

Friends with an old book – Argument

The book “Exercitationes Vitruvianae” by Giovanni Poleni is from the 18th century and written in Latin. It is about the Vitruvian exercises and it deals with it in many aspects.

The book is rather factual and Giovanni Poleni rarely specifically addresses one person in it. He often asks questions that nobody can answer. At certain points it also has a kind of self-dialogue. The book also has a table of contents and the various sections are marked with large, prominent titles. There are capital letters are used very often at the beginning of sentences. I found that very appealing to the eye and it caught my attention on certain aspects.

The book also has some illustrations, whereby you have to be patient at the beginning before you find them (they start to appear in about the last third of the book). When I found them, I found them very beautiful, but they were also kept very factual and you couldn't see any specific style in them. The book is rather thick and has over 300 pages, with the pages of different thicknesses. All in all, I think this book is all about the content, not the visual. In my opinion, the few illustrations and other features are only meant to reflect or reinforce what is written in the book. However, I find it quite difficult to say whether this book was a success a success for the author or not, since I didn't understand much of it.