Fulvio Delle Donne, “Pontano, Giovanni”,
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R.G. Dunphy ed.
(Brill, Leiden and Boston 2010), 1227
Pontano, Giovanni
[Giovianus]

1429–1503. Italy. One of the most important authors of Neapolitan Humanism. Born in Cerreto di Spoleto, he settled in Naples in 1448, after entering the service of Alfonso the Magnanimous in 1447. There he was active in the chancery and diplomatic spheres and was tutor of Charles of Navarra and Alfonso duke of Calabria. In 1458 he became Counsellor of King Ferdinand, son of the Magnanimous, and from 1466 was his secretary. In 1474 he became President of the Camera della Sommaria, and in 1487 he became Secretary of State. Succeeding Antonio Beccadelli, he led the Porticus Antoniana, which was later named after him, the Accademia Pontaniana.

His most important historical work is the Latin De bello Neapolitano (On the Neapolitan war), revised ca 1499, in 6 books, which describes the war between Ferdinand of Aragon and John of Anjou (1458–65) for the succession to the throne of Naples. The autograph is Vienna, ÖNB, 3413, fols 1–145v. It was published in 1509 by Pietro Summonte; there is no modern edition.

The dialogue Actius (1499, dedicated to San nazaro, called Actius Sincerus in the Academy) charts the history of rhetoric and contains in the second part an ars historica (art of history), and treats the ordo rerum (order of arguments), the speeches and the description of the battles in the historical work.

Bibliography

Fulvio Delle Donne