## MAXIMILIANUS HELL'S UNFINISHED INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK EXPEDITIO LITTERARIA AD POLUM ARCTICUM

In the years 1768-1770, the Jesuit Father Maximilianus Hell (baptised Maximilianus Rudolphus Höll, also known as Maximilien, Maximilian, Maximilian Hell or Hell Miksa) travelled from his workplace at the Imperial and Royal Observatory in Vienna to Wardoehus (now Vardø) in far-northern Norway. The principal aim of his expedition was to observe a transit of Venus in front of the Sun around midnight on 3-4 June 1769. In his unfinished introduction to the work *Expeditio litteraria ad Polum arcticum*, Hell recounts the historical background of the eighteenth-century Venus transit enterprise and gives his own expedition a prominent place in the international quest to find the scale of the solar system.

In a doctoral thesis submitted to the University of Tromsø in January 2012, I analyse Maximilianus Hell's career and his role in the Venus transit projects of the eighteenth century. In my thesis, there is a critical edition of the introduction to the *Expeditio litteraria*, with English translation and commentary (see P. P. Aspaas, *Maximilianus Hell [1720-1792] and the Eighteenth-Century Transits of Venus: A study of Jesuit Science in Nordic and Central European Contexts*, Chapter III.3). I here offer digital photographs of the manuscripts that served as sources for that edition. All were found among Hell's surviving papers at the Wiener Universitätssternwarte (Institut für Astronomie der Universität Wien) in Vienna.

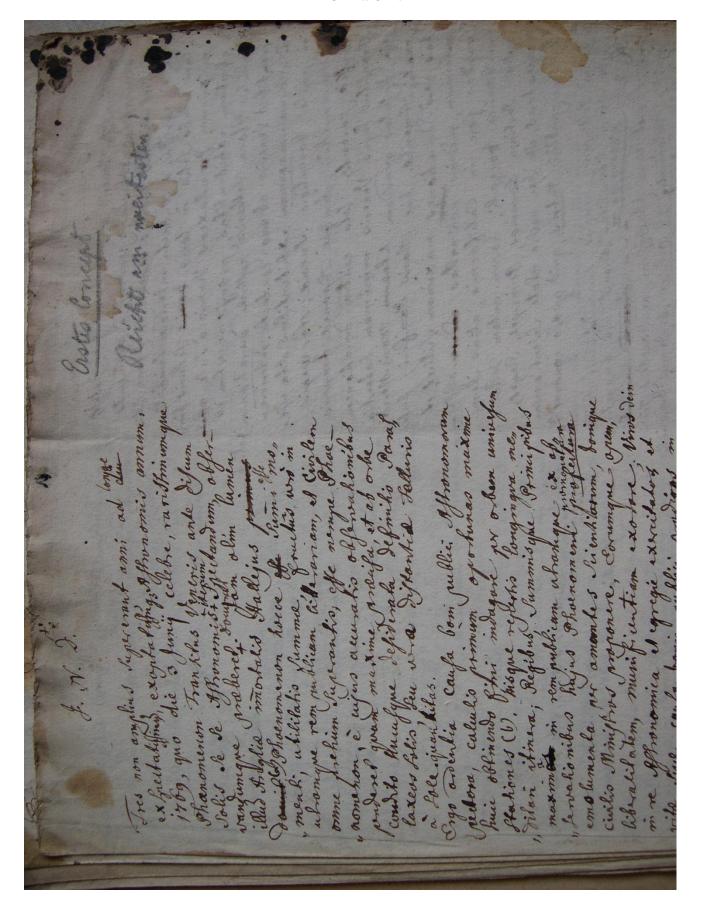
In Section III.1.3 of my thesis, the various manuscripts are described in some detail. For the sake of convenience, they have been named thus (in chronological order):

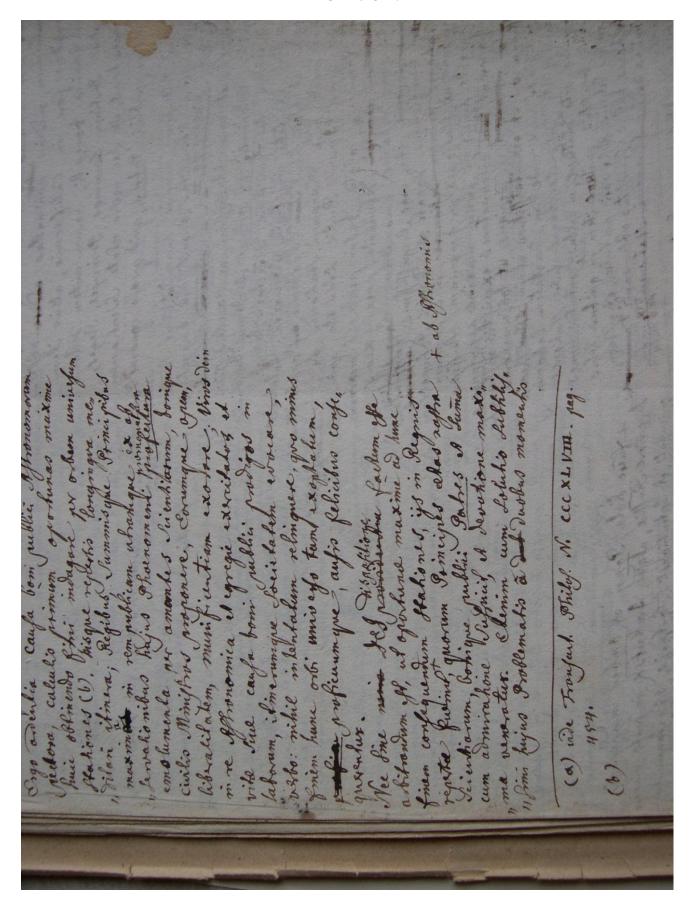
- **A** An early, probably the very first, draft to the introduction, in Hell's own hand (7 pages. The longest text)
- **B** The principal source, a more polished version of the introduction, in Hell's own hand (7 pages. Breaks off slightly earlier than **A**)
- **b** A loose sheet with additions or drafts connected to **B**. In Hell's own hand (2 pages)
- C The secretary's copy of **B**, with a few corrections in Hell's hand (6 pages. Breaks off earlier than **B**)
- **D** A revised secretary's copy, probably the version meant for printing (8 pages. Breaks off at the same place as **C**)

I thank Prof. Dr. Maria G. Firneis and Dr. Dr. Thomas Posch at the Wiener Universitätssternwarte for their assistance and for providing me the permission to publish my photographs of these texts.

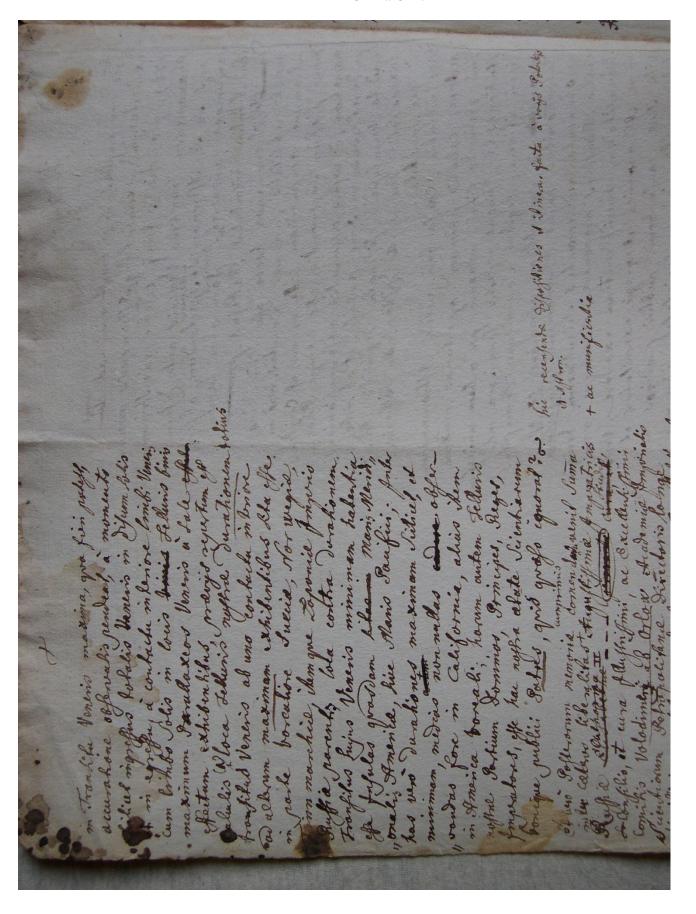
Tromsø, 8 January 2012

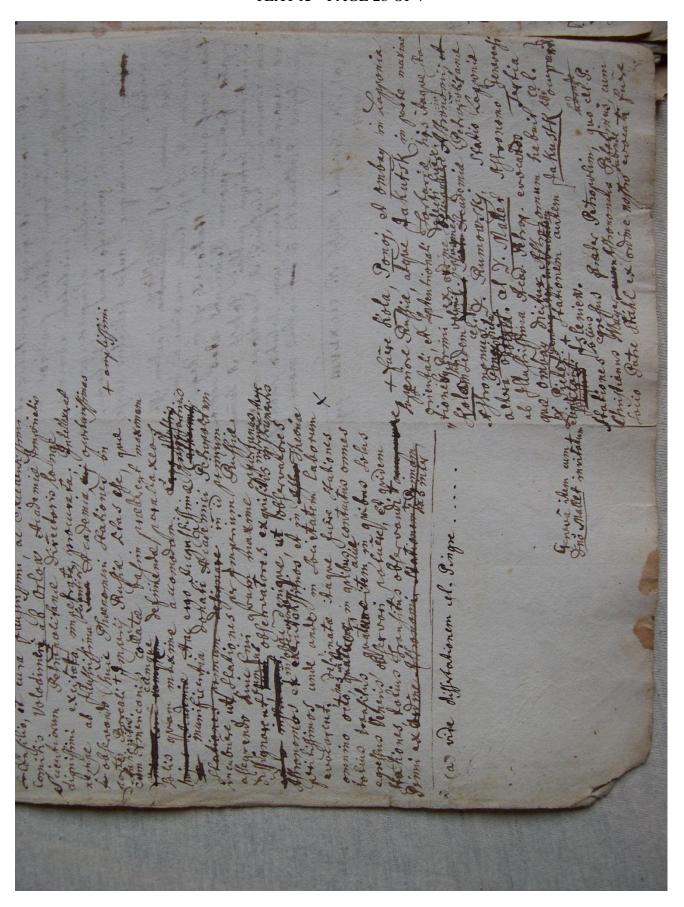
TEXT A – PAGE 1a OF 7 –

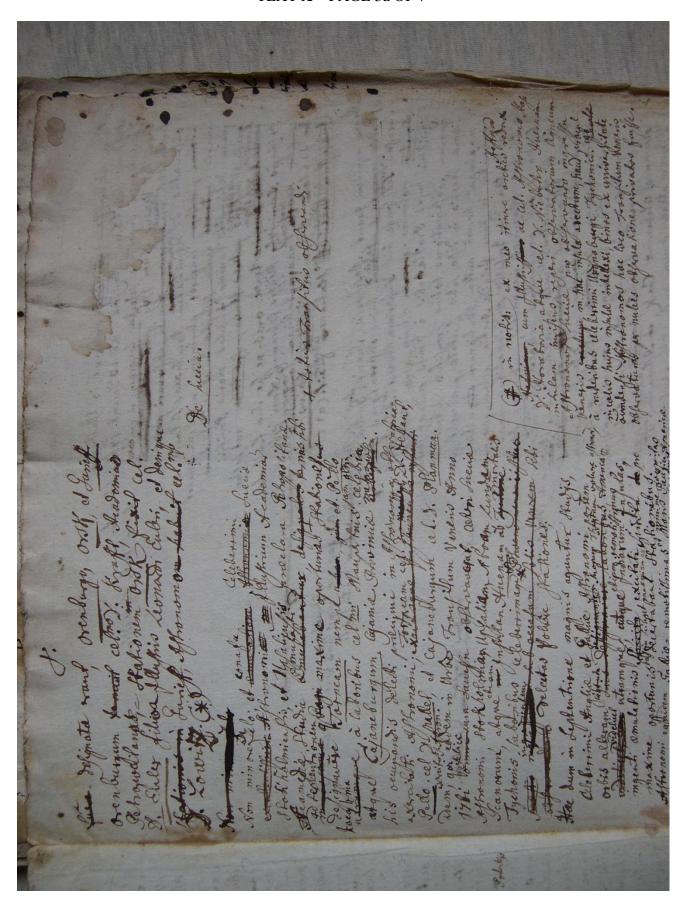


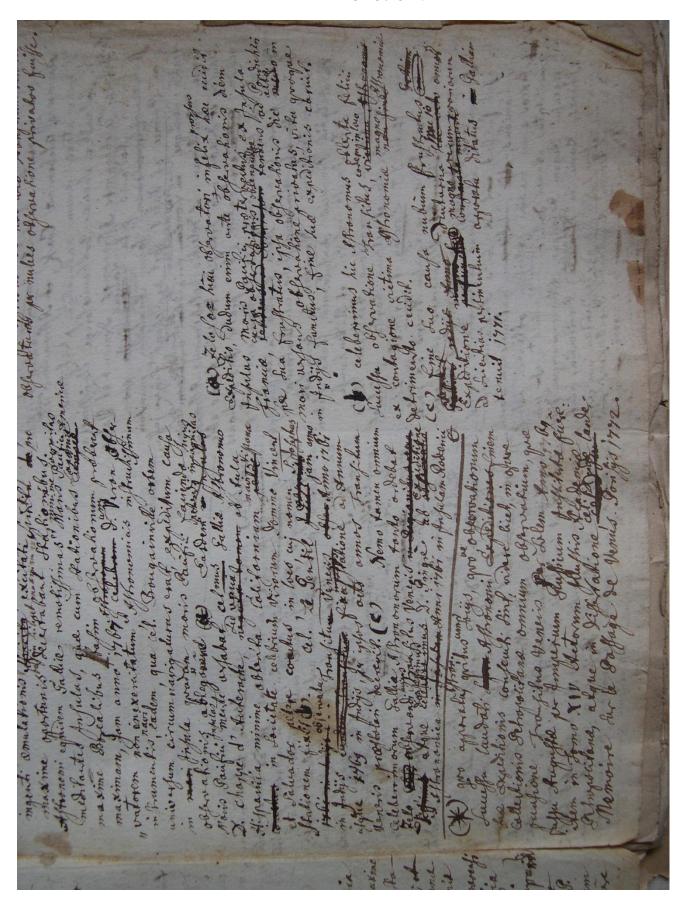


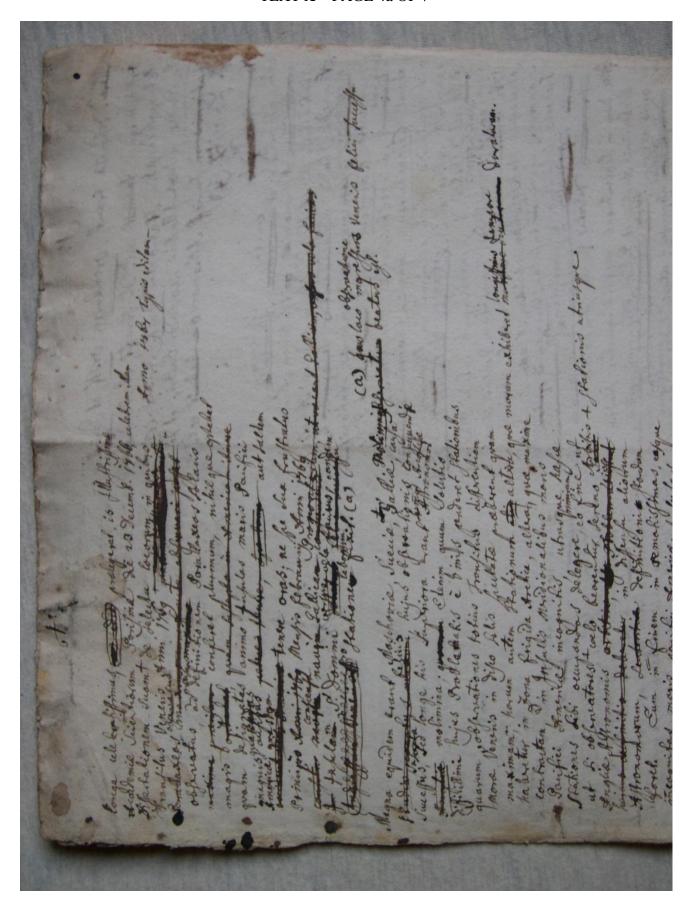
TEXT A – PAGE 2a OF 7 –

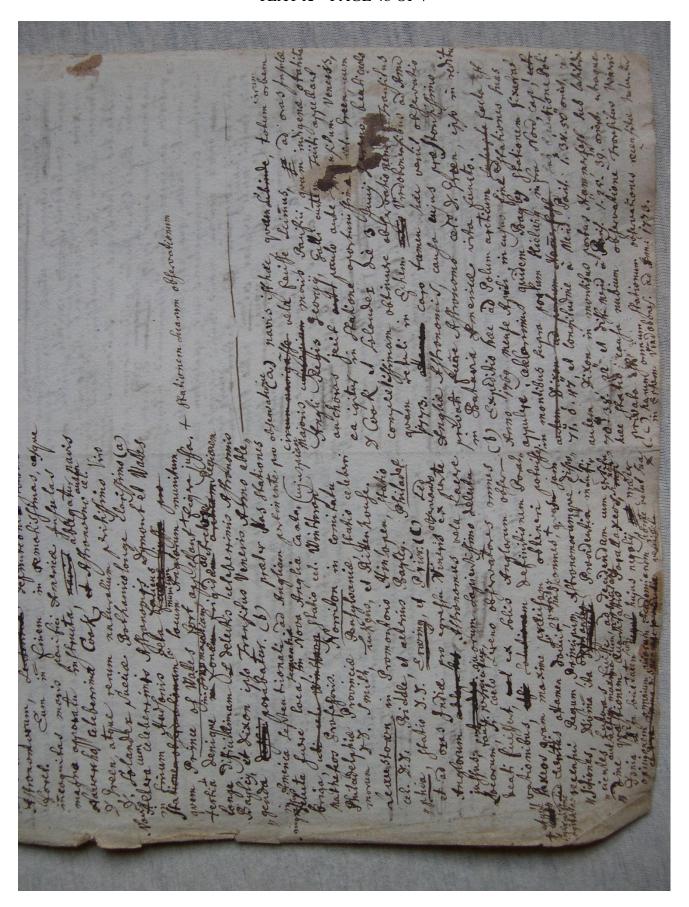


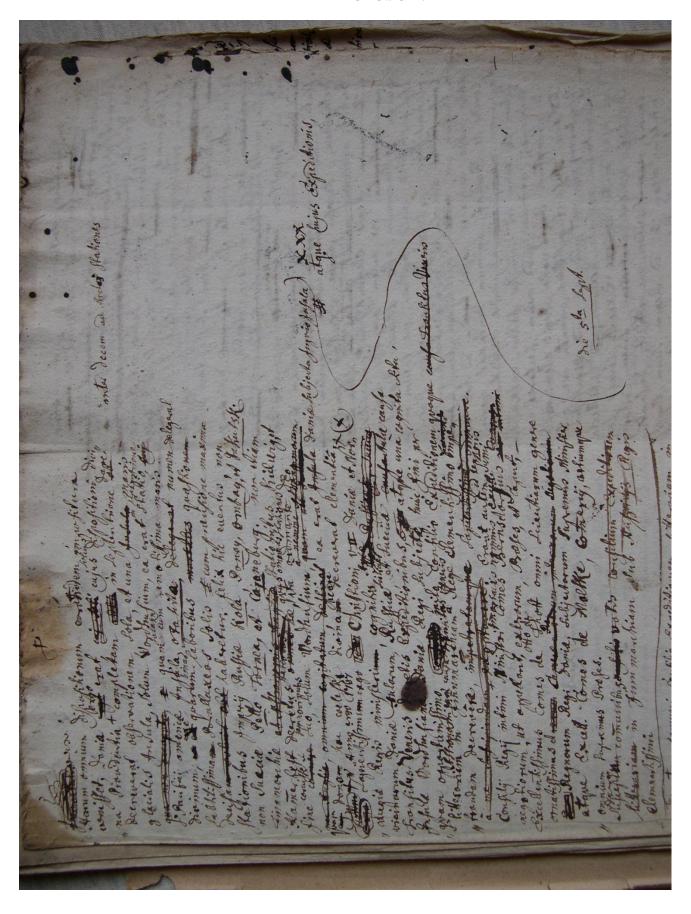


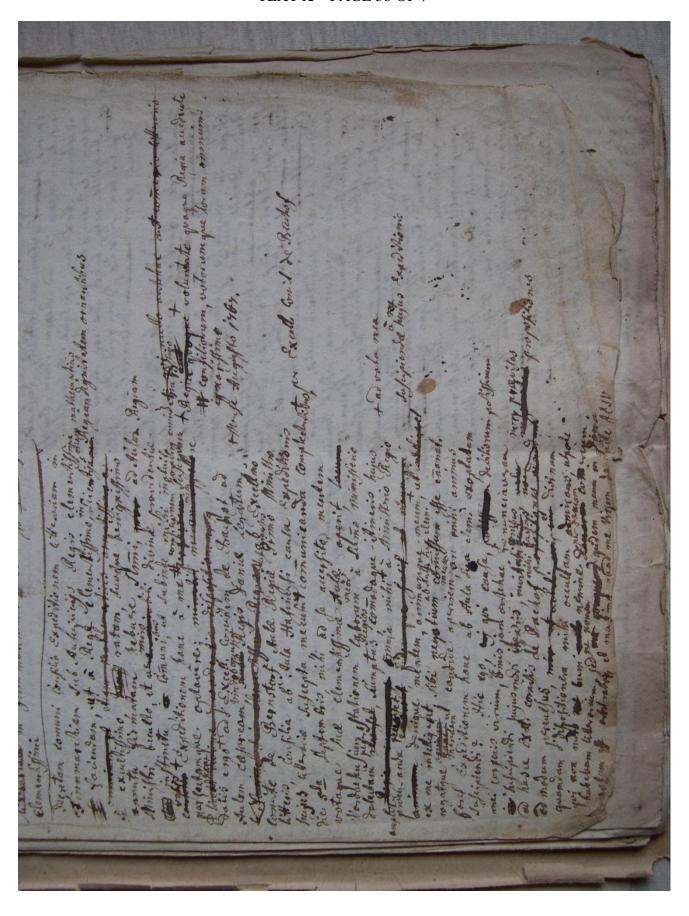




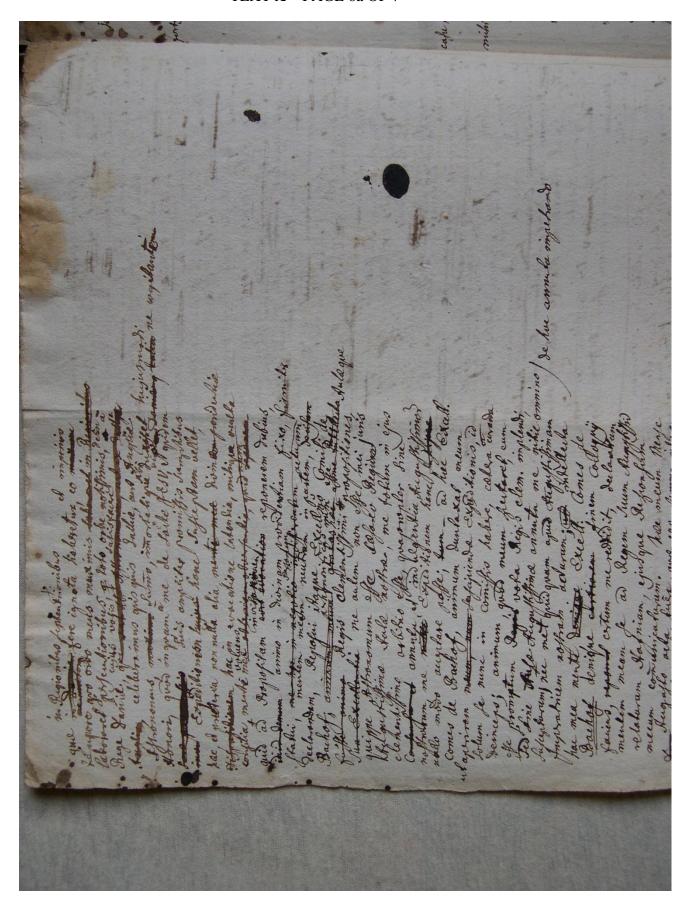




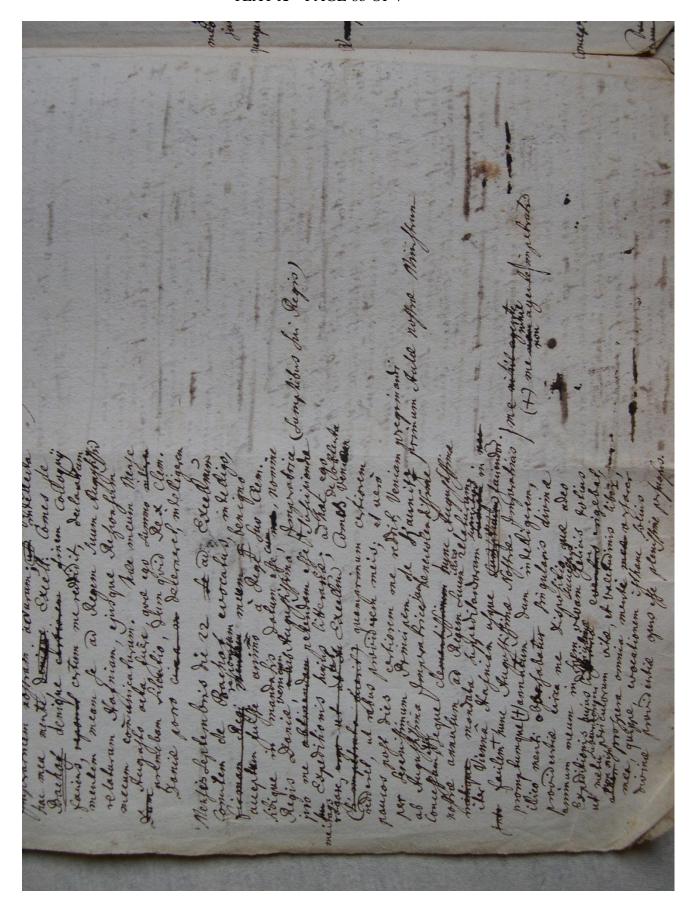




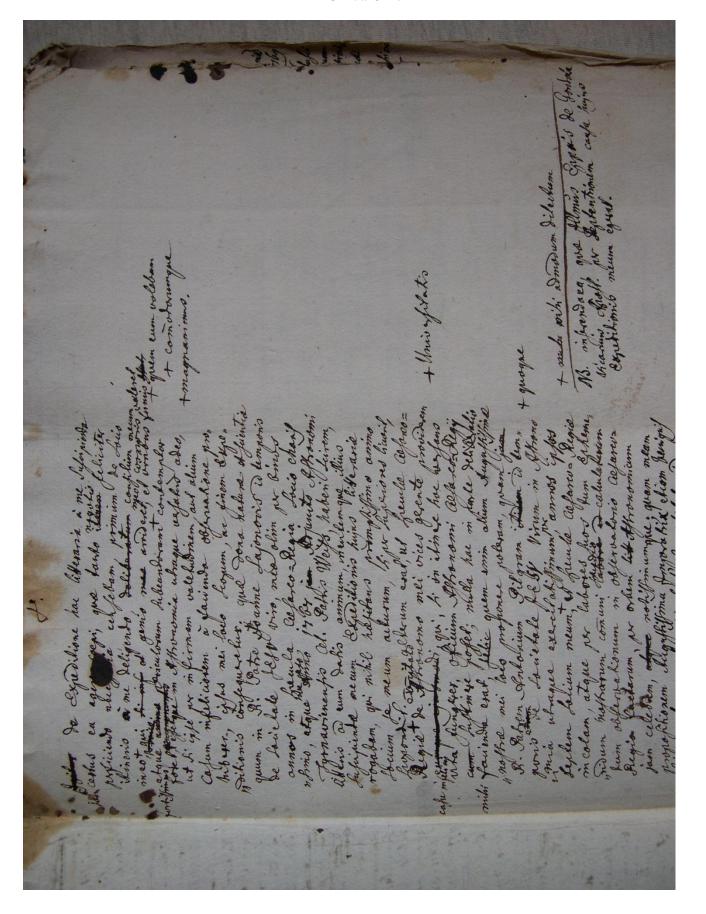
TEXT A – PAGE 6a OF 7 –

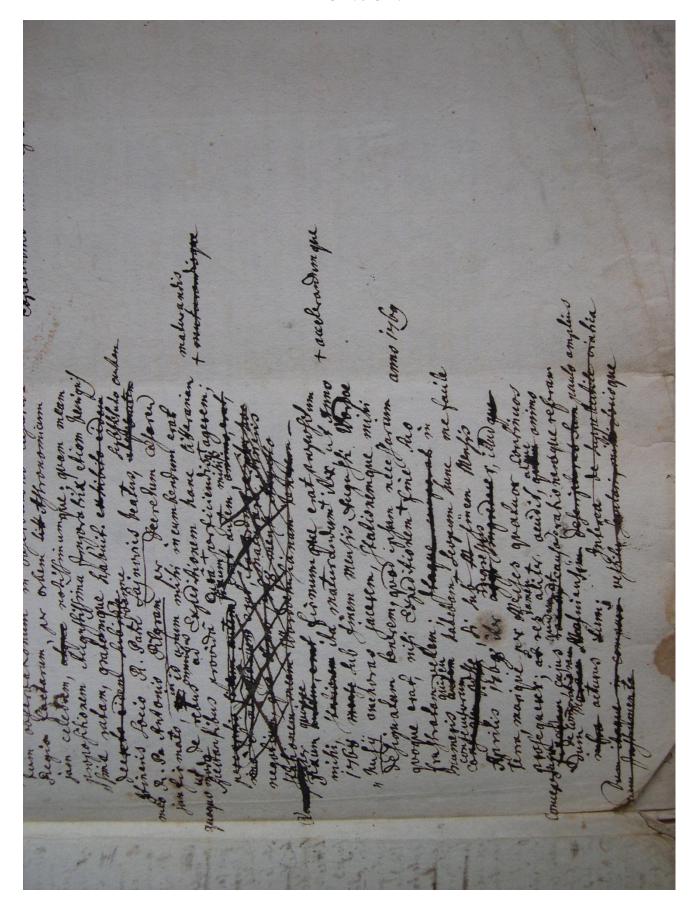


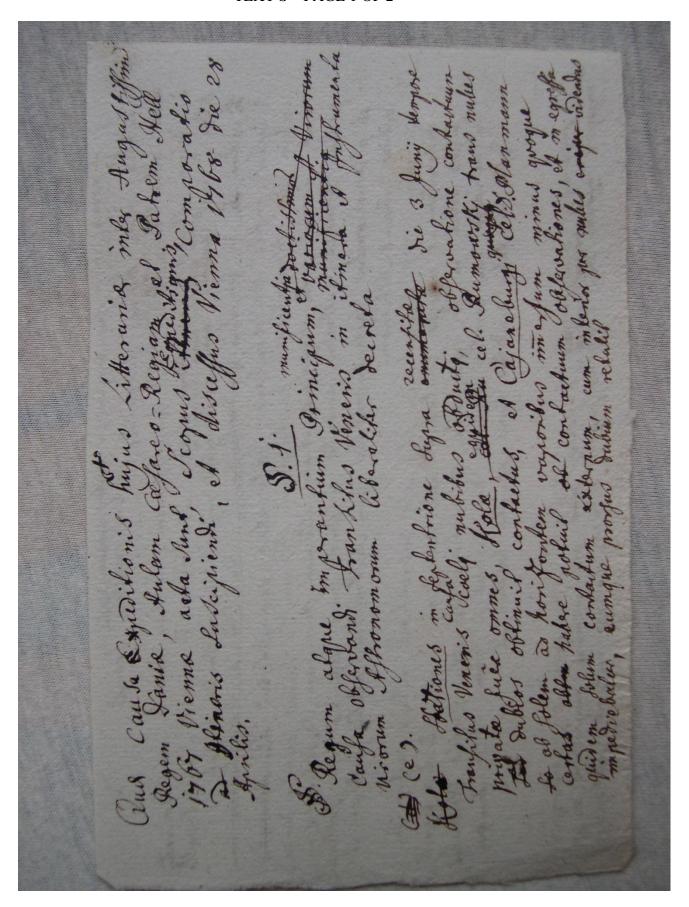
TEXT **A** – PAGE 6b OF 7 –

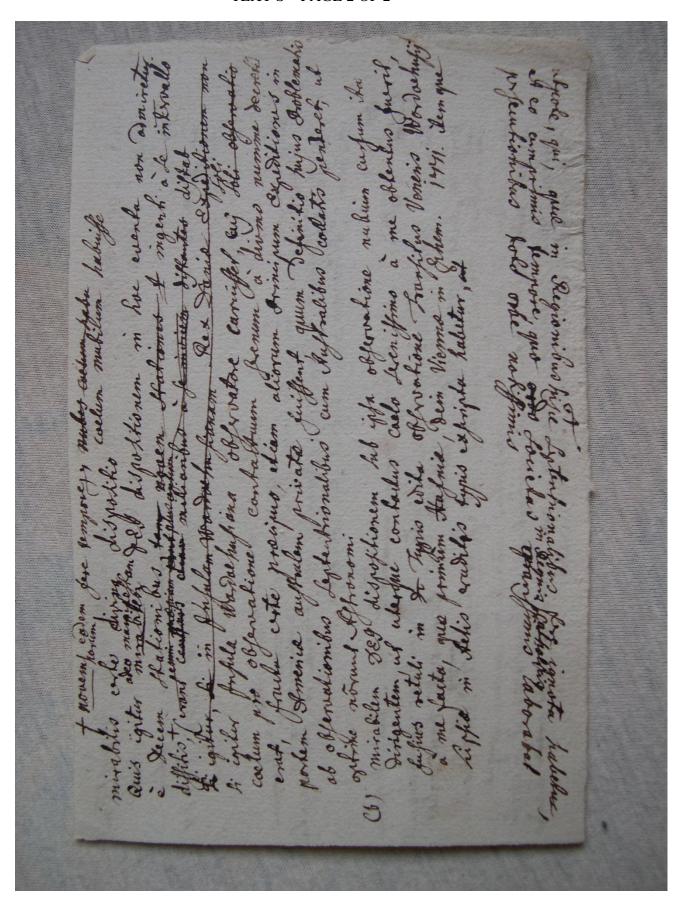


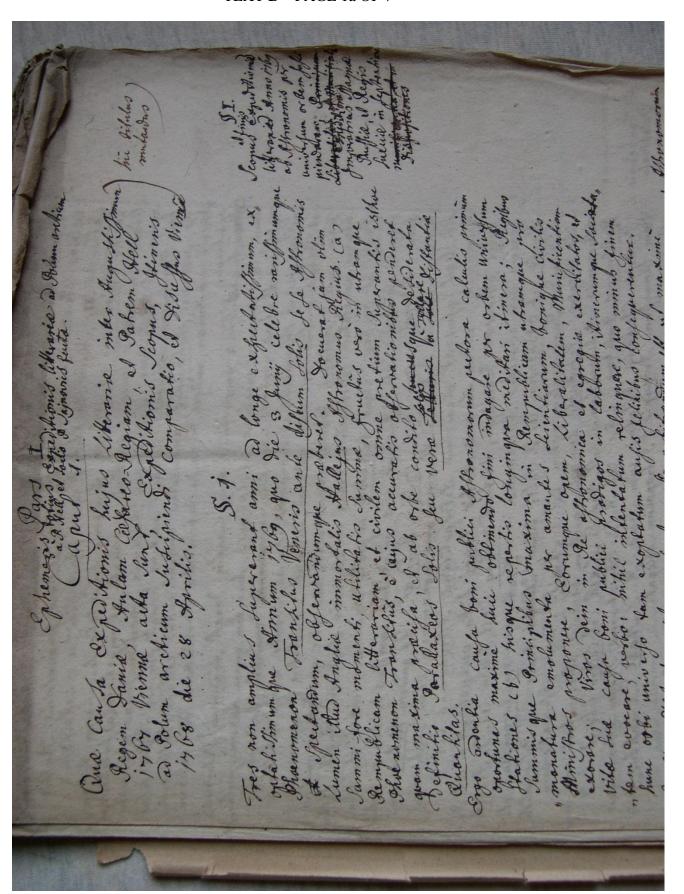
TEXT **A** – PAGE 7a OF 7 –

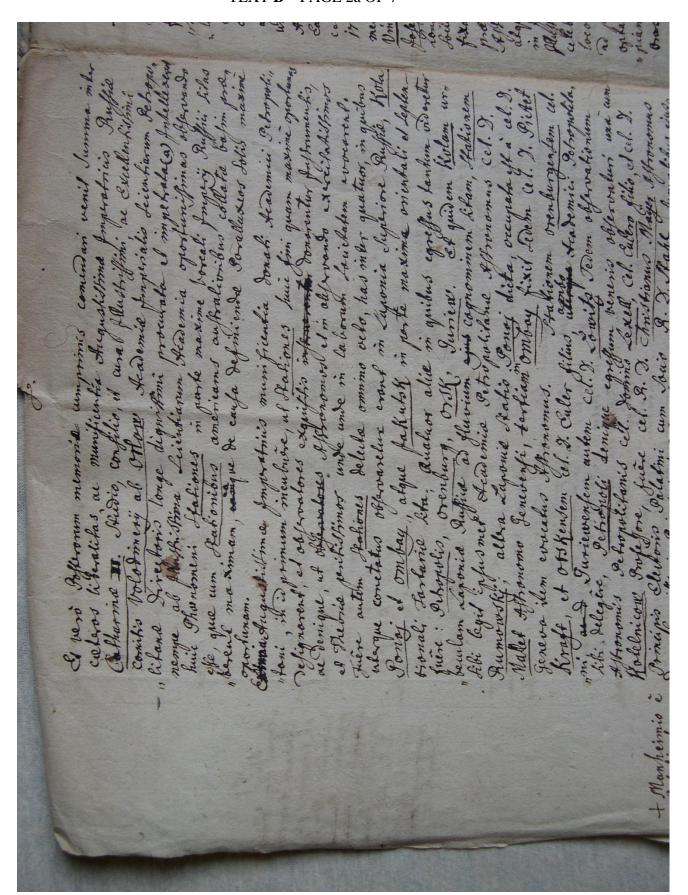


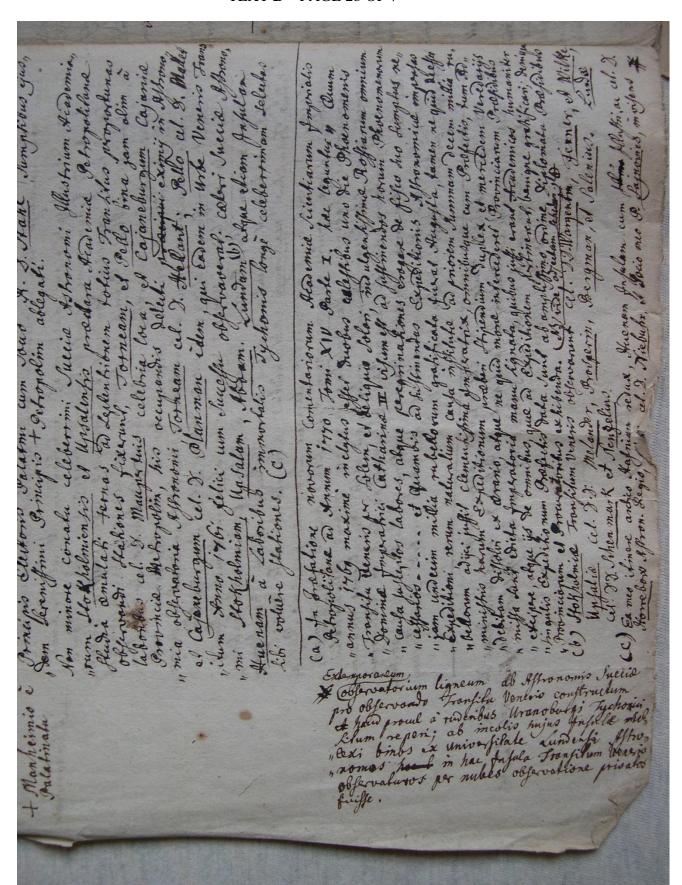


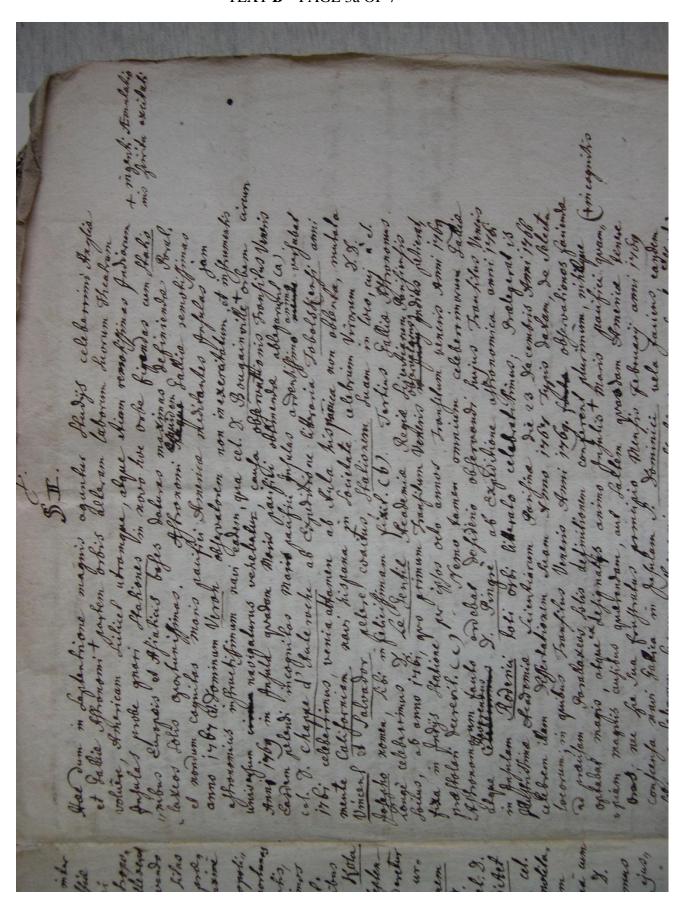




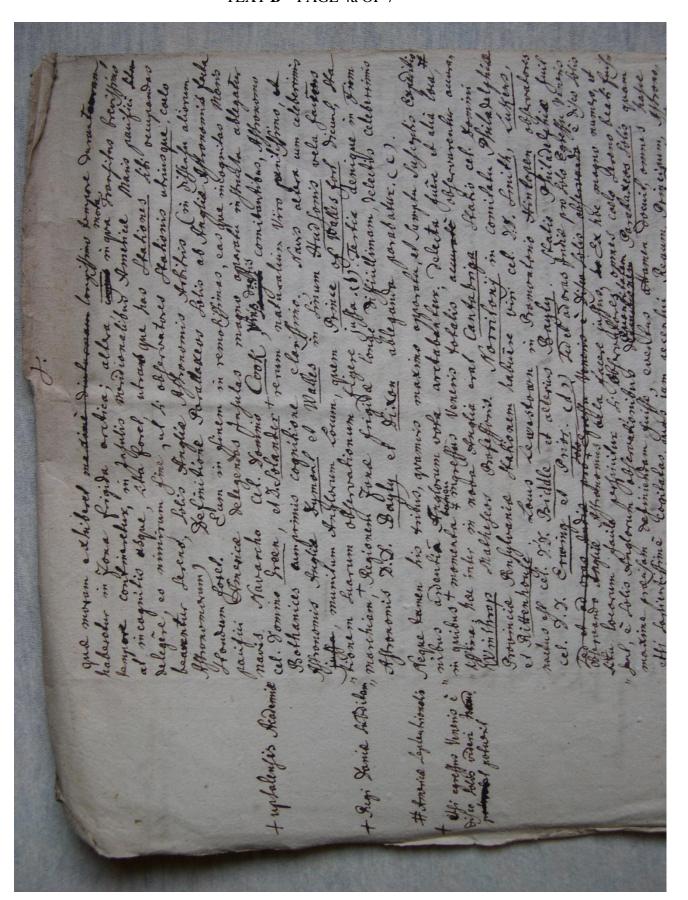


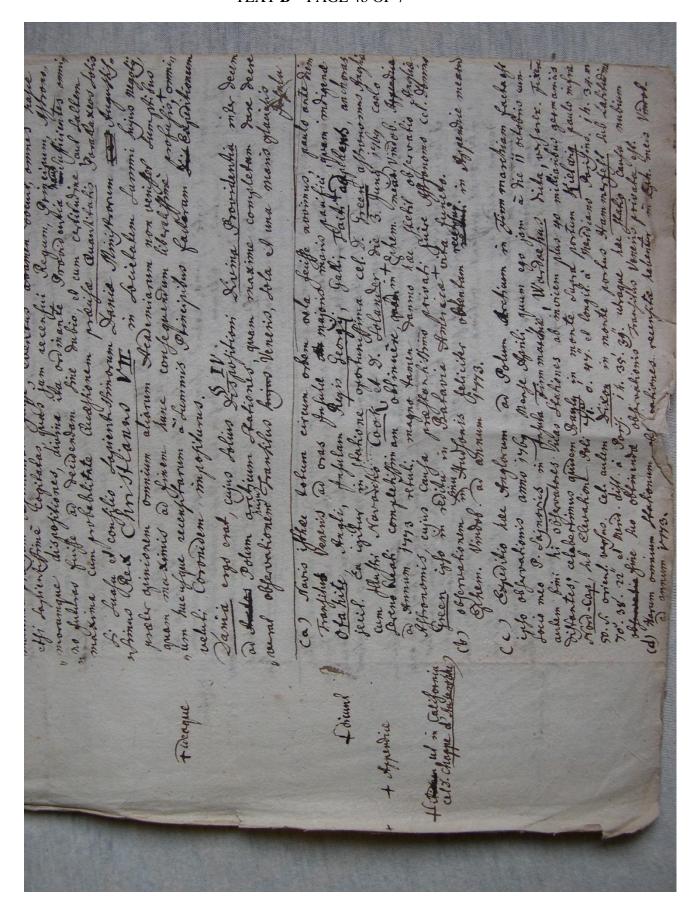


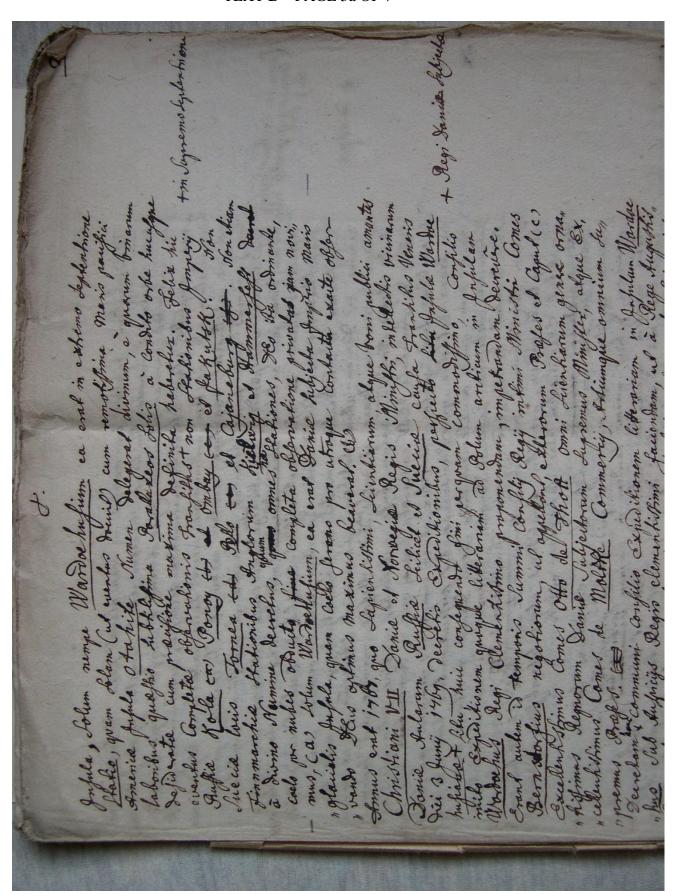


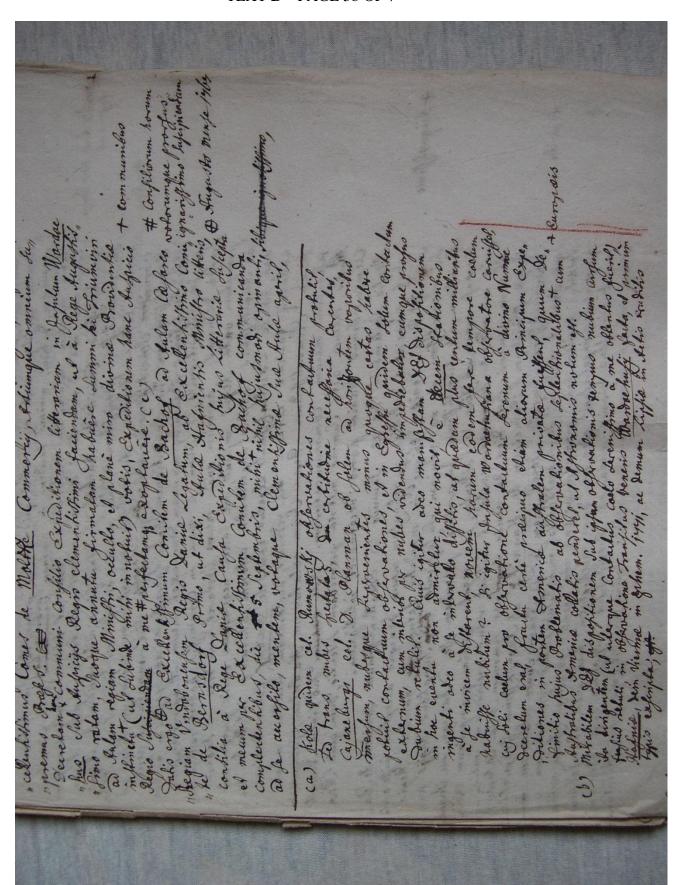


magnis custing gual radio comes perholo than grassian Inscipie gran.  The grassian deligeness, and fallen grassian Inscipie gran.  The mes filler of the following of periods.  The mes filler of the following of the companies.  The following confidences of following the following that the companies of the companies.  The confidences of the following the companies of the companies of the companies.  The confidences of the companies of the following the companies of the companies
Contains manicipal of the property of the principal of th

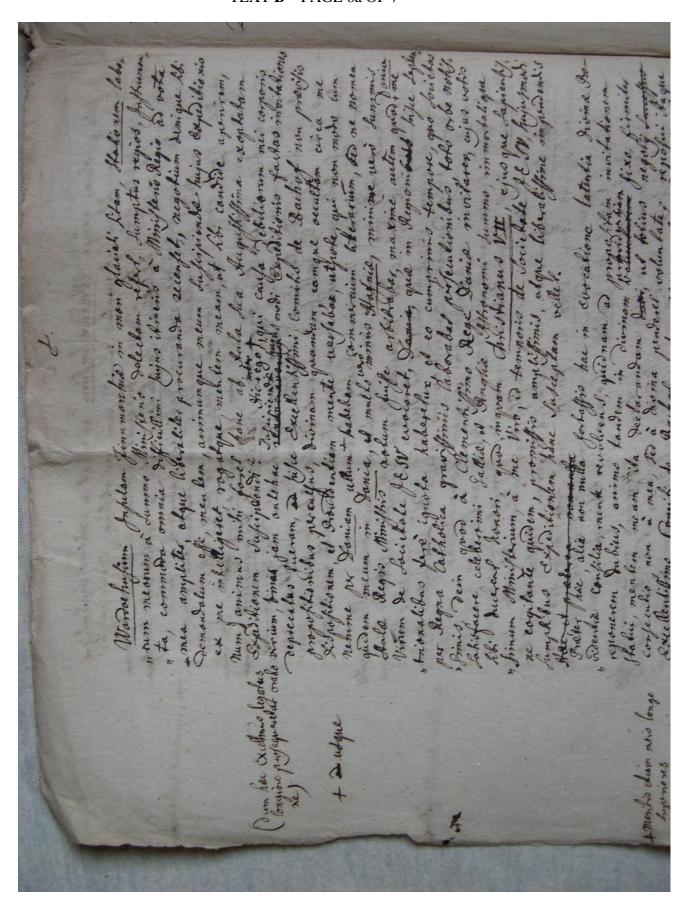


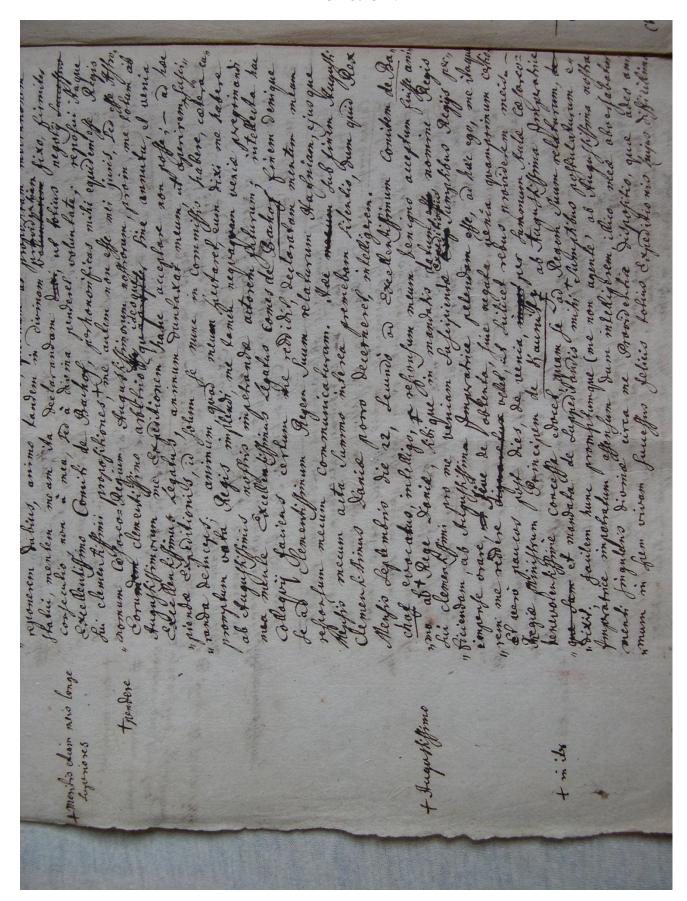


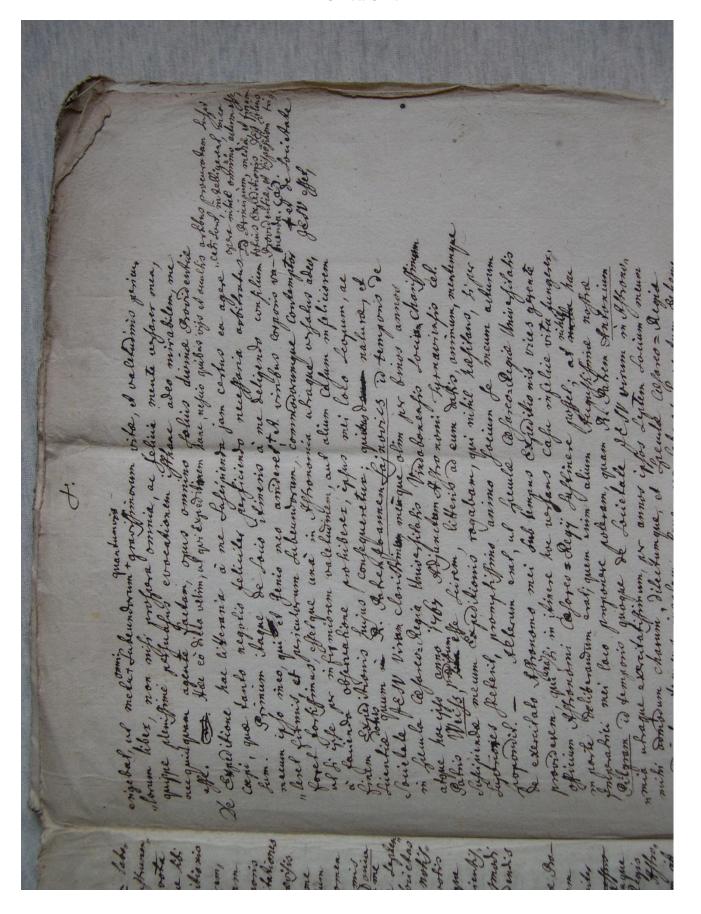




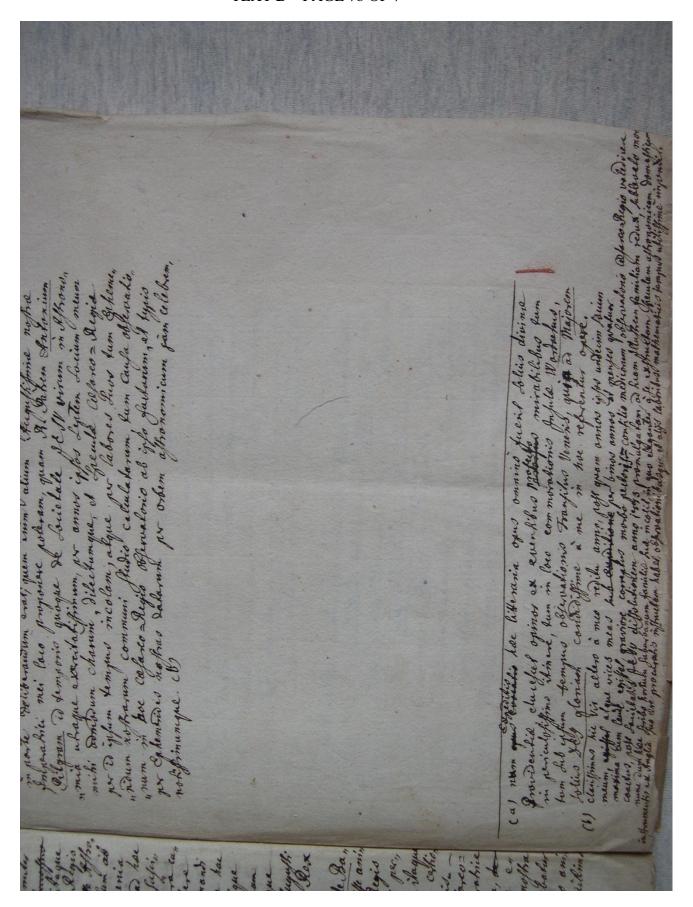
TEXT **B** – PAGE 6a OF 7 –



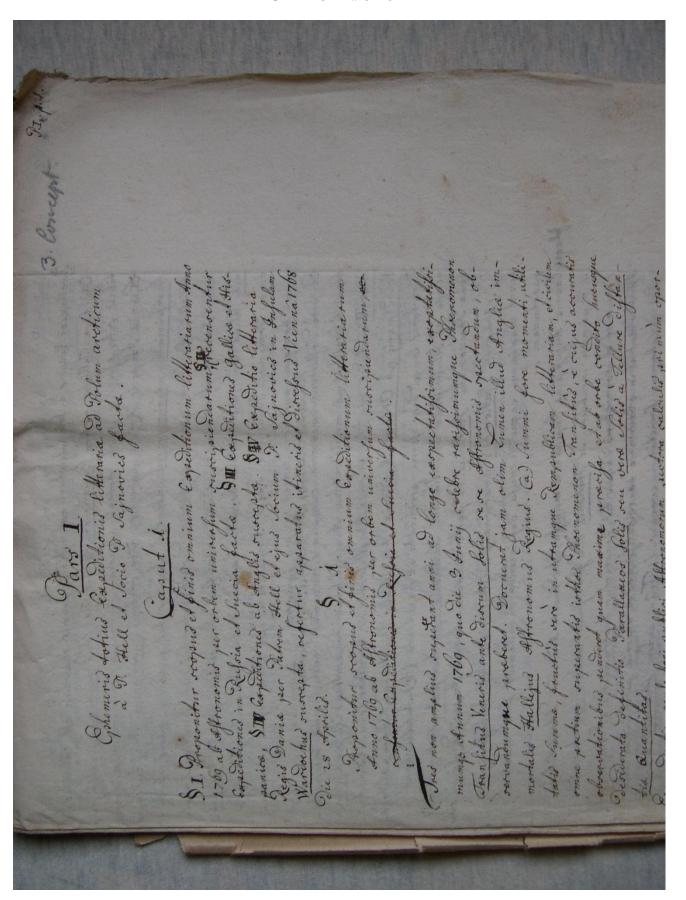


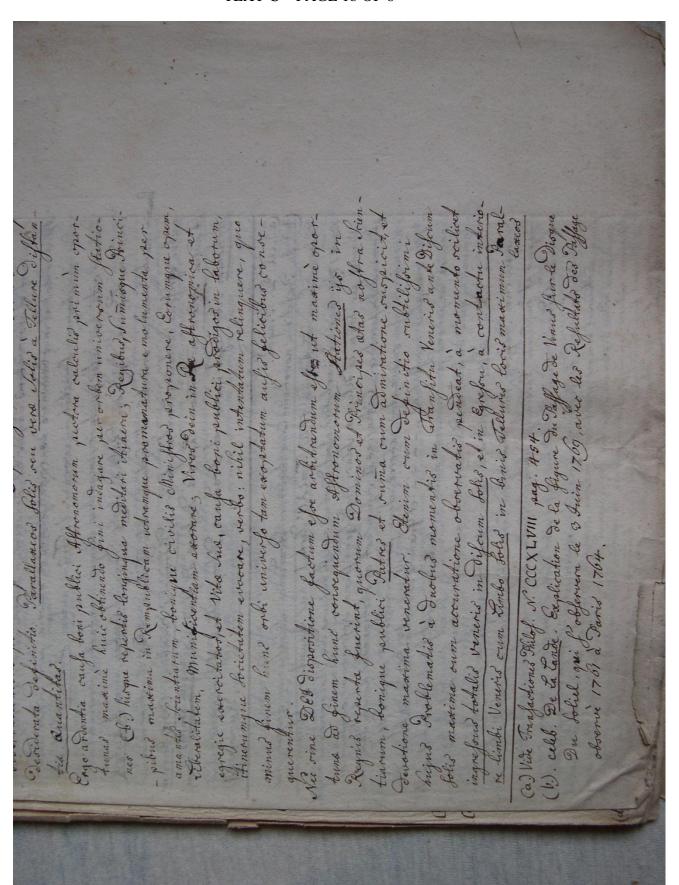


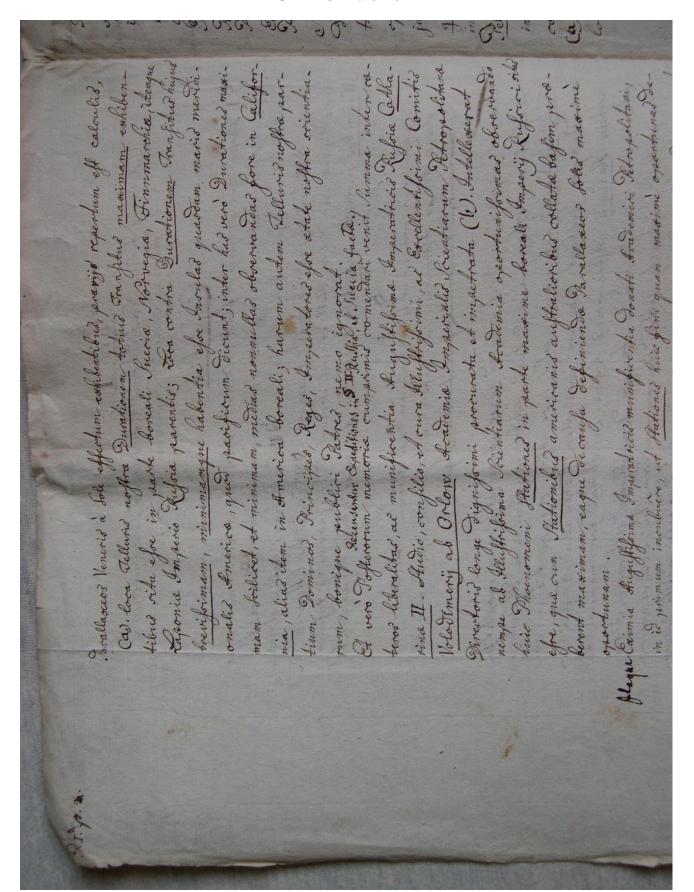
TEXT **B** – PAGE 7b OF 7 –

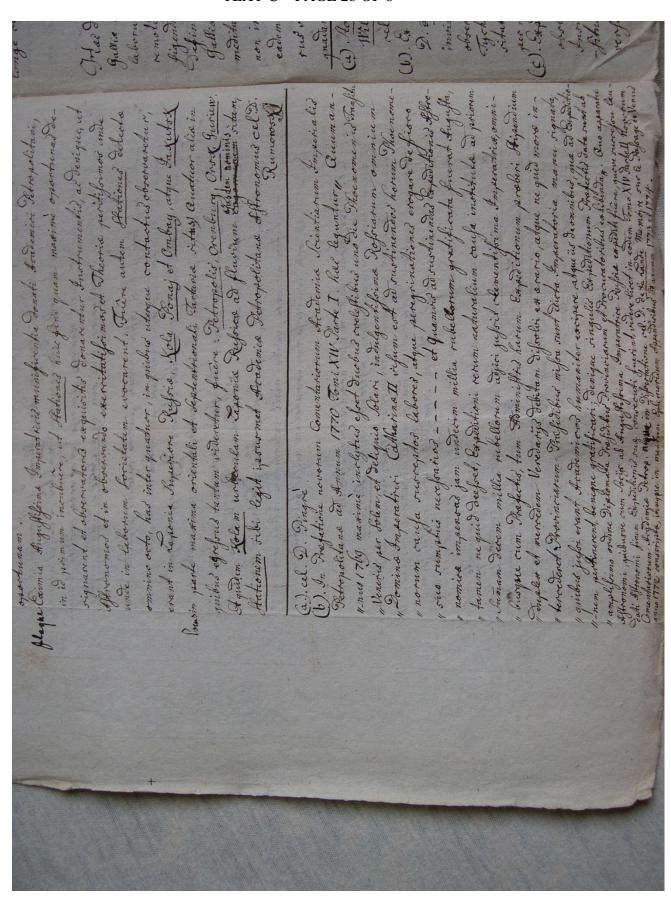


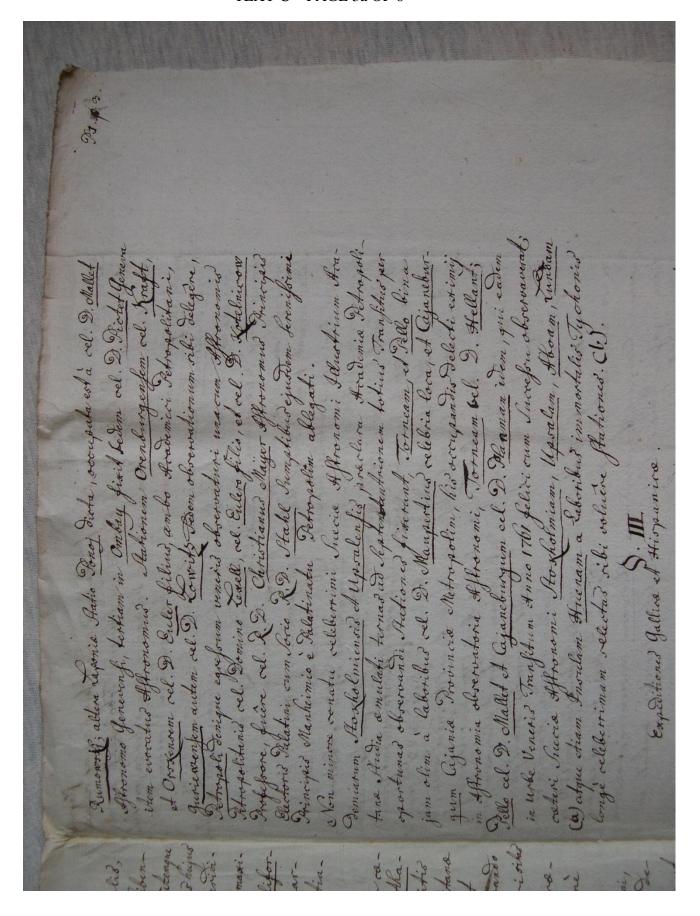
TEXT C – PAGE 1a OF 6 –

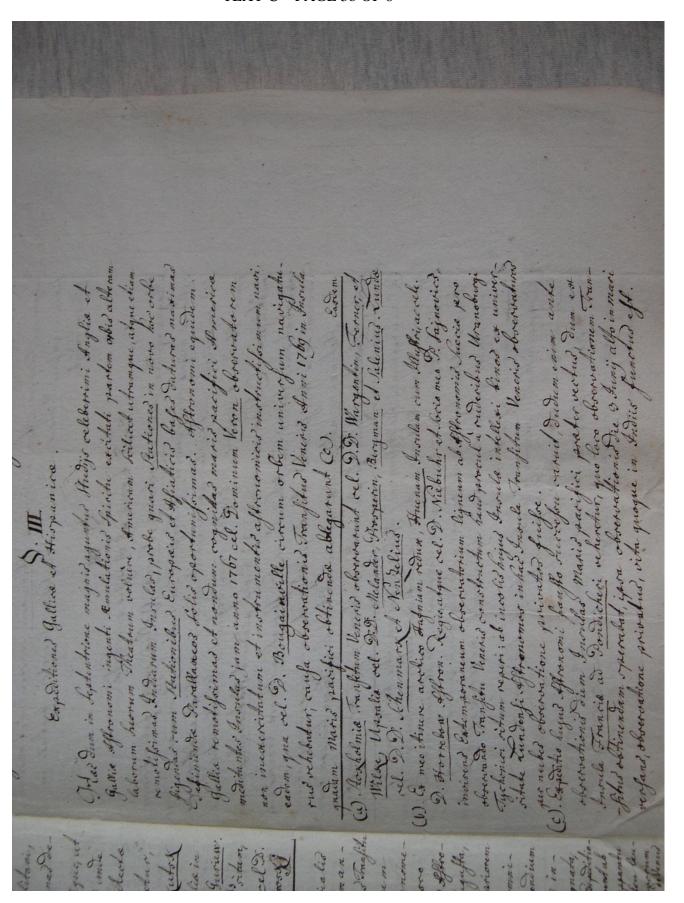


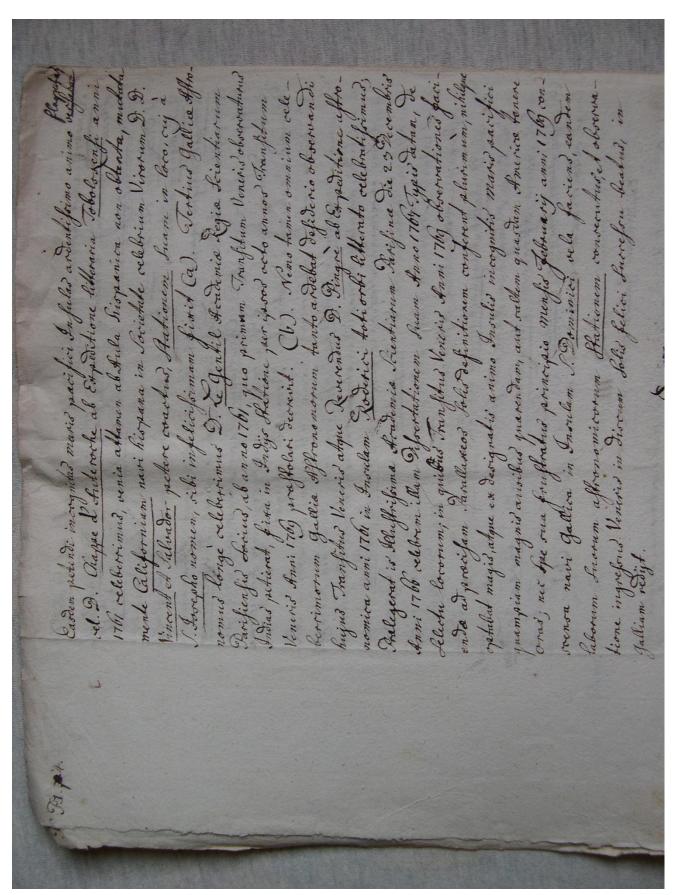


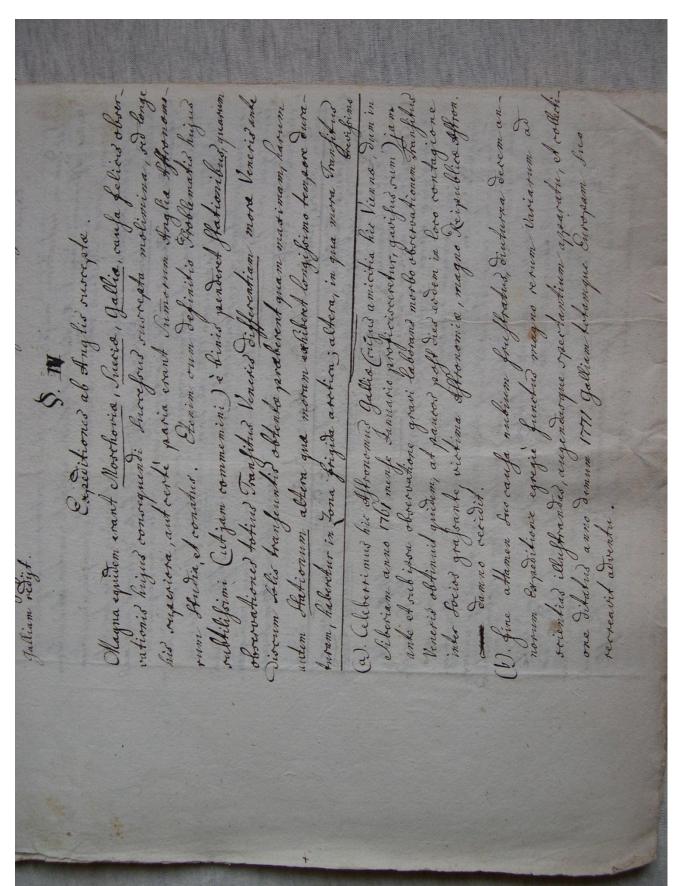


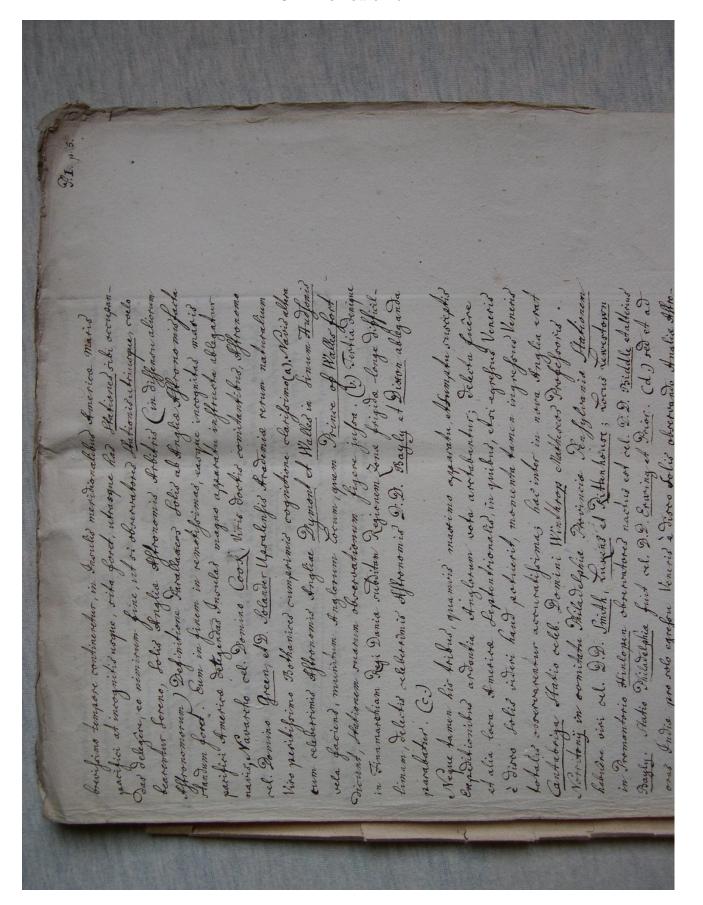


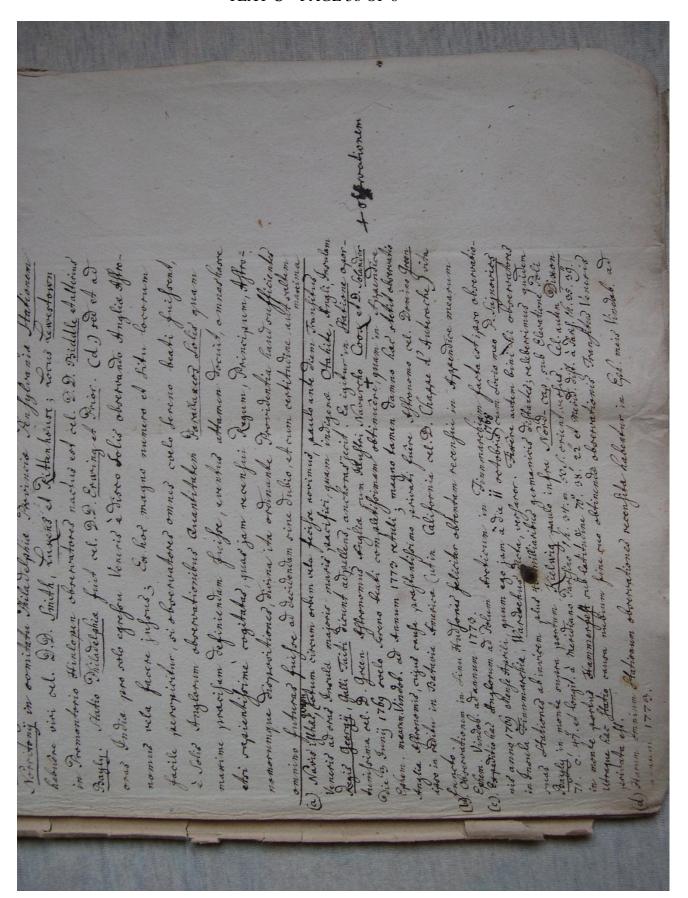


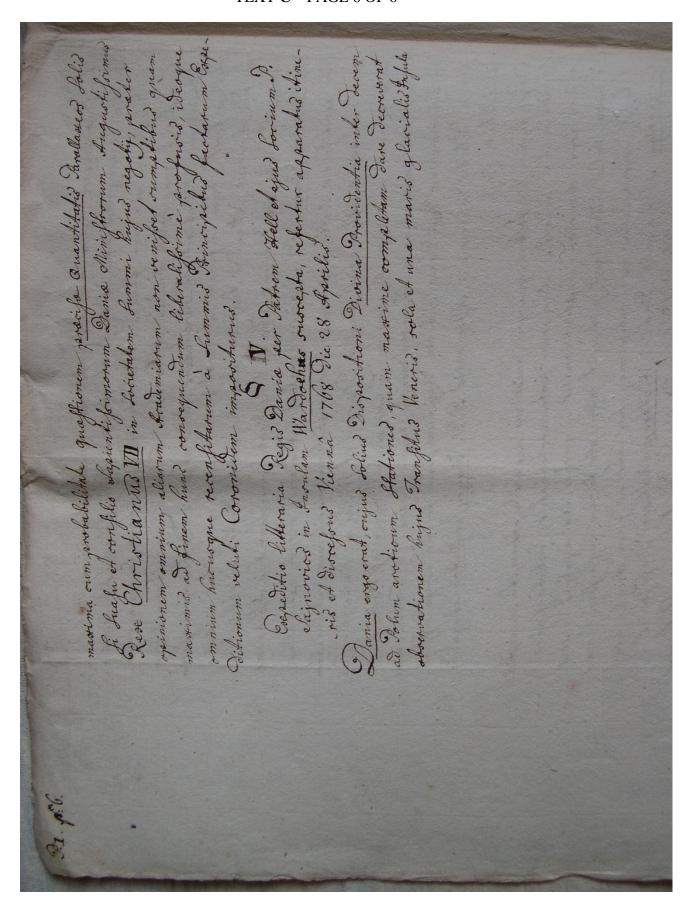


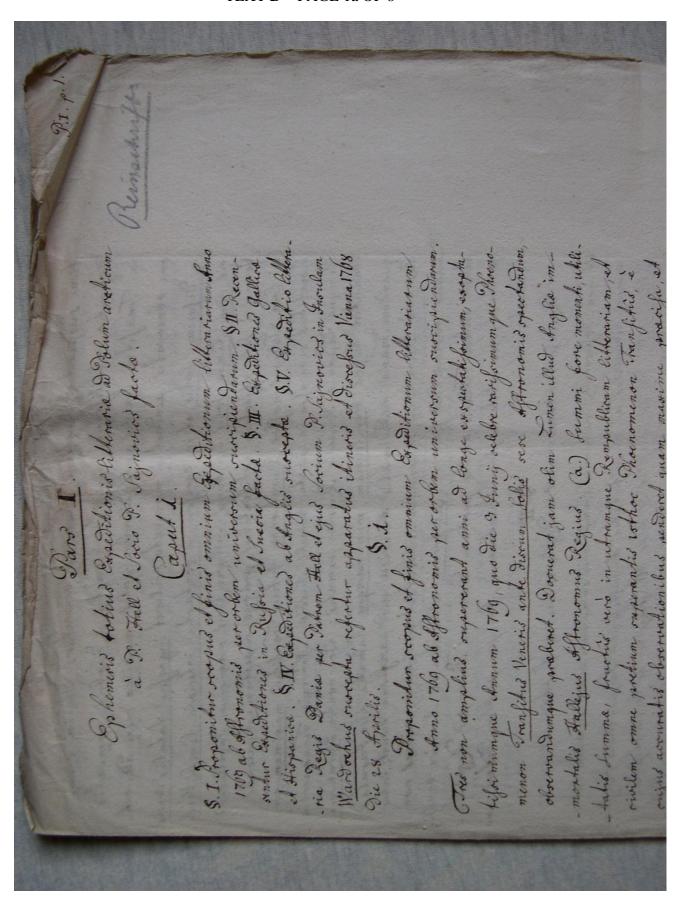




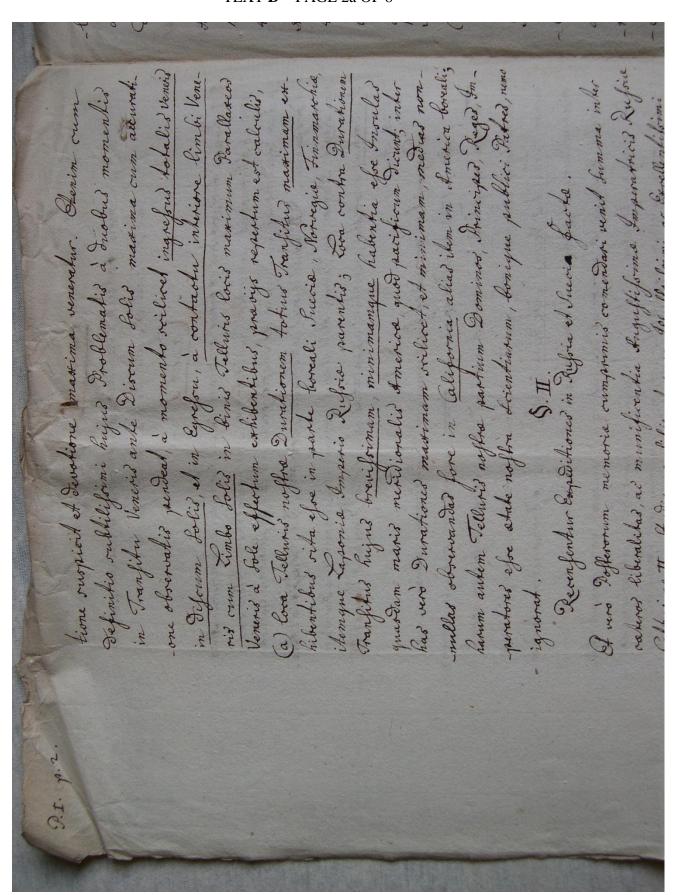


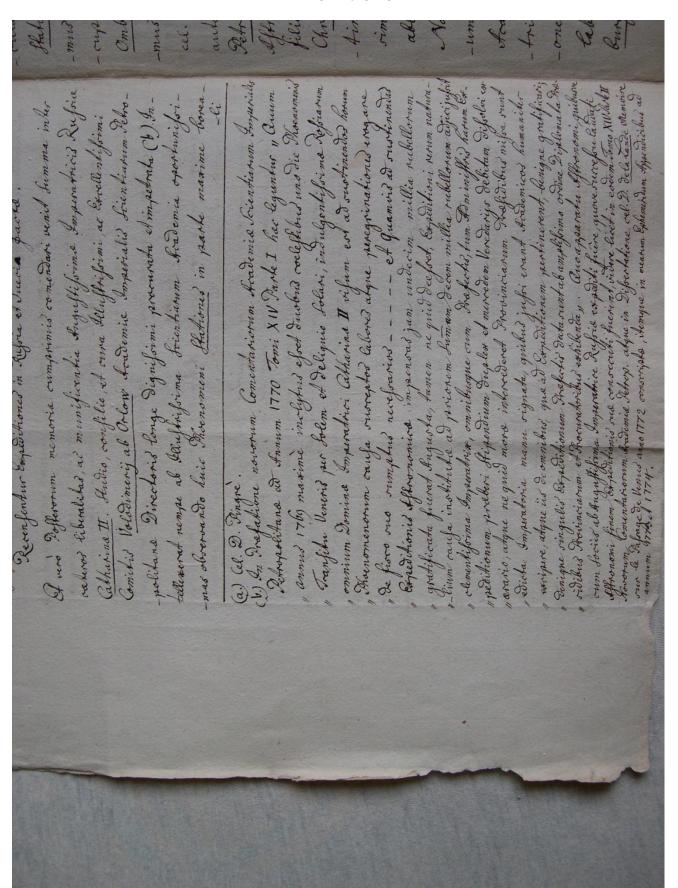


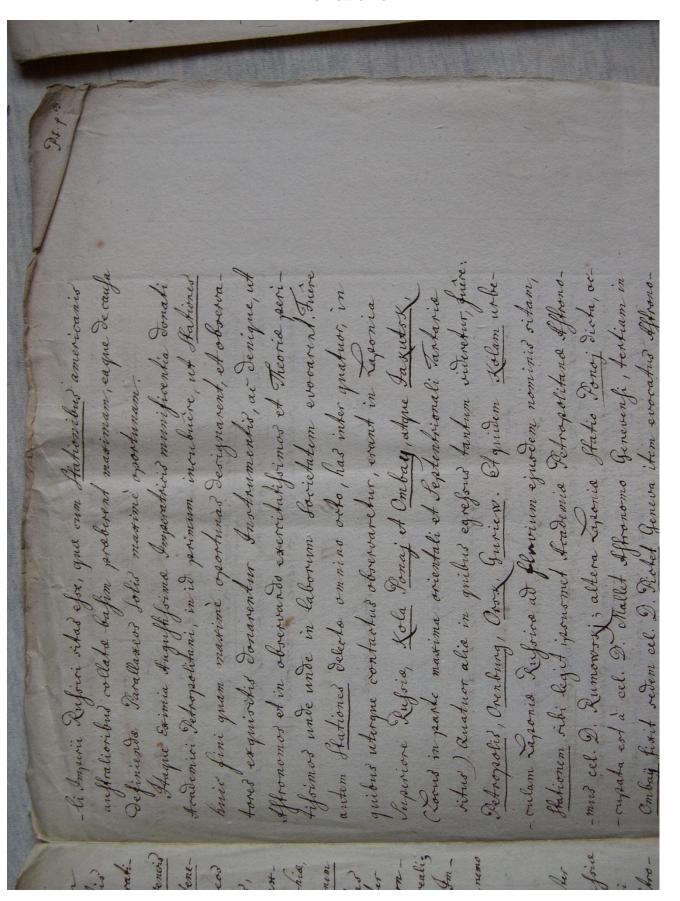


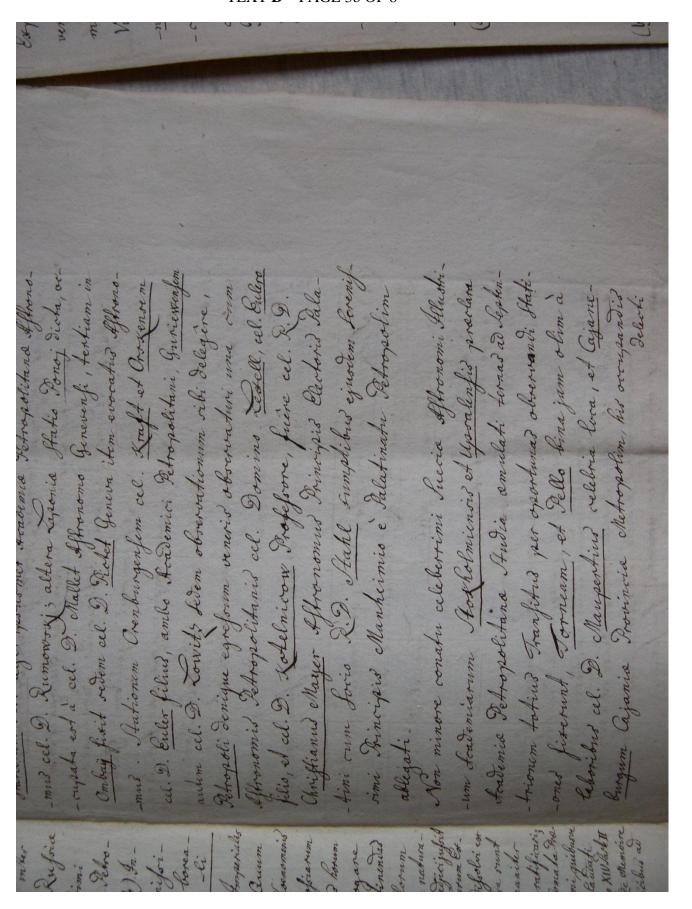


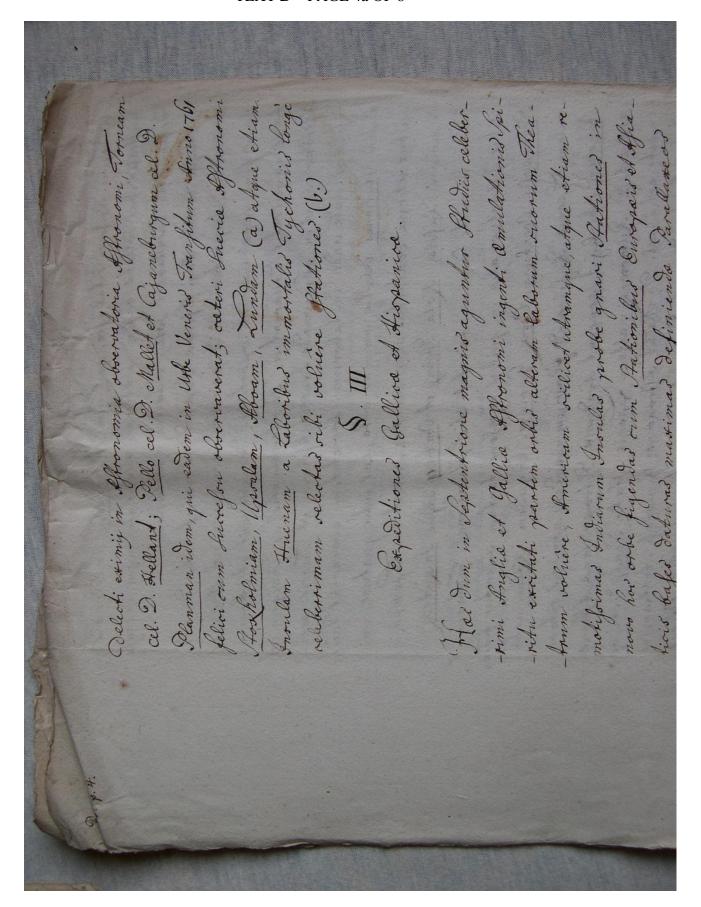
civilen onne portran superantis 15thor Necesonenon transfeld, è cuius de constructis chosenationilus parteres quam mavime pracifa, et al orte constructionilus parteres quam mavime pracifa, et seu mine selecte de constructionilus parteres de selectes par otte mine servirus de seu probleci officonomorum pectora culculisqui minima propranas mavime huic obtinendo fini indagare par obtem minima propranas mavime huic obtinendo fini indagare par obtem minima propranas mavime huic obtenima in compande mobilicam utramque promanatura emolumenta per amando de mavima en probleci prodigos in laborum, itmestratos el libe descritatos la libe de servitatos de liberando consequerantum de servitatos el liberando de servitatos en minima probleci prodigos in laborum, itmestrans est unastinamentar conseques de servitatos de la maxima oportanas estas huncamben que probleci de subinima con adminas estas seguis reparete fueind, querum Dominos el Perioras de servitatos me seguis reparete fueind, querum Dominos el Perioras con adminas estas reparete fueinde probleci de suma com adminas estas estas estas estas estas estas problecis de suma com adminas estas est	(a.) Vide Transactiones Milof. N. CCC XI. VIII. pag. 454.  (b.) Cels. De ta tande. Explication De la figure De Despaje De Venus for le Disque Du foliel, qui f observera le 3 Juin 1769, avec les Peful-tats Des Desfage observe 1761 a Davis 1764.
civilem some pertium superantis isthoc The aboth control of history pertinal pertinal subterior of the soldent	(a.) Vide Transactiones Milof. N. CCC XL. VIII. pag. 454.  (b.) Cleb. De ta Lande. Explication De la figure De De De Designe Du Loliel, qui f observera le 3 Juin 1 Lats Des Delfage observe 1761 a Paris 1764.



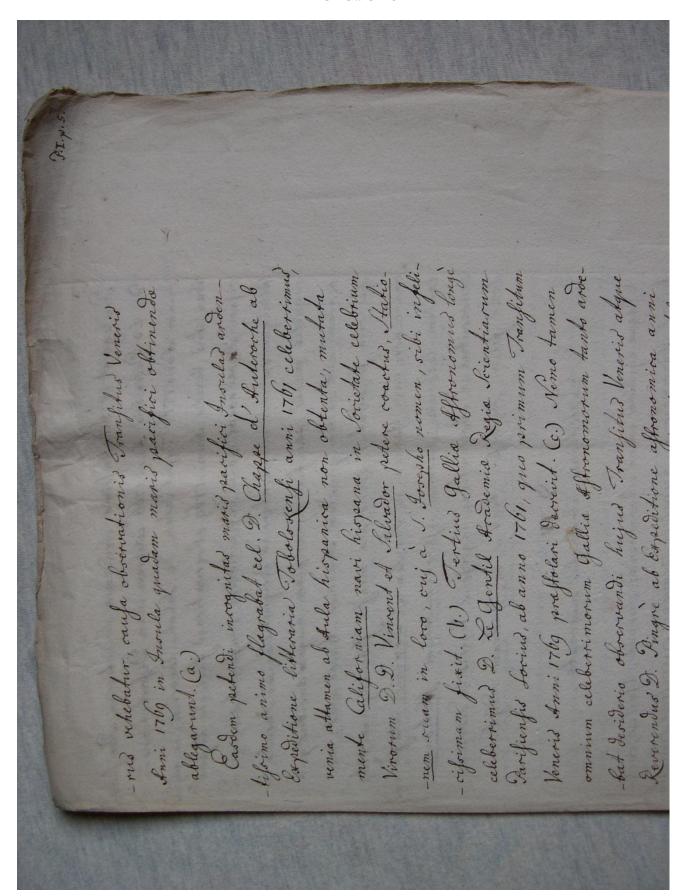








now has orbe figendas own tatronibus Europais of Afra- hiers bafes daturas mastimas definiendo Parallaxeos folis orzorbunifeimas. Afronomi equidem gallia remobiformas et nontum cognitus maris pacifici Ane- rica meditantes Inordus jam anno 1767 cel. Dominum Veron observatorem non incorercitatum et inorhumentis afronomicis instructiformum aavi calem, qua cel. D. Bougainoille circum orbem univerfum navigatu-	(a) Aforholmia Tranfidum benesis observarund cel. D. B. War-gentin, Formark Ulysalia cel. D. D. Chenmark - nevin, Forner et Wilke Upsalia cel. D. D. Chenmark et Nen Selvius. Whilti ac cele. D. Horrebow Affron. Regio adque cel. D. Nichula et foris meo H. Egnovics invisons Extenzoranum observatorium ligneum ab Afronomis Lucia pro observanto Tranfitu Veneris regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris ab incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris al incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris de incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris de incolis huges Inoule intellexi binos ex universitate run regeris de incolis huges Inoule intellexi binoule run regeris de incolis huges Inoule intellexi binoule run regeris de incolis huges Inoule intellexi binoule run regeris de incolis huges Inoule run re



omnium celeberrimonum gallia Afronomorum hanko arde- bat desiderio observandi hujus Tranfibus Voneris abque Leverndus D. Pingre ab Expeditione afronomica anni 1711 in Insulam Loderici tati orbi litterato celebratifoimus;	(a) Expeditio hujus Aftronomi favioto successu carriet, Fullum enim ante observationis Frem Insulas masis pacifici pro- Lervectus, dum est fusula Francia ad Bondichesi vehestus, quo toco observationem Tranfitus obtinendam specrabat, issa observationis die 3 funi alto in masi versans, obser- vatione privatus, vita quoque in Indies functus est.	Wellberrinned hie Afronomied galie (cignos amicitia hie Vienna, dinnin iberiam anno 1761 menje Gannario proficiorerolniza- vigus sum) jam anke ot sub issa observatione gravi laborand morbo observationem Transitus Veneris obtinuis quidom, at pancos post dies estem in lovo centagione inher Secios grafoanke victima Afronomia, magno Reipublica Afron. Damno cecidis.	(c.) Fine attanion our causa mubium priobratus, d'inturna decom annotum Especitione egregie sunchus magno rerum variatum ad ocientias illustrandas, angendasque spectantium apparatu et collectione ditatus anno demum 1771 galliam totamque Europam our recreavit adventu.
		3, 1, 1,	

