: not so much to confront the Turkish threat, but to address internal tensions within the

Italian peninsula and preserve the system of alliances.

This interpretation is primarily supported by a linguistic factor. The idiomatic difference between the Latin West (characterized by the coexistence of Latin and vernacular languages) and the Ottoman world, associated with Arabic, already constituted a significant communicative barrier. Consequently, the use of ciphers was less necessary in contacts outside territories where language represented the primary obstacle to understanding. By contrast, in the Italian peninsula, where secret writing was already widespread and conflicts were constant, interest in cipher systems was predominantly directed toward internal use, even though the papacy's political attention was chiefly focused on the East.

Zoppello dedicates his work to the Pope both to demonstrate his own expertise and to provide the papacy with a tool to support the defense of the political integrity of Italian alliances, through a secret communication system that was innovative for the time and capable of ensuring safer message transmission.

3. Practice and method of cipher use

Zoppello's work is a short treatise consisting of 20 folios, the first of which is richly illuminated. In the initial section, the author presents the work, introducing its methodology and the various implementations. The following section comprises a nomenclator arranged alphabetically, listing words and their substitutions. The subsequent part provides several worked examples; one of these is the case examined here, as it adopts one of the different

following the fall of Constantinople, achieving limited political success but marked by intense diplomatic and military activity. See Rendina, 2006; Navarro Sorni, 2006.

substitution schemes employed by Zoppello. Finally, the treatise includes a monoalphabetic cipher with homophones, as well as a nomenclator in which specific words are not replaced by other words, but by signs, symbols, letters, and numbers, following the model of monoalphabetic ciphers that became widespread during the fifteenth century.

S	P	P
Sacomanati	pasuti	piouesh
Saitamenti	preffi	pacifici
S. p. totu. ti.	probiffie	prestatiffie
Sancto	pouero	precio
Sauoya	pegra	priuata
Scriuere	prestare	porgere
Secreti	priegi	poi
Sei	pure	priui
Senesi	picoleli	primi

Figure 1. Partial Example of the nomenclator, f. 12v.

Zoppello's work focuses primarily on the use of the nomenclator, which consists of a sample of words for each letter of the alphabet, from 'a' to 'z'.

The list follows an alphabetical order, where the first row corresponds to the plaintext words, while the two subsequent rows indicate the two possible substitute words. The presence of two alternatives allows, depending on the context of the message, the selection of the most appropriate word to conceal the message.

This aspect is crucial because, if the text were to appear suspicious, it would become evident that the seemingly plain message actually conceals a code:

“Per alphabetum ordo notatur, mutatur que primo .a. in .c. et sic successive mutantur et

aliae figuris aliis. duplicantur .n. mutatae, ut si uno vocabulo non bene sonaret simulatio alio concordari queat in melius”⁴

The nomenclator is then used in different ways with letters invented by Zoppello, of a diplomatic-military nature, whose main themes concern prisoners or women whose husbands are imprisoned. This choice was intended to avoid raising suspicion about the possible falsification of messages and to make them appear to be used in the most credible context possible.

Since a full treatment would require too much space, this study focuses on a single example, encrypted according to the rules of the treatise. The complete text is provided in the appendix.

Before proceeding, it is necessary to address a primary limitation of the system. Being a nomenclator that essentially concerns common words and occasionally notable figures, and that uses two ciphertext words for each plaintext word, using the nomenclator continuously limits the possibility of encrypting the entire text. For example, if the ciphertext word ‘poi’ (after) is used to encrypt ‘*secreti*’ (secrets), it could not be used elsewhere; if it were needed in the cleartext, it would be impossible, as it would correspond to the same ciphertext word. To make the system function, the nomenclator can only be applied selectively.

Zoppello proposes several strategies. One of these is to place a full stop at the end of each

⁴ English translation: *Using the alphabet, one can observe a fixed order: first .a. is changed into .c., and thereafter other words are altered in the same way; some are doubled, with further changes of .n., so that if the simulation does not work well with one word, it can be better matched to another.*

word that is to be encrypted. In this way, punctuation is used to indicate where the nomenclator should be applied and where the word should be left in plaintext. Returning to the previous example, the word 'poi' can thus be used either as a cipher word or in plaintext, depending on the presence of the full stop as a recognition mark.

The reference rule is as follows:

“Atqui ut teneat qui scriptarum erit cuius sit partis partium [...] si principio cuius vis lineae: post primam habitam partis primae: quae verax est: erit quod scribetur: in fine praecedentis. lineae, virgula [...] ponatur hoc modo (,). Si vero secundae; [...] quae mutatur, punctis subponatur sic (.) firmus. si superfluae per iadum isto modo (:)”⁵

Therefore, if the text is in plaintext, a comma ‘,’ is used; if the text is meaningless and written only to mislead, a colon ‘:’ is used; if, instead, the text - or more precisely the word - is to be encrypted, it is preceded by a full stop ‘.’.

In the treatise, Michele Zoppello does not present fully encrypted examples, but rather models on which messages can be encrypted according to different types of rules. One of these, the use of the full stop, applies to the text presented here.

⁵ English translation: *However, whoever is recording must keep track of which part belongs to whom for each of the previously [...] If at the start of a line you wish to indicate, after noting the first part of the first line - which is true - what will be written will appear at the end of the previous line; a comma should be placed in order like this: ‘,’. If it is instead the second part; [...] the one that is changed, dots should be placed beneath it like this: ‘.’ (full stop). If there are superfluous parts, they should be indicated per iadum like this: ‘:’.*

It is a confidential message expressing concerns about the situation in Italy. The writer worries about the stability of the Italian League, as the various armies have not been disbanded, and adds two reasons. The first is that mercenary captains and condottieri have many men under their command. These leaders need war to maintain their armies, because without it they cannot pay their men, and the captains themselves cannot survive without it, since they have no interest in retiring from arms to devote themselves to agriculture. The second reason is that without a unified militia in Italy, the very principle of territorial defense would be lost, which would be extremely damaging given the invading forces beyond the mountains (oltramontani).

The letter concludes with the idea of hiring and paying a salary in place of the condotte, while those who have many men under their command should gradually be deprived of part of them, engaging the soldiers in tournaments and exercises to avoid idleness.

The words to be encrypted in the letter are marked with a full stop, according to Zoppello's rule.

In the text, full stops appear in twelve instances corresponding to as many words to be written in cipher.

The essential passages are reported below:

“et non havendo provisto intuito ale zentedarme. per diversi modi e da dubitare non surga più exterminio di guera de quela e stata. [...] como è el Signore Sigismondo”⁶.

⁶ Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta, born in Brescia in 1417 and the illegitimate son of Pandolfo III Malatesta, was

conte Iacomo Piccinino⁷. Guido Rongone⁸ [...] et suscitare nova guera. ni credere se vole gli voglieno gire ala zapa. [...] che fora pezor male del continuo stato da molti anni in qua. [...] a *Romani* acadete havendo loro in deditione tuta Italia. [...] intendeti per non ve atediare più in longo lezere. [...] et agli utili de condegno stipendio provedere. [...] et cossi gradatim. et agli omini darne et ale fanterie.”

The words preceding the full stops and their corresponding ciphertext equivalents are:

1. zentedarme = hora o honeste
2. Sigismondo = Padre, Pietro o piacevole
3. Jacomo Piccinino = nostro o novello
4. guera = erba elemosina

a condottiero of fifteenth-century Italy. Between 1447 and 1461 he came into conflict with Alfonso of Aragon and later with Pope Pius II, who excommunicated him in 1461 and waged military action against him. Defeated, he progressively lost his dominions and died in Rimini in 1468. See Rendina, 1985; Falcioni, 1998.

⁷ A condottiero born in Perugia in 1423 and the son of Niccolò Piccinino, he was active in the wars between Italian states in the fifteenth century. In 1450 he commanded Milanese troops, and later transferred his service to the Venetians against Francesco Sforza following the fall of the Ambrosian Republic. After 1454 he formed a mercenary company, and between 1456 and 1462 he fought in southern Italy, shifting his allegiance from Alfonso of Aragon to John of Anjou. In 1463 he aligned himself with Ferrante of Aragon, but, suspected of treason, he was arrested and executed in Naples in 1465. See Rendina, 1985; Ferente, 2005.

⁸ Guido Rangoni ‘il Vecchio’, was born in the early years of the fifteenth century. He belonged to a family linked to the Este and began his military career in 1431 in the service of Bologna. From 1434 he entered the permanent service of the Republic of Venice. After the Peace of Lodi (1454), he remained formally in Venetian service, consolidating his feudal and political positions. He died in 1467. See Andenna, 2018.

5. zapa = harena hami
6. Italia = nunciata nominata
7. fanterie = leze o lieve

While four other words have no corresponding cipher equivalents and are the following:

8. stata
9. qua
10. lezere
11. provedere
12. gradatim

By substituting the words, the sentences would read as follows:

“et non havendo provisto intuito ale honeste. per diversi modi e da dubitare non surga più exterminio di guera de quella e stata. [...] como è el *Signore* Pietro. conte nostro. Guido Rongone [...] et suscitare nova erba. ni credere se vole gli voglieno gire ala harena. [...] che fora pezor male del continuo stato da molti anni in qua. [...] a *Romani* acadete havendo loro in deditione tuta nominata. [...] intendeti per non ve atediare più in longo lezere. [...] et agli utili de condegno stipendio provedere. [...] et cossi gradatim. et agliomini darne et ale leze.”

Following Zoppello’s criterion, one immediately observes limited effectiveness, both in terms of the number of encrypted words used and the risk that some full stops may, accidentally or otherwise, correspond to words not present in the nomenclator. In addition, the choice to encrypt only a few words allows the simulation of the true content of the message, which is nonetheless primarily contained in the sensitive words addressed to key figures.

Encrypting the word 'zapa', while altering the final meaning, carries less weight than encrypting the name of Jacopo Piccinino.

The encrypted phrase 'como el Signore Pietro. conte nostro' perfectly simulates the original, rendering it equally credible despite being encrypted. Likewise, the expressions 'et suscitare nova erba. ni credere se vole gli voglieno gire ala harena' allude to an agricultural context rather than a war-related expression.

Only from this analysis is it possible to present certain considerations.

4. Utility and analysis of the Cipher

Zoppello's cipher exhibits several limitations, although these are confined to the single example presented, but it also has aspects that are original for the fifteenth century.

First of all, the use of punctuation is an innovative idea for the period, as it introduces a component that is usually excluded from ciphered writings into the encryption system (Alberti, 1998; Natale, 1961). Punctuation simplifies decryption, marks the beginning and end of sentences, and facilitates comprehension. In this case, punctuation is an integral part of the cipher, as well as necessary to indicate where words should be substituted.

Nonetheless, it is not particularly effective, since ink smudges or misplaced marks can confuse the reader in possession of the nomenclator when attempting to decrypt the message. Furthermore, the marks are easily identifiable and may reveal the system for choosing which words to encrypt and which to leave in plaintext, once the rule is understood. Consequently, the use of punctuation, while

original, exposes the cipher to a risk of systematic recognisability.

However, a strength remains the nomenclator itself, because even if the punctuation system were understood, it would remain almost impossible to identify the plaintext words.

The weakness, however, is that Zoppello does not place any mark after the name of the mercenary captain Guido Rongone; indeed, he places a comma to indicate that the text should be left as it is. Yet leaving the mercenary captain name in plaintext compromises the message, since the topic becomes easily identifiable through reference to his figure.

Moreover, the limited number of encrypted words means that only some passages can be effectively hidden, while still preserving originality in word choice. This aspect limits the overall effectiveness of the cipher, without undermining its conceptual originality.

Zoppello's system intends to use a nomenclator in a new and dynamic way. Since he explains the rule but does not want the work to be immutable, it must instead adapt to the needs of the message, provided that the commissioners are familiar with the rules and the words to be used in cipher.

The choice of such a system, apparently detached from the contemporary practice of monoalphabetic substitution ciphers with homophones, is in fact fully consistent with the cryptography of the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, because at the end of the treatise, in the last two written pages, Michele Zoppello presents precisely a monoalphabetic cipher that follows the rules of monoalphabetic ciphers:

“Et nota que scribitur diffuse absque distantia sillabarum et sine puncto vel virgula”⁹

This means that Zoppello, although aware of contemporary cipher systems, deliberately focused on a system different from the one that was becoming widespread. The two systems could not be used simultaneously: integrating the monoalphabetic system with the nomenclator would have been impossible, since punctuation is not employed in the former, whereas it is required in the latter.

For this reason, Zoppello places the monoalphabetic system at the end of the treatise, to demonstrate his knowledge of it; this does not reflect a lack of expertise, but rather indicates that it is not the principal focus of his work.

From a broader perspective, Zoppello’s treatise provides a fixed point from which one can analyse later examples that adopt the idea of substitution via entire words—most notably the so-called ‘Ave Maria’ cipher of Trithemius (1518), presented in his *Polygraphiae*, as discussed by Gamer (2022), although the name of the system was not given by Trithemius himself. In this cipher, each word of the prayer corresponds to a single letter of the alphabet. Trithemius devotes 190 pages to the system, proposing 380 possible Latin alphabets (*minutiae*), with each letter assigned a corresponding word. This yields a total of 9,120 words, after which the sequence begins again with a new set of words.

5. Conclusions

The present work has shown that, upon initial analysis, Zoppello’s system differs from other contemporary approaches to secret writing and that he sought to employ cryptography in a distinctive manner compared to figures who, between the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, devised new methods of secret writing.

An example of this is the collection of Milanese ciphers compiled by Francesco Tranchedino, preserved in the Austrian National Library in Vienna (ÖNB, cod. 2398) and in the *Codex Urbinate* held in the Vatican Apostolic Archive (AAV, Urb. lat. 998) which contains monoalphabetic substitution ciphers. These include sections related to the nomenclator system (mostly with words substituted by pairs of letters and numbers, and not always by other words), but for the most part rely on alphabetical substitution.

Through this contribution, Michele Zoppello’s work is situated within the broader landscape of historical cryptography studies, highlighting an early use of nomenclator-based techniques.

This study, far from being considered conclusive, represents a first step toward a more comprehensive examination of Michele Zoppello’s work and his role in the development of fifteenth-century cryptographic practices.

⁹ Zoppello, 1455-1458, 20r). English translation: *And it is a notation that is written in a continuous manner, without spacing between syllables and without pictograms or commas.*

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Appendix A. Example of a message to be encrypted, as presented

- Abbreviations have been expanded and are shown in italics.
- The original punctuation has been maintained, as intentionally applied by the author Michele Zoppello.
- Diacritical marks have been added to facilitate the reading of the Italian text, although they are not present in the manuscript.
- Many words appear without spacing and are written continuously; for the purposes of transcription, they have been separated to enhance readability.
- Letters enclosed in square brackets [] indicate characters omitted in the original text and supplied for completeness and comprehension.

Aliae litterae simultandae, emanandae que e locis sociorum vel amicorum

Havendo fata questa pace et liga universale de la Italia, et non havendo provisto intuto a le zente darme. per diversi modi e da dubitare non surga più exterminio di guera de quela è stata. primo che quigli sono cassi et da cavalo et da piedi como è el *Signore* Sigismondo. conte Iacomo Piccinino. Guido Rongone, et infiniti altri quali hano le conduccte grande, et qual di loro non le vora tenere a so[e] spese ni cassar le vorano, et lo [s]forzo di loro non hano il modo de tenere epe gente sencia soldo, el che li farà mistiero far qualche + novitate, et suscitare nova guera. ni credere se vole gli voglieno gire ala zapa. Secundo che mancando la militia in Italia, et dandosi a l'ocio, non fia Italia da oltramontani invasa, che fora pezor male del continuo stato da molti anni in qua. como più volte a *Romani* acadete havendo loro in deditione tuta Italia. Las[c]io molte altre ragione quale per suma sapientia *Vostra*. intendeti per non ve a tediare più in longo lezere. et conchiudo che al tuto se voria fare che quisti tali et tuti altri soldati sono de reputatione fosseno proveduti, non dico con le conduccte usate, ma con gli homini stimati: et tal famigli desutili: apti alopre mecanice, cassare: et agli utili de condegno stipendio¹⁰ provedere. quegli haveano mille cavagli ne tenisseno seicento, et cossi gradatim. et agli omini d'arme et a le fanterie. et quisti hogni mese havesseno fare lor mostre armate et giostre con simili exercitii: acio non marcisseno in ocio.

English translation:

Having established this peace and a universal league in Italy, and having made no provision to dismantle the armies, there is reason to fear in various ways that a new and even greater outbreak of war may arise than what has already occurred.

First: because there are captains of cavalry and infantry, such as Lord Sigismondo, Count Jacopo Piccinino, Guido Rangoni, and countless others, who hold large commands. None of them can maintain these forces at their own expense, nor do they wish to disband them; and their efforts alone cannot sustain troops without pay, which will force them to seek new ventures and potentially provoke a new war. One should not imagine they are willing to turn to farming.

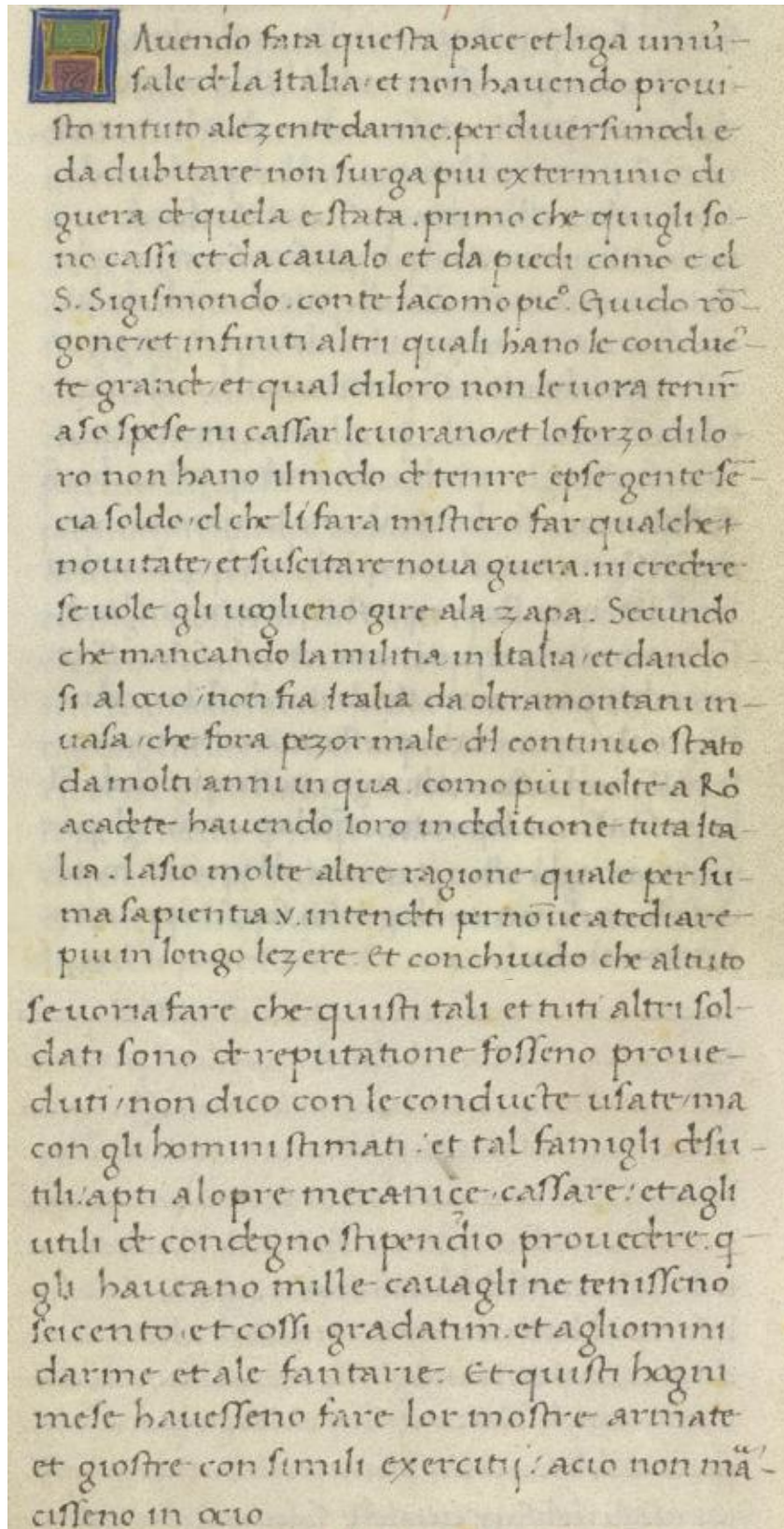
Second: because if Italy lacks a proper militia, and men give themselves over to idleness, Italy shall not be invaded by foreigners, which would be a great misfortune for the ongoing stability of the state, as had often happened to the Romans, when they held all of Italy under their dominion.

I leave many other reasons unspoken, which Your Wisdom can understand, so as not to weary you with a long reading. I conclude that it would be wise to ensure that these men and all other soldiers of reputation are properly provided for—not necessarily through the usual commands, but by assigning trustworthy men, removing unsuitable families, and providing competent soldiers with adequate pay.

¹⁰ Mark written above the letter 'd'.

Those who had a thousand horses should keep six hundred, and so gradually. Likewise, provisions should be made for men-at-arms and infantry. These forces should also conduct monthly demonstrations, armed exercises, and jousts, so that they do not fall into idleness.

Appendix B. The letter examined in this article



Auendo fatta questa pace et liga uniu-
sale d-la Italia et non hauendo proui-
sto intuito alezente darne per diuersi modi e
da dubitare non surga piu exterminio di
guera d- quella e stata primo che quigli so-
no cassi et da caualo et da piedi como e el
S. Sigismondo conte iacomopie. Guido ro-
gone et infiniti altri quali hano le conduc-
te grand et qual d-loro non le uora tenir
a se spese ni cassar le uorano et lo forzo dilo-
ro non hano il modo d- tenere e se gente se-
cia soldo el che li fara mistiero far qualche
nouitate et suscitare noua guera. in credere
se uole gli uoglieno gire ala zapa. Secundo
che mancando la militia in Italia et dando
si al ocio non fia Italia da oltramontani in-
uasa che fora pezor male d- continuo stato
da molti anni in qua como piu uolte a Ro-
acade hauendo loro in ditione tuta Ita-
lia. lasio molte altre ragione quale per su-
ma sapientia v. intendti per noue a tediare
piu in longo lezere et conchiudo che al tutto
se uoria fare che quisti tali et tutti altri sol-
dati sono d- reputatione fosseno proue-
duti non dico con le conducte usate ma
con gli homini stimati et tal famigli d- su-
tili apti a lopre mecanice cassare et agli
utili d- condegno spendio prouectre q-
gli haucano mille cauagli ne tenisseno
seicento et cossi gradatim et agli homini
darne et ale fantarie et quisti hogni
mese haucsseno fare lor mostre armate
et giostre con simili exerciti acio non ma-
cisseno in ocio