

YALE UNIVERSITY
BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 773

Italy (Rome), s. XV² (1460)

Biblical Books; Lorenzo Valla, Gaspare da Verona

1. ff. 1r-17r Aprilis die 16 146. Parabole Salomonis filii David, regis Israel, ad sciendam sapienciam et disciplinam ... et laudent eam in portis opera eius.

Proverbs.

2. ff. 17r- 22v Verba Ecclesiastes filii David, regis Ierusalem. Vanitas vanitatum, et omnia vanitas ... pro omni errato, sive bonum, sive malum sit. *Explicit liber Coheleth, id est Ecclesiastes, versus numero DCCC.*

Ecclesiastes.

3. ff. 22v-25v *Incipit Syrasirin, id est Canticum Canticorum. Vox ecclesie ad Christum. Osculetur me osculo oris sui ... Ego dilecto meo et ad me conversio eius [asteriscus]. Explicit Sirasirim, id est Canticum Canticorum; habet versus numero CCLXXX.*

Canticles. The names of the interlocutors and the subjects are written in red. An error occurred during the transcription: after 5:8 and the beginning of 5:9 the scribe copied 7:11 and continued to the end (f. 24v) and began copying art. 4 (2 bottom lines of f. 24v); afterwards the word “vacant” was written in the margin next to these opening lines and a singleton was added (f. 25), on which the missing section of Canticles (5:9 – 7:10) was copied, a set of reference marks being added to guide the reader. At the bottom of f. 25v the heading and opening lines of art. 4 were written a second time, very solemnly and widely spaced, in order to fill the open space and link up with the already written f. 26r.

4. ff. 25v-37r *Incipit prologus libri Sapiencie qui vulgo Salomonis inscribitur. Liber Sapiencie apud Hebreos nusquam est, unde et ipse titulus Grecam magis eloquenciam redolet. Hunc Iudei Philonis [this name was repeated at the bottom of f. 25v to fill the available space, see art. 3] esse affirmant ... Finit prologus. Incipit liber. Diligite iusticiam, qui iudicatis terram ... in omni tempore et in omni loco assistens eis.*

Wisdom of Solomon.

5. ff. 37r-65v Multorum nobis et magnorum per legem et prophetas aliosque, qui secuti sunt illos, sapientia est demonstrata ... et dabit vobis mercedem vestram in tempore suo. Finit Yhesus Syrac in Ecclesiastico, quem Hebrei Panarethos apellant. P.P.T. 146 mense Maii die XXII in festo Ascensionis hora XXII finivit Rome. ff. 66-69 blank, except for a later note on f. 69v

Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach.

6. ff. 70r-73r 18 Septembris. Laurentii e Valle encomion sancti Tome Aquinatis. [F]uit in more vetustissimis temporibus cum aput Grecos, tum vero aput Latinos, ut qui orationem aliqua de re maiori vel ad iudices vel ad populum esset habiturus, is fere ab invocatione celestis numinis exordiretur ... aut laudans aut pro nobis mortalibus obsecrans, ut eodem perveniamus, quo ipse pervenit. Quod nobis concedat qui vivit et regnat in secula benedictus. Amen. Doctissimi viri ac eloquentissimi Laurentii e Valle sermo explicit, quem fecit in laudem sancti Thome Aquinatis anno Domini M° CCCC° LVII, die VIII Marcii. Eodem anno obiit die primo Augusti.

Laurentius Valla (Lorenzo della Valle, 1407-1457), *Encomium sancti Thomae Aquinatis*. Oration pronounced 8 March 1457. J. Vahlen, ed., in *Laurentius Valla. Opera omnia*, v. 2 Monumenta politica et philosophica rariora, ser. I, v. 6 (Turin, 1962), pp. 340-352 (spec. 346-352; reprint of the 1886 ed.).

7. ff. 73r-76v Gasparis Veronensis facundissimi ac peritissimi viri incipit oratio in sancto Eustachio prolata. Dicturus de facultatibus et artibus fere cunctis veniam dabitis, celeberrimi patres et doctissimi viri, si in huius inicio paucula dicam ... Gratias Deo habeamus simul et agamus summo et omnipotenti Creatori; doco [? l. Pio?] secundo, sanctissimo domino nostro, vobisque ipse habeo gracias, et nomen vestrum simul et honos apud me meosque sine fine manebit. Deo gracias. Gasparis Veronensis discretissimi simul et doctissimi viri explicit oratio 1469 [or 1459; the second digit of the date has been tampered with] mensis Octubris die [day not entered].

Gaspar Veronensis (Gaspere da Verona, c. 1400-1474), Oration held in the church of St. Eustachius, see of the Studio Romano, in October 1459 or 1469, dealing with rhetoric, Latin literature and the various sciences. On the author, see *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, v. 52 (Rome, 1999), pp. 466-470.

8. ff. 77r-78v Varia genera sermonum G(asparis) Veronensis. [1] Non audebam, eruditissimi adolescentes, ante vos **** in medium accedere huncque adeo clarum, adeo sublimem maximaque laude dignum locum inscendere et omni ex parte magnificum ...; [2] Cogitans mecum atque volutans disceptacionis fructus usumque prope singulare, si modo huiuscemodi munus modeste mansueteque peragatur ... ante conspectum vestrum, celebres doctique condiscipuli mei ... accedam igitur ad lecturam clarissimi poetę nostri Sulmonensis ...; [3] Cum mecum multum et sepe cogitassem atque omnibus mei animi viribus volutavissem boni necnon commodi in ipsa dyalectica insit, decrevi prorsus huic facultati fructuosissime operam dare ...; [4, f. 77v:] Mente repeto, ornatissimi viri et summa reverencia dignissimi cives, et crebro audivisse et sepenumero lectitasse quanto luxu atque apparatu a Didone Carthaginis regina Eneas Dardanus fuerit acceptus ... ingentes gracias habemus simul et agimus ... spectato viro magnificoque civi Petropaulo Tusculano, qui nos tanto honore dignatus est ...; [5] Pervetus mos fuit, celeberrimi cives, vosque alii clarissimi viri, convivatorem debitas dignasque gracias convivis agere ...; [6, f. 78r:] Si mihi suppeteret tempus, ornatissimi cives, vos omnes profecto in admiracionem vehementem, nisi fallor, ipse converterem, ubi ex me maiestatem audivissetis adeo nobilis eximique adeoque sacramenti, quod matrimonium seu connubium appellare consuevimus ... itaque ingenti reverencia et honore tu, vir venerande Benedicte, dignaberis signum huius sacri connubii anulum nobilissime Caterine, inter Romanas primarie, prebere ...; [7, f. 78v:] Dicturus aliquid vestra coram reverencia, patres egregii, non possum nequaquam vereri ...

cum indoctus ego et huiusmodi expers in tam celeberrimum cętum verba facere auxim ...;
[8] Omnes si mei artus, patres egregii, oracionem habere non ignorarent, haud dignas
grates vobis persolvere mihi liceret ... ; [9] Cum mecum ipse sepe numero, patres optimi,
reputarem quid potissimum mihi liceret de novo sacerdote nostro referre ... ff. 79-
81 ruled but blank

Gaspar Veronensis (Gaspare da Verona), Rhetorical models consisting of the opening sections of nine orations. No. 2 deals with Ovid, no. 3 with dialectics, no. 4 is in honour of Pietro Paulo Tusculano [a Petrus Paulus Tusculanus is mentioned as studying in Rome in 1469 by Kristeller, *Iter Italicum*, v. 2, p. 40], no. 6 celebrates the marriage of a Benedict and a Catherine, no. 9 is about a newly appointed priest.

Paper, ff. II (parchment) + 81 + II (parchment), 220 x 150 mm. 4° folding. Watermarks ...
Parchment stays in the middle of the quires. Ff. 66-69 are still uncut, proving that the text was written on uncut sheets.

I¹² (ff. 1-12), II¹² (+1 leaf = f. 25; ff. 13-25), III-IV¹² (ff. 26-49), V-VI¹⁰ (ff. 50-69), VII¹² (ff. 70-81). Horizontal catchwords in the middle, between two or four dots.

Quires I-VI have board ruling (impression on verso pages) for one column of 30 lines above top line. Ruling type 16, 153 x 92 mm. Quire VII (ff. 70-81) has pricking in the upper, outer and lower margins and lead ruling for one column of 34 lines above top line, ruling type 16, 143 x 92 mm..

Copied by two hands, both writing a very small Humanistica Cursiva Libraria: A (ff. 1r-65r, artt. 1-5, quires I-VI) and B (ff. 70r-78v, artt. 6-8, quire VII).

There is little consistency in the decoration. Headings, partly in Capitalis, in red or black (often missing). Opening words or lines in Capitalis. On f. 22v-26r the majuscules are stroked in red; plain red initials somewhat imitating Romanesque models ff. 22v-25r. All other initials (2-3 lines) have guide letters in the margin but were not executed. Curious pointing hands with sleeves in the margins of the Biblical texts.

Contemporary binding without leather covers or spine: bevelled beach boards (too small for the codex), worm-eaten, sewn onto three double leather thongs; remains of one clasp attached to the front board, with brass catch on the rear board. Front endleaves: large fragment of a s. XV Latin document on parchment, mentioning cardinal Dominicus [Capranica], "tituli Sancte Marie in Via Lata" [1430-1443, d. 1458], the late pope Martin V (1417-1431), the bishops of Cadix ("episcopus Gadicensis") and of Tortona, north of Genoa ("episcopus Terdonensis") and the Benedictine convent of St. Peter of Precipiano in the latter diocese, a Marcus de Franchis provost of Genoa, and a magister Ysidorus procurator. The document, in Gothica Cursiva Libraria, must be dated 1431-1443. The rear endleaves are a fragment of a pattern sheet on parchment, probably from the papal chancery, containing short and longer quotations from papal bulls and other documents, some of doubtful authenticity, in various types of calligraphic script. They deal with popes Eugenius IV (1431-1447) and Nicholas V (1447-1455); a complaint from a bishop Iordanus to the bishop of Lucca in favour of a priest named Diego Gonzalez (Didacus Gundisalvi) de Millara, who had engaged in a fight with a layman in a place called Soutonovo; a Iohannes archdeacon of Amiens; a bull addressed to Iohannes de Lombardis of Tolentino, from the diocese of Camerino, about a Robertus Iacobi de Amandula, cleric of the diocese of Fermo

("Firmanensis diocesis"), who had been robbed by a Willelmus Okam from Lille in his house at Mons Sanctae Mariae in the diocese of Cassano (Calabria, "in Cassiano diocesi"); a document mentioning Iohannes bishop of Besançon (Iohannes de Rupescissa [de la Rochetaillée], 1429-1437, or Iohannes de Norry, 1439); and apparently another dated 15 (? "XVIII Kal. Augusti") July 1447; a Iohannes de Bordona cleric from the diocese of Angers. Also partly written upside down a few sentences and proverbs: "Eminet et non est in muliere fides"; "Si quis in hac maison vas fregerit et sine raison" (a variant of Walther, *Initia* 17933 and Walther, *Sprichwörter*, v. 4, p. 962, 29041); "Lingua sapientum amat sapientiam, os stultorum ebullit stulticiam" (a variant of Proverbs 15:2); and separate letters and pen-trials. The pattern sheet offers various scripts of the Gothica Hybrida type, with one exception which is in Semihybrida.

The manuscript consists of two sections, the first of which (quires I-VI) was copied by the scribe P.P.T. between 16 May and 22 April 1460 in Rome. It is tempting to identify him with the Petrus Paulus Tusculanus residing in Rome in 1469, mentioned by Kristeller and whose name is found in art. 8, no. 4, in the second section. The latter is approximately from the same time, but its date depends from the interpretation of the subscription in art. 7.

On the parchment front flyleaf recto, s. XVII: "Varia opuscula super Scripturam", and s. XIX: "AD 1457". On the blank f. 69v a s. XVI¹ note (6 lines in rapid Humanistic Cursive script), titled "Regula generalis logice", followed, in another hand of the same time, by a recipe (3 lines) "Ad cancras oris". On the blank verso of the rear endleaf a s. XV note in extremely small script in Latin, partly faded, the sense of which is not clear. It mentions the functions of muleteer ("mulio"), bailiff ("balius"), shoemaker ("calciolarius") and barber ("barbitonsor"). At the bottom of the blank f. 81v the shelfmark "VI.f.>". Inside the front board the printed label of George Philip Philes (1828-1913), New York bookseller and freelance cataloguer for various auction houses. Purchased from H.P. Kraus, New York, on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R 14.04.10

Albert Derolez