Grateful acknowledgement is made to the British Academy, to the Department of History, Princeton University, and to the Erasmus Prize Fund for grants towards the cost of production of this volume.
Greek world and the Roman world. His firm stance and gesture might remind us of Terminus, who yields to none. And like the other Mercuries discussed here, his apparently mysterious attitude and trappings ultimately convey an extremely banal moral commonplace. 'Observe the golden mean' would presumably be as good a motto for speakers as for travellers.

* 

For well over a hundred years, Alciati's *Qua dì vocant eundum* emblem was reprinted in collections all over Europe, with the same motto and epigram but a variety of pictures. My hypothesis that the three Mercury emblems in the 1546 Alciati were variations on it is not provable, but there were adaptations, in several languages and several different countries. These adaptations may include Bocchius's 1555 Mercury-god-of-silence. Successive versions of *Qua dìi* also indicate that a close relationship between picture and text was not required; apart from a rather clumsy rectification attempt in 1549, the discrepancies go unremarked.

More generally, a detailed analysis of one example can suggest some reasons for the appeal of emblems in the sixteenth century.

**AGRIPPA, LEONARDO AND THE CODEX HUYGENS**

I

The 1533 edition of Agrippa von Nettesheim's *De occulta philosophia* is an extended version of a treatise originally written in 1510 under the same title.1 To the earlier framework the author added new ideas and new material mostly derived from the same sources that he had used in 1510.2 But, as has been shown recently,3 a significant part of Agrippa's additions, and especially the ideas on man's knowledge of God and his ascent towards God, were taken from the *De harmonia mundi* of the Franciscan Francesco Giorgi, printed in 1525, only eight years before the appearance of the final version of the *De occulta philosophia*.4 This note will show how, in developing the text of the *De occulta philosophia*, Agrippa linked Giorgi's ideas on microcosm with Leonardo da Vinci's studies on Vitruvian proportions, and suggests that to some extent his source for Leonardo's ideas was the same as that of the Codex Huygens.

---

1 Henricus Cornelius Agrippa ab Nettesheim, *De occulta philosophia sive magia libri tres*, Cologne 1533, ed. K. A. Nowotny, Graz 1967 (hereafter *Oc.*, 3rd ed.).

2 The *Occulta philosophia* of 1510 is preserved in Würzburg University Library, Ms M. ch. q. 50. I used the proofs of an edition planned by Dr. H. Meyer of the Warburg Institute in 1930 (hereafter Meyer edn).

3 Cf. Nowotny op. cit. n. 1 above, pp. 415-56.

Agrippa's notion of magic in the *De occulta philosophia* of 1510 is based on the Aristotelian understanding of theoretical science divided into physics, mathematics and theology.\(^5\) In 1533 this scheme is rendered in terms of the neo-Platonic world order, defining magic as being concerned with a threefold world, elementary, celestial and intellectual.\(^6\) At the same time this fits into Pliny's definition of magic which is also used by Agrippa.\(^7\) The magician finds the power of the elementary world by means of medicine and natural philosophy, connects it mathematically and astrologically with the celestial world, and confirms all this with the help of ceremonial magic which according to the Aristotelian system of science is called theology.\(^8\) According to this pattern his treatise proceeds in three books dealing consecutively with physics, mathematics and theology by means of natural, celestial and ceremonial magic. Thus the magician ascends from the elementary world by means of physics, traverses the celestial spheres with mathematics and astrology, and finally achieves the true knowledge of God in the last step which is ceremonial magic. As the argument is developed in the second and third books, it becomes clear that the structure of man as a microcosm, containing in himself the elementary celestial and intellectual world, coincides both with the order of the universe and with the system of magic as given in the three books of the *De occulta philosophia*. It therefore plays an important part within the three stages of magic.

In Book II, chap. xxvii, microcosm and its geometrically and arithmetically fixed proportions\(^9\) are to be regarded as a link both between the first and the final stage of magic as well as between the celestial and the intellectual world.\(^10\) In Book III, chap. xxxvi, the view of man as microcosm and image of God reveals the truth of God himself.\(^11\) In particular this interpretation of man as a microcosm is largely based on Francesco Giorgi's arguments as to how man can finally achieve the true knowledge of God.\(^12\) Quoting Giorgi Agrippa writes:

... nothing is found in man or in his composition in which something divine does not shine out; nor is there anything in God which is not displayed in man. Therefore, whoever knows himself, may know all things through himself. In particular he will know God in whose image he was made; he will know the world, the likeness of which he bears; he will know all creatures with which he has affinity; and what sustenance he can have and obtain from stones, plants, animals, heavens, from demons, angels and everything.\(^13\)

Thus Giorgi's notion of man's spiritual destination in achieving the true knowledge of God has become a crucial part of Agrippa's ceremonial magic.

### III

Giorgi's framework for his ideas on man's ascent to the view of the truth in God as given in the order of his *three songs* each divided into eight tones is largely based on an elaborate musical theory\(^14\) whereas Agrippa's notion of magic generally does not follow this musical pattern. Only a few, mostly isolated, musical arguments remain.\(^15\) Quoting Giorgi he sometimes omits musical analogies\(^16\) and his chapter on the

---


\(^6\) *Occ. phil.*, i.11, fol. 1. For the order of the world described in terms of neo-Platonism cf. e.g. Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, *Heptaplus*, alidr prooemium, in id., *De hominis dignitate. Heptaplus. De ente et uno e scritti vari*, ed. E. Garin, Florence 1924, p. 184.

\(^7\) Piny, *Naturae historiae*, xxx.1.

\(^8\) *Occ. phil.*, i.11, fols 1–3.

\(^9\) Ibid., ii.27, fols 160–70.

\(^10\) Cf. Ibid., i.1, fol. 1.

\(^11\) Ibid., iii.36, fols 284–89.

\(^12\) Cf. Giorgi, op. cit. i.4 above, iii., fols 7\(^\text{r}\), 31\(^\text{r}\)–32\(^\text{r}\) and *Occ. phil.*, ii.36, fols 286. Cf. Perrone Compagni, op. cit. n.3 above, pp. 64–65.

\(^13\) *Occ. phil.*, i.36., fols 286: ‘... nec repeterit alicud in hoc[m] [n]e, non uta dispositio, in quo no[n] fulget alicud divinitatis: nec quicquiam est in deo, quod ipsum non etiam[m] repreaesentatur in homine. Quicunque [u]e igitur seipsum cognouerit, cognoscet in seipso omnia, cognoscet in primis de[u]m, ad cuius [u] imagine[m] factus est cognoscet mundum, cuius simulacrum[m] gerit cognoscet creaturas omnem, cui[m] quibus symbol[m] habet: & [u]e cognoscet seipsum et alios homines, et alios animalibus, ab [u]e fomenti a lapidibus, a plantis, ab animalibus, a[s]s [e][c][l]i, [a] daemonibus, et angelis, & ab elementis, a coelis, & a daemonibus, et angelis, & ab elementis, a coelis, & a daemonibus, etc.’

\(^14\) Cf. Giorgi, unaquaqu[e] re habere & impetrare possit ... Cf. Giorgi, unaquaqu[e] re habere & impetrare possit ... Cf. Giorgi, unaquaqu[e] re habere & impetrare possit ... Cf. Giorgi, unaquaqu[e] re habere & impetrare possit ... Cf. Giorgi, unaquaqu[e] re habere & impetrare possit ... Cf. Giorgi, unaquaqu[e] re habere & impetrare possit ...


\(^16\) *Occ. phil.*, ii.27, fols 169 (cf. Giorgi, op. cit., i.6.3, fols. 101) and ii.24–26, fols 155–58.

\(^{16}\) Cf. e.g. *Occ. phil.*, fols 286, ii.6–11 with Giorgi, op. cit., iii.1.7, fol. 7–9.
mathematically defined microcosm in the second book is only an incoherent mixture of heterogeneous material taken from Giorgi, Leonardo da Vinci's proportional studies on Vitruvius and Pomponius Gauricus's *De sculp-\* tura*. There is no evidence that Agrippa used the Vitruvian text itself. He starts with some commonplaces on microcosm followed by the proportional canon of St Augustine, both taken from Giorgi. He then describes six variations of Vitruvius's man in the circle and the square referring specifically to points made in Leonardo's well-known study of this figure now in the Accademia in Venice (Pl. 45a). In discussing the drawing of a circle around the body Agrippa states:

Because if the hands are raised, and the feet and legs extended in such a way that the man's height standing is reduced by one fourteenth, the relative distance of the feet and of the lower abdomen forms an equilateral triangle; if the navel is taken as the centre the circumscribing circle touches the extremities of the hands and the feet.

In sixteenth-century proportional studies Leonardo alone decreased the height of the Vitruvian man by one-fourteenth to fit into the circle. Another and longer passage again originates from Leonardo's own description on the Accademia drawing:

The chest measurement of a man taken under the armpits is half his length, the midpoint of which is the bottom of his chest: and from there up to the middle of his chest between both nipples, and from the middle of his chest to the crown of his head, is in each case a quarter of the height. Similarly, from the bottom of his chest to below the knees, and from thence to the bottom of the ankles is a quarter of a man. The width of the shoulders is the same. So is the length from the elbow to the end of the longest finger, and this is therefore called a cubit. Hence four cubits make a man's length, and one cubit the shoulder-width; the width of the wrist is one foot. Six palms make a cubit, four a foot, and four digits make a palm. The whole length of a man is twenty-four palms or six feet, or ninety-six digits.

Additionally, he later gives some proportions not mentioned in Leonardo's text, but nevertheless taken from the drawing itself:

The diameter of the waist, the distance between the wrist and the inside of the elbow, the distance from the chest between the nipples to the upper lip or down to the navel, the space between the extreme ends of the upper bones of the chest which enclose the throat, the distance from the sole of the foot to the bottom of the calf, and from there to the centre of the knee joint, are all equal measurements, and are all one-seventh of the height.

By marking lines showing the points of measurement on his drawing of the Vitruvian man, Leonardo makes it easy to trace these

---

17 E.g. Pomponius Gauricus, *De sculp-\* tura*, Florence 1504, fols b3r-ib4 and Oec. Phil., fols 167 and 169.

18 Augustinus, *De civitate Dei*, xvi.26, PL, 41, col. 472.


20 Oec. phil., fol. 165: 'Quod si manus susc emebatur taliter pedes & cura pandatur, quonquam de commuqq parte erectae staturae sue brevis sit, tunc pedum distinctia ad imum pecten relata, aequilaterum triangulum faciet, & centro in umbilic[\*]o posito circundus circulus manuum pedumque extremum continget'.


---

21 Oec. phil., fol. 166: 'Circuits ho[m]ni sub alis, medietate[m] suae coloni et o[n]gigundis, cuibus mediu[m] est in imo pectino: abinde uero sursum ad mediu[m] pedes inter utrasque[m] mamillas & ad mediu[m] pectore in summum[m] uertice[m], utrobiq[ue] pars quarta: similiter ab imo pectino usque[\*]e sub genua, & inde ad extremos tales, pars ho[m]nii quinta. Eadem[m] est latitudine[m] spatiatur[m] ab uno extremo in alterum: eadem[m] est longitudine[\*]e cubiti in extremu[m] longioris digitii, ideo[\*]e hic cubitus dicit[\*]ur: hinc quatuor cubiti constitutunt longitudinem[m] hominis: latitudinem[m] uero quae in spatulam est, cubitus unus: quae uero in cinctura est, pes unus, cubitum autem constitutunt palmam sex: pedem uero quattuor, & quattuor digitum palmarum, totae[m] uero hominis longitu[m] palmorum uigitquatuarto, pedem sex, digitorum sex & nonaginta. For Leonardo's text see Richter, loc. cit.: 'Vetrutto architecto mette nella sua opera d'architectura, che le misure dell'omo sono dalia natura distribuite in questo modo che 4 diti [\*]uno palmo e 4 palmi [\*]uno piu, 6 palmi [\*]uno cubito e 4 cubiti [\*]uno uomo e 4 cubiti [\*]uno passo e 24 palmi [\*]uno uomo e queste misure sono ne' suoi edifici; ... [\*] uno uomo e queste misure son ne' suoi edifici'. The text is quoted according to the corrected reading of C. Pedretti, *The Literary Works of Leonardo da Vinci*, 2 vols, Oxford 1977, 1, p. 244.
proportions. Furthermore, the first, the third and the fifth woodcut in the De occulta philosophia (Pl. 45c-e) repeat the position of the legs and the feet in Leonardo’s study. 23

IV

However, Agrippa’s mixture of proportions by no means constitutes a coherent system. The quotations taken from Giorgi, from Leonardo’s alterations of the Vitruvian proportions, a further, different, canon from Gauricus and a large number of very detailed proportional ratios which could have been taken both from Gauricus or from Leonardo 24 have no intelligible relationship. Nor does this material fit into the few musical arguments taken from Giorgi. The incoherently integrated proportional studies function only as material to demonstrate the complexity of the mathematically organized microcosm which is the central metaphor for the second and intermediate state of magic. Agrippa’s remarks on the six variations of Vitruvius’s man in the circle and the square form a part of this wider discussion. He thus tries to fulfill his own requirement that everything is linked most powerfully by numbers and geometrical figures. 25 But there is no attempt to achieve a general mathematical or a particular musical system to make all the different proportions fit. Nevertheless, Agrippa’s use of both Giorgi’s ideas on microcosm and Leonardo’s studies on proportion seems to demonstrate a significant shift in his notion of magic. Originally, in 1510, he had only worked out a magical system according to the Aristotelian understanding of theoretical science. Then, in the De incertitudine et vanitate scientiarum et artium, finished in 1526 and published in 1531, he devoted eight chapters to magic describing its several aspects. 26 Very much less systematic than the De occulta philosophia, these give a general survey of magic, natural and mathematical, devoted either to physical phenomena or to heavenly influences. Other chapters are concerned with the maleficent business of veneficous magic, goety, necromancy and the deceptive practice of magicians. Though he acknowledges that some considered the art of cabbala and theology as more legitimate, he finally retracts and condemns the art of magic in general and specifically as described in his De occulta philosophia of 1510. 27

As a piece of rhetoric the De incertitudine et vanitate scientiarum et artium need not be taken too seriously. 28 It provides, however, a contrast to Agrippa’s notion of magic in 1533 when, following Giorgi, a coherent system of spiritual magic, having as its theological aim the knowledge of God, is developed. Agrippa presumably came to know Giorgi’s De harmonia mundi in 1527. In the same year he wrote to a friend complaining that the first two books of the De occulta philosophia were inadequate; the third book being ‘totally crippled’. Therefore he promised to publish the whole work completely revised at some time. 29 From this time on, therefore, he may have integrated the ideas from Giorgi’s De harmonia mundi and especially the arguments on microcosm which he fitted into his magical system. The improved notion of magic now includes the old scheme of 1510, the application of the neo-Platonic order of the world and Giorgi’s ideas on man as microcosm ascending from the lower world to the true knowledge of God. This new magical approach, depending largely on the utilization of Giorgi’s ideas on microcosm and completed by material taken from Leonardo’s studies on Vitruvian proportions, perhaps seemed to justify the resissuing of a book on magic which already had been retracted and condemned by the author himself in De incertitudine et vanitate scientiarum et artium.

24 Gauricus, op. cit. n. 17 above and Richter, op. cit. n. 20 above.
26 Henricus Cornelius Agrippa ab Nettesheym, De incertitudine et vanitate scientiarum et artium, Antwerp 1530, fols N3*-P3*.

27 Ibid., fol. P3*.
29 Epist. v. 14., Henricus Cornelius Agrippa ab Nettesheym, Opera , 2 vols, Lyons, Beringos Fratres (c. 1600), 8, p. 905: ‘Caeterum quos postulas libros, aliqui illorum fuerunt errores mei, sed jam non sunt: Quia vero aliquando fuerunt penes me, sed jam non sunt...’ Occulta philosophia intitulati, horum priores duo in multis de circimferentur libri adolescentiae meae de penes vos et mecum intellegitur quantus ille de penes vos et mecum intellegitur quantus ille de penes vos et mecum intellegitur quantus ille de penes vos et mecum intellegitur quantus...’
AGRIPPA AND LEONARDO

Agrippa could have gained his knowledge of Leonardo's proportional studies by meeting him either between 1512 and 1516 in Milan or Pavia, where both stayed for long periods, or even perhaps between 1517 and 1518, when Leonardo was at Fontainebleau and Agrippa travelled from Italy to Metz.30 There is, however, no evidence for any meeting between the magician and the artist. Indeed, some clues suggest that Agrippa need not have received the proportional studies from Leonardo himself since others in the sixteenth century are known to have had access to the material involved.31 One example is Antonio Maria Venusti's Discorso generale of 1562,32 which gives proportions taken indirectly from Leonardo's studies on the Vitruvian man in the square and the circle. Venusti's Italian text is too close to Leonardo's own for him to have taken it from Agrippa as some other authors in the sixteenth century did.33 Like Agrippa he quotes lengthy passages which coincide with the text accompanying the Venetian drawing. He also gives, as Agrippa did, proportions scaled from the drawing itself, which in one significant instance contradict one dimension that can be taken from Leonardo's original drawing:

The diameter of the waist, the distance from the chest to the hip, from the wrist to the inner bend of the arm, from the nipples to the navel, from one end to the other of the highest bone of the chest enclosing the throat... is the seventh part of man's height.34

In this case it is the ratio of 1/7 given for the distance 'from the one end to the other of the highest bone of the chest enclosing the throat' which occurs both in Venusti and in Agrippa35 but does not, in contrast to most of the other proportions, appear in Leonardo's drawing itself, where it is only 1/8. Therefore Agrippa might have seen not the original Accademia drawing, but a very close copy of it. Since Venusti acknowledged, as a source for his proportions, not Leonardo, but Gerolamo Figino, who had access to the material copied into the Codex Huygens between 1560 and 1585,36 it seems probable that the studies used by Agrippa were, to an extent at present unknown, identical with Leonardo's originals. Agrippa may even refer to Leonardo's 'libro di pittura e movimenti humani' as mentioned by Pacioli, finished in 1498, but now lost.37

Three observations favour this assumption. Firstly, Agrippa's description of an equilateral triangle with its vertices based on the nipples and the throat38 coincides exactly with one of Leonardo's proportional studies, now at Windsor (Pl. 45g),39 which was copied in the Codex Huygens.40

Secondly, Agrippa's own description of the fourth illustration of the De occulta philosophia (Pl. 45f) showing the Vitruvian man in the square, which is taken from Cesariano's Vitruvius edition (Pl. 45b),41 is inaccurate and would fit the drawing on fol. 7 of the Codex Huygens (Pl. 45b) better.42 Because if, leaving the heels unmoved, the feet are stretched out on both right and left sides, and the hands are raised to the level of the crown of the head, then the extremities of the hands and feet produce an equal sided square the centre of which is above the navel on the waist of the figure.43

---

32 Antonio Maria Venusti, Discorso generale, Venice 1562, chapter xxivii, fol. 107r-108r. Cf. C. Pedretti, op. cit. n. 21 above, 1, pp. 246-47.
34 Venusti, op. cit. n. 32 above, fol. 107r-108r: 'Il diametro della cintura, la distanza dalla poppa al fianco... dalla piegatura della mano alla piegatura di dentro al braccio... dalle punte delle mammelle all'ombelic... dall'una e l'altra estremità dell'ultime ossa del petto che cingono la gola... è la settima parte della lunghezza dell'huomo'. For Agrippa's text cf. n. 22 above.
35 Cf. Oec. phil., n. 22 above.
36 Cf. Pedretti, op. cit. n. 21 above, 1, pp. 48-75 and Marinelli, op. cit. n. 31 above.
37 Luca Pacioli, De divina proportione, Venice 1509, fol. 1r.
38 Oec. phil., fol. 167.
41 Cesare Cesariano, Di Lucio Vitruvio Pollione de architectura libri X. Como 1521, fol. 50r.
42 Cf. Codex Huygens fol. 7, fig. 666b and Panofsky, op. cit., pl. 5 and pp. 121-22.
43 Oec. phil., n. 27., fol. 164: 'Quod si immotis talis pedes dextrarum sinisterorumque in untrunq[ue] latus protrahantur, & manus ad capitis lineam elucentur, ipsi tunc extremi pedum manuumque digiti, acquirat largum quadratum dabunt, cius centrum super umbilicum est in cinctura corporis'.
NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Thirdly, it seems possible that Agrippa's illustration of the microcosmic man as the base for a pentagon (Pl. 45d) derives from the same source as fol. 7 of the Codex Huygens$^{44}$ (Pl. 45b) since no other model is known to exist for this kind of drawing before 1533.$^{45}$ In addition to the shared use of the pentagon, the general disposition of the arms and legs, and the use of the hands, feet and crown of the head as the vertices of the pentagon, are similar in the Agrippa woodcut and the Codex Huygens folio, while the details of the fingers and feet are the same in the Agrippa and Leonardo figures but different from the Codex Huygens. While the outer circumference of the pentagon is not given on the Agrippa woodcut, an inner pentagon forms the basis for a five pointed star. This star is circumscribed by the circle touching the man's extremities, and its horizontal diameter cuts the genitals of both the Agrippa and Codex Huygens figure, not the navel, as in the Leonardo drawing. Furthermore, the text accompanying the woodcut refers to an equilateral triangle formed by the relation of the heels and the navel which is not shown in the illustration itself, although it appears on fol. 7 of the Codex Huygens. In the Accademia drawing this triangle is described as bounded by the legs. These points suggest that the Agrippa woodcut may reflect an intermediate study between the Accademia drawing of Leonardo and fol. 7 in the Codex Huygens.

However, the extent to which Agrippa used Leonardo's material in a form which was later included in the Codex Huygens can only be clarified by further evidence on the compilation of this codex and its relationship to Leonardo's studies.

FRANK ZÖLLNER

ABY WARBURG FELLOW, WARBURG INSTITUTE

DON QUIXOTE IN BROADSHEETS
OF THE SEVENTEENTH AND EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES

THAT noble hero of Romanticism, Don Quixote, appeared in rather more disreputable guise in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Recent studies have investigated his burlesque treatment in literature. Pictorial counterparts show the 'knights of the sad countenance' in a similar way, though a more grotesque character, at once terrible and comical. This is particularly noticeable in broadsheets and caricatures. Cartoonists seized upon the new image of Don Quixote as a further weapon in their armoury. So familiar was Cervantes's hero that some broadsheets simply invoke him by name, giving as visual cues no more than a few suggestive attributes. Two main streams can be discerned in the early pictorial use of the Don Quixote metaphor: one characterises him as a Spaniard, the other as a fool, but the emphasis is always on his military arrogance.

The image of the Spaniard in seventeenth-century France reflects the political tensions between the two countries. Satire was one of the means used to ridicule the threatening neighbour. The stage figure of the Spaniard was the epitome of the braggart soldier — the miles gloriosus familiar from Plautus, the 'Capitano' of the commedia dell'arte. This is the character who


Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes, Volume 48, 1985