

Catone Sacco

(1394 – 1463)

He was born in Pavia, probably between 1394 and 1397, and trained at the *Studium generale* in Pavia, almost certainly obtaining a doctorate in civil law at the same university before November 1418. Perhaps after a few years of minor teaching posts, from the year 1417-18 his teaching activity in the University of Pavia is documented as continuous. He stopped teaching between 1422 and 1424, perhaps because of the plague sweeping through Lombardy, to take up the post of vicar of the podestà of Verona. He surely returned to Pavia in 1425, holding the extraordinary teaching post of civil law. In the following years, his growing reputation as a professor earned him offers from other universities, but these interests do not seem to have led to any change in university seat for Sacco. He held the ordinary teaching post of civil law until January 1463, a few months before his death.

In his scientific production, known from the late 1420s, he resorted to the instruments of traditional literary genres, composing a few *lecturae*; in 1437 he drafted a short *Tractatus de praescriptionibus* and, in an unspecified year, an *Artificialis memoriae ars*. Alongside his legal studies, Sacco developed strong literary interests and played an important role in the main events of Lombard culture. He became friends with the most dynamic humanists working in Pavia and at the court of Milan in the middle decades of the 15th century. His contacts with the humanistic movement are evident in some of Sacco's non-legal works, represented by epigrammatic poems and some university orations of a political nature. Having suffered from gout for some time, Sacco died in April 1463.