

VICTORIA, MCPHERSON LIBRARY, MS. BROWN. IT.1  
Acc. 1992-044, Item #2  
Medicinal and Culinary Recipes (Composite Miscellany)  
Italy (Bologna?) s. XIV<sup>2</sup>- XVII<sup>4</sup>

The following pages catalogue the seven distinct watermarks found in University of Victoria's MS.Brown.It.1 (on 16 of its 32 paper leaves) and offer preliminary identifications and notes where possible. MS.Brown.It.1 is a composite manuscript of medicinal and culinary recipes produced in Bologna and containing items dating from the mid fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries. Its paper leaves vary in quality. Texts, written in multiple hands, are mostly in Italian (Bolognese dialect), with a few in Latin. Identified and comparable watermarks range in date from 1415 to 1579 C.E. and indicate paper made in Italy.

Not all watermarks are identified here; most yield comparisons with standard catalogues rather than firm identification. These pages thus offer a starting point for future researchers. The initial research was accomplished with C. M. Briquet's *Le Filigranes. Dictionnaire historique* and the online *Thomas L. Gravell Watermark Archive*:

Briquet, Charles-Moïse. *Les Filigranes. Dictionnaire historique des marques du papier dès leur apparition vers 1282 jusqu'en 1600*. 4 vols. Paris: A. Picard & fils, 1907.

[BR = Briquet reference number]

Briquet Online (BO). [http://www.ksbm.oeaw.ac.at/\\_scripts/php/BR.php](http://www.ksbm.oeaw.ac.at/_scripts/php/BR.php). Laboratoire de médiévisite Occidentale de Paris. Vienna: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften. 2016.

Mosser, Daniel W. and Ernest W. Sullivan II, with Len Hatfield and David H. Radcliffe. *The Thomas L. Gravell Watermark Archive*. <http://gravell.org/>. Virginia Tech, 1996-.

[Gravell = *Thomas L. Gravell Watermark Archive* reference example]

An electroluminescent flat light (provided by UVic Special Collections and University Archives) was used to view and photograph the watermarks in situ. Image editing for identification purposes—e.g., colour levels, brightness/contrast, cropping, rotation, and grey-scale manipulation—was done in Adobe Photoshop. Digital images of the full manuscript are also available through UVic Libraries Digital Collections site: <http://contentdm.library.uvic.ca/cdm/ref/collection/collection15/id/1949>

THIS PROJECT WAS COMPLETED BY NATASHA O'REILLY, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DR. ADRIENNE WILLIAMS BOYARIN (ENGL), AS PART OF COURSEWORK FOR A MANUSCRIPT STUDIES CLASS WITH DR. BOYARIN, DECEMBER 2016.

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### WATERMARK 1



Measurements: 45 x 47 mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1, fol. 31A

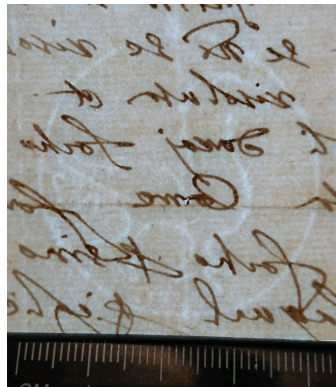
Unidentified

Motif: Flower(?), Hat(?), Cross

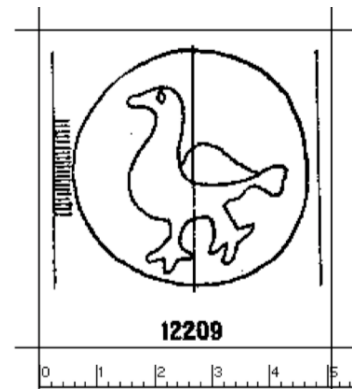
### WATERMARK 2



Gravell Bird.003.1 55x47mm



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 33



Briquet BR 12209 41x41mm

Measurements: 40x45mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1, fol.33

Reference: Briquet BR 12209 (vol. 3, p. 613), Gravell Bird.003.1

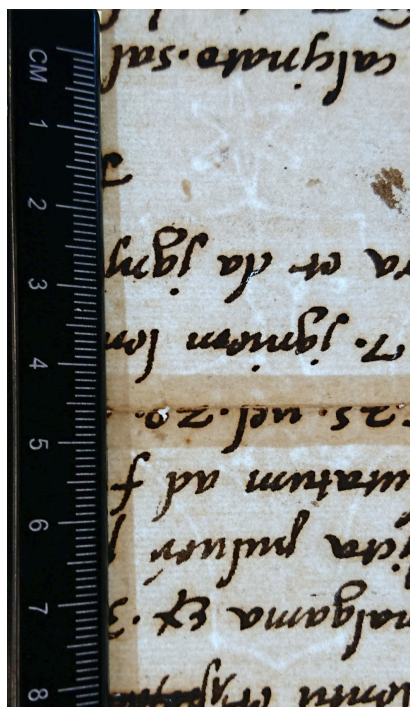
Date: 1579 (BR)

Location: Vicenza, Italy (BR)

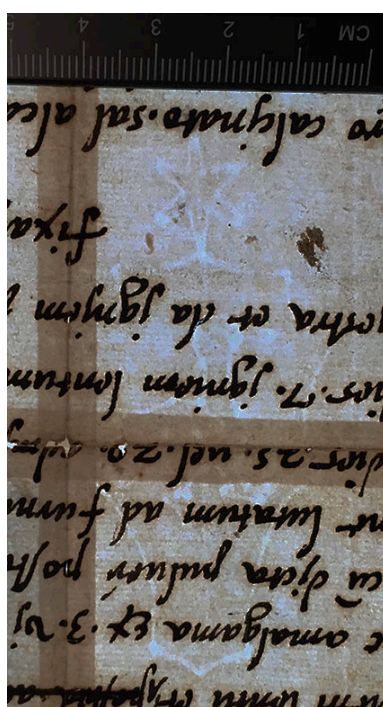
Motif: Bird (Dove of Pigeon?), Circle

**Comparison note:** The UVic watermark is significantly smaller than the Gravell sample but very similar to the comparable Briquet sample; the wing of the UVic bird, however, is not closed, and the tail feather is slightly more pronounced.

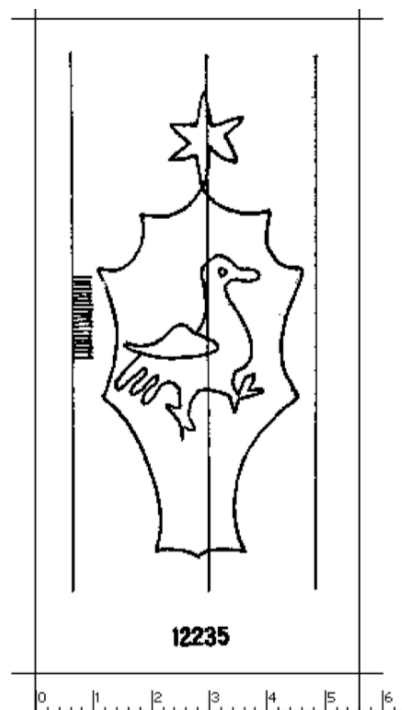
### WATERMARK 3



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 34



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 34



Briquet BR 12235 36x81mm

Measurements: 36x78mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1, fol. 34

Reference: Briquet BR 12209 (vol. 3, p. 613)

Date: 1513 (BR)

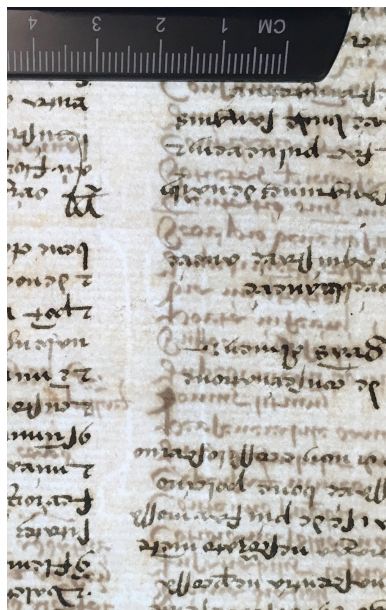
Location: Naples, Italy (BR)

Motif: Star, Bird, Shield

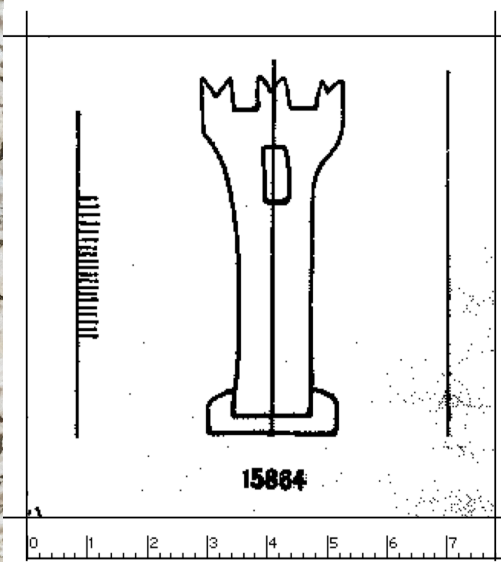
**Comparison note:** The position of the bird's wing and tail are obscured by tape in the UVic example and are therefore difficult to match; the bottom of the UVic shield also appears to have a slightly more distinct point than the BR 12209 sample. The size and position relative to chain lines, however, are nearly identical.

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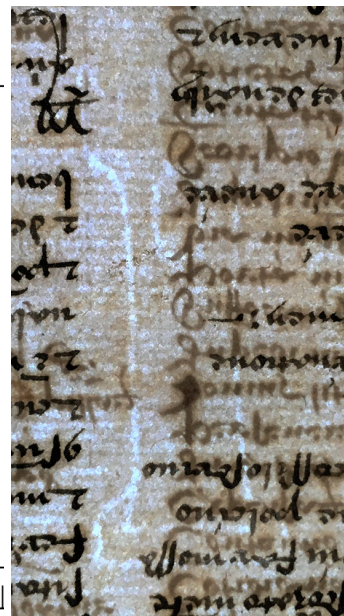
## WATERMARK 4



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 39



Briquet BR 15864 25x59mm



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 39

Measurements: 25x58mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1, fol. 39

Reference: Briquet BR 15864 (vol. 4, p. 799)

Date: 1415/1419 (BR)

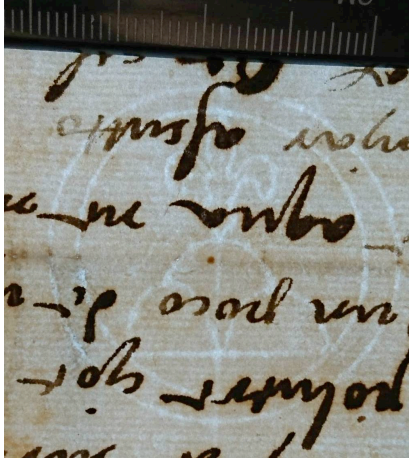
Location: Pistoia, Italy (1415); Lucca, Italy (1419) (BR)

Motif: Tower (simple)

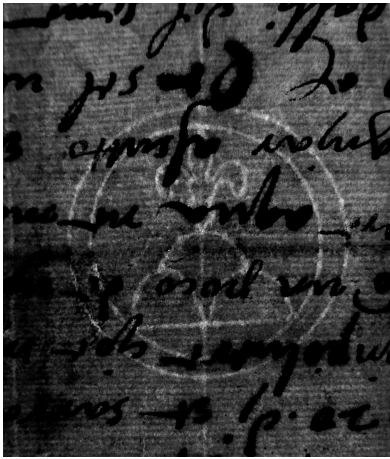
**Comparison note:** The Victoria watermark is only faintly visible, even with a flat light; the top right side is especially difficult to discern, making strict comparison difficult. BR 15865 appears to have squarer corners at the bottom of the tower and slightly taller turrets, but overall the size and motif (i.e., a tower with a single window, spiked turrets, and a clearly distinguished base) match very closely. Briquet cites eleven reproductions of BR 15864 dating from 1415-36 C.E., nine in Italy, one in Belgium, and one in Provence.

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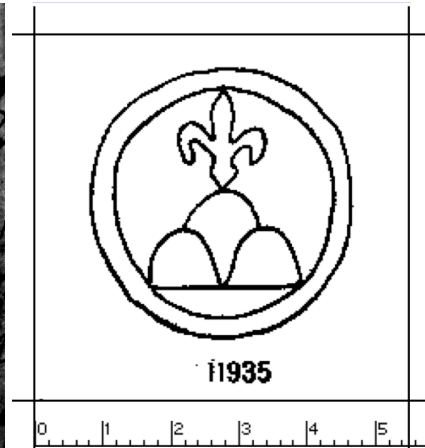
## WATERMARK 5



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 39A



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 39A



Briquet BR 11935 39x40mm

Measurements: 35x38mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1, fol. 39A

Reference: Briquet BR 11935 (vol. 3, p. 599)

Date: 1554 (BR)

Location: Rome, Italy (BR)

Motif: Three Hills (Nested Mountains), Fleur-de-lis, Circle

**Comparison note:** The UVic watermark matches the motif of BR 11935—three hills topped by a fleur-de-lis and inside a double circle—but it shows detail in the fleur-de-lis that the Briquet example lacks. The Briquet example is also slightly larger than UVic mark.

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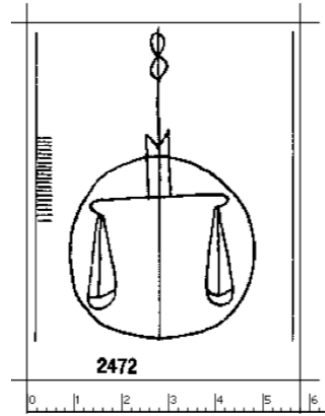
## WATERMARK 6



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 50



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 50



Briquet BR 2472 40x65mm

Measurements: 40x48mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1 fols. 40, 44, 46-7, 50-51, 54, 56-8

Unidentified (though cf. BR 2447-2521 and Gravell “scales” + “circle” descriptors)

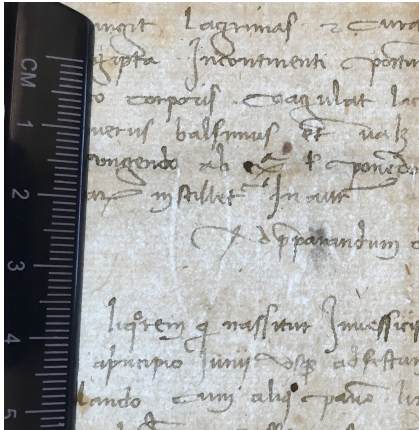
Motif: Scales/Balance, Circle, surmounted by star

**Comparison note:** The UVic watermark does not match any example in the Briquet or Gravell catalogues exactly, but it has similar features to many catalogued watermarks with the same motifs. The closest resemblance is the image above (Briquet BR 2472 from Salzburg, Austria 1463 C.E., with eleven variants catalogued by Briquet as in use in Italy and Austria in the late fifteenth century). BR 2472 shares many of the details found in the UVic example: distinctly curved weighing plates, curved edges in the balance bar, a spiked or triangular shape to the handle—and the line of the circle passes through the handle. However, the UVic example has a small star surmounting the circle, and the surmounting motif is closer to the scale’s handle than similar examples in Briquet.

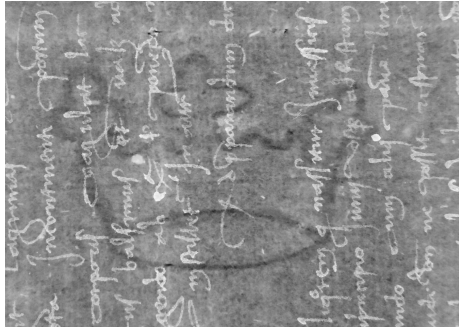
This is the most frequently occurring watermark in MS.Brown.It.1, visible on 10 of its 32 paper leaves and spread throughout the codex.

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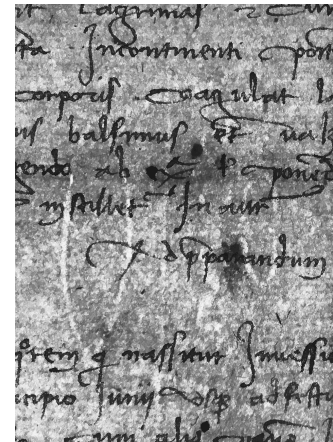
WATERMARK 7



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 62



(rotated and traced)



UVic Brown.It.1, fol. 62

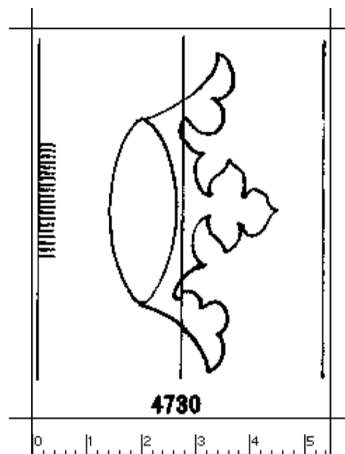
Measurements: 45x40mm

UVic reference: MS.Brown.It.1, fol.62

Unidentified

Motif: Crown with Three Florets

**Comparison note:** The UVic watermark is difficult to make out, even with the aid of an electroluminescent light; it is clear, however, that it does not precisely match any Briquet or Gravell example. Several Briquet samples are very similar (see Briquet BR 4693-4858), though none have exactly the same details. The most similar is pictured below (BR 4730, dated 1437 from Reggio Emilia, Italy and also used in Mantova in 1439): it has the same vertical orientation to a center chain line, the same concave base, and small pinnacles between the three florets; however, BR 4730 has significantly different measurements than the UVic example, and the UVic side florets are full (not flat) and more rounded overall.



Briquet BR 4730 31x51mm (vol. 2, p. 290)