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Germany, s. XV

**Iacobus de Cessolis; Jean Gerson**

1. ff. 1r-35r [Prologue:] Multorum fratrum ordinis nostri et diversorum scolarium precibus persuasis [*l. persuasus*] opus dudum nimis requisitum negavi, videlicet regimen morum atque belli humani generis documentum, que in ludo scacorum erant figuraliter designata ... Octavum de ephiloganciee tocius libri qui in tot capitula, sicut patebit in sequentibus, est divisus. [text:] Nota duo signa hominis perversi. Inter omnia enim mala signa de homine est scilicet, quando quis non solum Deum <non> timet per culpam offendere, sed etiam homines per inordinatam vitam non veretur turbare ... Igitur ad illum recurramus qui est virtus, a quo omnis virtus emanat et gracia, ut vobis et michi, cui donavit aliquid pro modulo ad honorem nobilium dicere, et gratiam in presenti et gloriam in futuro, ut possumus imperpetuum cum ipso vivere et regnare. Amen. Hunc librum ad honorem et solacium et maxime dictum ludum sciencium ego, frater Iacobus de Cesulis, ordinis fratrum Predicatorum, conposui et ad hunc finem perduxì, donante illo, a quo descendit omne datum et donum optimum et perfectum. Deo igitur sit honor et gloria in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit liber qui intytulatur de moribus hominum et officii nobilium et popularium super ludo scacorum. Deo gracias et dulcissime matri eius. Amen.

Iacobus de Cessolis O.P. (d. after 1322), *De ludo scaccorum*. Bloomfield 3314; Kaeppli 2066. Printed from c. 1475 onwards (GKW 6523-6526). F. Vetter, ed., *Das Schachzabelbuch Kunrats von Ammenhausen ... Nebst den Schachbüchern des Jakob von Cessole und des Jakob Mennel* (Frauenfeld, 1892). Contemporary notes.

2. ff. 35v-36v Iohannes de Gersana ponit 25 conclusiones infrascriptas qualiter confessor se debeat habere circa confitentem. Prima conclusio. Provideat ante omnia confessor purus esse, qui purgandum animabus invigilat ... Vicesima prima ... si quis nesciat uti cautela, tali dimittat consulo, ne et sibi noceat et peccatorem, si semel interrogatus fuerit, negaverit neque // [deprehensus fuerit]

Iohannes Gerson (1363-1429), *Qualiter confessor debet se habere in confessionibus audiendis*, without the Prologue and due to the loss of a leaf ending in the middle of *consideratio* (here called *conclusio*) 21. Bloomfield 4303. P. Glorieux, ed., *Jean Gerson. Oeuvres complètes*, v. 8 (Paris, 1971), pp. 10-16.

Paper, ff. II + 36 + II, 320 x 215 mm. In-folio folding. Original foliation in the middle of the upper margin of recto pages, from “212” to “247”. The paper is damaged by the acid ink in art. 1.

I-III<sup>12</sup>. Horizontal catchwords in the inner margins, not in the hand of the scribe.

Frame ruling traced in brown ink for two columns, 39-44 lines (art. 1), 57-59 lines (art. 2), c. 240 x c. 152 mm. The top and bottom horizontal lines are through lines in art. 1. The inner column on f. 36r and v (art. 2) is wider than the outer one.

Art. 1 is copied by one hand writing *Gothica Cursiva Currens*. Art. 2 is copied by a second hand writing a smaller *Gothica Cursiva Libraria*.

In art. 1 red stroking of majuscules; guide letters and 2-3-line plain red initials; all decoration is missing on ff. 8v-12v, 21v-24v; 4-line red initial f. 29v and 32v; 4-line red initial decorated as *littera duplex* f. 30v. No decoration in art. 2.

De luxe binding s. XIX<sup>2</sup>: gold-tooled orange brown pigskin over pasteboard; spine with five raised bands and gold-tooled inscriptions: “*Cessolis, Solacium Ludi Scacorum*” and “*Manuscript a(us) d(em) 15. Jahrh(undert)*”; also a paper label with the number “472<sup>3</sup>”; marbled endpapers and gold-tooled doublure margins. One parchment tab at the outer edge of f. 1.

As appears from the original foliation the manuscript is only part of a codex which consisted of more than 247 ff. On the front pastedown armorial bookplate of ...?? and inscription by the later owner “W. Lasa (?): “No. 472<sup>3</sup> (1517)” and the date “1886”. In another hand: “No. 6”. On the verso of the first flyleaf, a note in German by the same person, dealing with the provenance of the manuscript: Ludwig Rosenthal, Munich, catalogue 34 (1884), lot 460. Chess book collection Vansittart, Rome. Collection of A. Cohn, Berlin: catalogue 176 (1886), lot .... Collection of Tassilo Heydebrand von Lasa. On the second front flyleaf verso a note in German, in a s. XIX/XX hand, discussing the version of the Iacobus de Cessolis text in the present manuscript: it is said to be very close to Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, MS 42.3 Aug. fol., ff. 264r-289r (see ed. Vetter, p. 26), and rare because it adds the “populares” to the “nobiles” whose duties are the subject of this work. The Cary Collection of Playing Card (Bequest of Mary Flagler Cary).

**Review provenance!**

R 15.04.10