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MS 746

France, s. XIII/XIV

**Nicolaus de Byard, *Distinctiones***

1. ff. 1r-8v Absconditur malum, I. Abscondit homo peccatum, II. Abscondere non debet homo, III ... Zelotipus Christus, I. Zelus Domini multiplex, II. Explicit. Deo gracias.

Index of the chapters of art. 2.

2. ff. 8v-233v *Incipiunt distinciones fratris Nicholai de Byard.* I. Absconditur malum a dyabolo sub delectacione sicut pedica sub filo [*corr. from filio*], Iob XVI: Abscondita est in terra pedica eius [Job 18:10] ... Sapiencie V: Accipiet armaturam zelus illius et armabit creaturam ad ulcionem inimicorum suorum. Ioelis II: Zelatus est Dominus terram suam, etc. [Joel 2:18]. Expliciunt distinciones fratris Nicholai de Byard. Deo gracias. f. 234 blank

Nicolaus de Byard (s. XIII<sup>med</sup>), *Distinctiones*: an alphabetical repertory in aid of preachers. Stegmüller 5693-5694; Bloomfield 103-104. Within each letter of the alphabet the chapters are numbered with Roman numerals. On the author, see *Dictionnaire de théologie catholique*, v. 11 (Paris, 1931), 589-592.

Parchment (sheepskin?), ff. I (parchment) + 234 + I (parchment), 245 x 165 mm. The outer side of the quires is flesh side. Sometimes irregular edges. A large section of f. 157 is torn off, causing the loss of an important part of the text in both outer columns. Holes and parchment repairs before writing, e.g. ff. 22, 118.

I-XIX<sup>12</sup> (ff. 1-228), XX<sup>10</sup> (- 6 -7 -8 -9, ff. 229-234). Horizontal catchwords under the right-hand column, not far from the middle and close to the lower edge of the leaves. Signatures of an early type in the lower right-hand corner of the first seven rectos of each quire, of the type “a b c d e f +”, mostly traced in lead and very faded, in quires XI-XIII (ff. 121-156) in red ink. They are repeated in each quire, but the various series may be distinguished from one another by means of additional signs: thus “a|” (quire VII), “a<sup>+</sup>” (quire VIII), “+a” (quire IX), “a<sup>-</sup>” (quire XII), “|a” (quire XIII), “a<sup>-</sup>” (quire XIV), “a<sup>+</sup>” (quire XV), “a<sup>+</sup>” (quire XVI), “a<sup>o</sup>” (quire XVII), “oa” (quire XVIII), “a<sub>o</sub>” (quire XIX).

Ruled with lead for two columns of 38 lines below top line (38-40 lines in quire I). Prickings are visible in the top margins. Ruling type 42 and 43, all horizontal lines crossing the intercolumnar space, 170 x 112-115 mm., intercolumnar space 8 mm.; in quire I the text area is higher.

Probably copied by a single hand writing a highly abbreviated small Gothica Semitextualis Libraria.

Red headings. Alternately red and blue paragraph marks. Alternately red and blue flourished initials with marginal extensions, 2- or 3-line, sometimes 4-line; the larger initials are found at the beginning of each letter of the alphabet. Line-fillers (in black ink) in the first quire only.

Early binding: undecorated brown calf over heavy rounded wooden boards (rebacked), sewn on five split leather thongs. Marks of four clasps attached to the front board. Front pastedown and flyleaf from a document on parchment, s. XIV<sup>1</sup>, written in *Gothica Cursiva* and dealing with sales of land (?), mentioning other documents dated 1245 and 1314 and a great number of names of persons such as Ubertus de Vigiolla, ser Gualacius de Fondra and his son Falchonus, Marchixius dictus Niger, Laurencius de Camozio, almost all situated in a place called Bellum. Rear flyleaf and pastedown are leaves of an alphabetical index to a moralistic treatise, written on parchment in two columns of 38-39 lines below top line (c. 190 x c. 125 mm.), in *Gothica Cursiva Libraria* s. XIV. It contains part of the letter C, the full letter D and parts of the letters M and N and for each lemma refers to one or more numbers followed by one or more letters: “Cogitationes impediunt ad salutem, 18 C, 21 F. Cogitatio hominis insensibilem facit, 119 M. Cognoscere Christum cupiens seipsum contempnit et humiliat, 144 A ... Nomen Christi scriptum in corde nominantis, 35 D. Novitius de ordine recedere volens oratione revocatur \*\*8 D. Novitius qualis esse debet, 15 D D D”. Each new letter opens with a black plain initial.

The script and decoration of this manuscript are French, but on the basis of the names in the document used as front endleaves a provenance from Northwestern Italy is probable. At the top of f. 234v the contemporary note in Gothic documentary script: “§ Iste liber fuit fratris Ginameris (?) extimatus in lb. XV imperiales”. The manuscript consequently belonged to a Friar’s convent. Later owners were Nagy Iván (stamp on ff. 1r and 233v) and Ferenczi Jolán, Budapest (stamp on f. 233v and on the rear pastedown). Donated by Christian A. Zabriskie, New York, to the Brother Julian F.S.C. Collection in Manhattan College, New York (bookplate on f. 234v). Auction sale Sotheby??, no. 3. Acquired on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R 15.04.10

Albert Derolez