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MS 776

France, s. XV²

l'Abuzé en court; Georges Chastellain, Le Temple de Boccace

I.

1. ff. 1r-65v *L'Abusé en court*. [blank space]. Il fault mettre en ceste premiere histoire Aristote son chapperon vestu fourré, et soit tout droit parlant a l'Abuzé, et ait le dit Aristote des livres ou il regarde dedans sus un pupitre et en remonstrant a l'Abuzé la maniere et doctrine du gouvernement de la court. Et l'Abuzé devant luy, qui l'escoute tres sagement, qui est bien en point au commencement en la maniere que cy apres orrez declarer. § Et premierement parle Aristote a l'Abuzé. Aristote le tres sage et prudent philozophe nous a pour doctrine laissié que aucun bon commencement ou bon moyen est a euvre reprouvee et non digne d'aucune loenge, se par samblable continuacion n'est la fin d'icelle labour ad ce correspondant ... A grant dangier ly homs se vit / Qui a present a le court vit. / Amcoires vit a plus grant honte / Qui a court vit et point ne monte. ff. 66-67 ruled but blank

l'Abuzé en court, satire on court life in the form of a dialogue, in verse and prose, comprising instructions for the illustration (not executed in this manuscript). R. Dubuis, ed., *Textes littéraires français* (Genève, 1973), on the basis of the 6 manuscripts available at the time.

II.

2. ff. 68r-117v *Le Temple de Bocace*. [blank space]. *Veez-cy le Temple de Bocace, / Miroir pour les grans de la terre, / A qui la reyne d'Angleterre / se vient complaindre a triste face*. Une dame, nagaires demenant grant dueil et soy complainnant a moy de fortune qui, dure et perverse, lui avoit procuré (ce disoit) importable annuy et donné nouvellement en son estat confuse morsure ... je prie aux voyans avoir agreable ce qui est de mon povoir et qui en petit pooir ay grant cuer de complaire. Leur plaise avoir en recommandacion aussi mon bon voloir, qui a hourdy ceste euvre de l'estoffe au meismes de l'omme. *Explicit le Temple de Bocace fait par George Chastellain*.

Georges Chastellain (c. 1415-1475), *Le Temple de Boccace*, a continuation to Boccaccio's *De casibus virorum illustrium*, dedicated to Margaret of Anjou, Queen of England and daughter of René of Anjou (1429/1430-1482), composed 1465. S. Bliggenstorfer, ed., *Romanica Helvetica*, v. 104 (Bern, 1988), pp. 3-197. The editor had no access to our manuscript, which in her edition has the siglum P5. She describes 16 manuscripts and one early printed edition (pp. *47-*88). f. 94r is blank after l. 9 ("... regnant glorieux viellart longuement en haulte renommée"), but no text is missing: on the next page the text continues: "Vint encore et par samblable desconfort droit cy ung aultre roy, jadis nommé Alphonce roy d'Arragon ...". There is no break in the text in the edition, p. 115.

Composed of two parts. Paper, ff. II + 118 + IV, 265 x 190 mm. The modern pencil foliation is erroneous, as it has successively ff. 36, 37, 36 bis, 38.

Part I: ff. 1-67. Watermark: a letter Y surmounted by a cross, var. Briquet 9183??

I-III¹⁰ (ff. 1-30), IV⁶ (ff. 31-36), V-VI¹⁰ (ff. 37-55), VII¹² (ff. 56-67).

Crayon ruling for one column of 32 lines below top line. Ruling type 11 (?), 185 x 117 mm.

Copied by a single scribe in *Gothica Cursiva Formata* (Bastarda).

Paragraph marks in red. Headings underlined in red. Majuscules heightened in yellow. Red plain initials (2 lines, on f. 1r 3 lines). Pictures (mostly half-page to $\frac{3}{4}$ page) were provided but not executed on ff. 1r, 4r, 17v, 22r, 25r, 30v, 35v (full page?) and 36r, 37bis r, 40r, 47r, 59r, 60r, 65r.

Part II: ff. 68-117. Watermark: mermaid, var. Briquet 13858-13859?? I⁸ (ff. 68-75), II-III¹⁰ (ff. 76-95), IV-V⁸ (ff. 96-111), VI⁶ (ff. 112-117).

Crayon ruling for one column of 27 lines below top line. Ruling type 12, 205-210 x 138-140 mm.

Copied by one hand in large *Gothica Cursiva Formata* (Bastarda) using acid ink damaging the paper.

Headings and paragraph marks in red. Red plain initials (2 lines; 4 lines at the beginning of the text, f. 68r), 3 lines ff. 72v, 83v, 84v, 85r, 89v, 94v, 95v. A small picture (height: 7 lines) was provided but not executed on the first page (f. 68r).

Binding s. XVIII: calfskin over cardboard, the covers simply decorated with a frame of triple blind-tooled fillets. Gold-tooled spine with five raised bands and black leather label with gold-tooled title "LA BUSE / EN / COURT". Marbled paper endleaves. The two first flyleaves at the end of the book are of the same paper as section I.

At the top of ff. 30v and 67v the s. XV/XVI signature "L. Thomas" beneath a cross. Belonged after Parts I and II were united to Baron d'Heiss; his sale by de Bure, Paris, 7 March 1785, lot 249 (see note on the first front flyleaf v). On the third rear flyleaf r a s. XVIII/XIX note: "Le Temple de Bocace a été composé sous le règne de Louis XI, c'est-à-dire dans l'intervalle de l'année 1451 à 1483". Another hand of the same period has added: "Je soupçonne ceci bien plus ancien: Bocace (Jean) naquit en 1313 en Toscane et mourut en 1375 à Certaldo, son pays natal". The latter hand has also written on the first front flyleaf v: "Ce manuscrit pourrait bien être excessivement précieux. Je le soupçonne de la main de Jean Bocace; du moins ce n'est pas l'ouvrage d'un homme ordinaire". In the twentieth century in the possession of Ch.-L. Fièvre at Romans; his sale, Paris, 15 May 1933, lot 16. It was then considered lost (see the edition of art. 1 by Dubuis [1973], p. ...: "il est à craindre que ce ms. ne puisse être retrouvé dans un proche avenir"). In fact it occurs in cat. 41 (1935) of E.P. Goldschmidt, no. 54. Robert Danon; his sale, Paris, 21 March 1973, lot 1. Pierre Bérès, cat. 66, Paris, c. 1973 (*Manuscrits et enluminures*), no. 1, with plate; id., cat. 71, Paris, 1981, no. 3. Sotheby catalogue, *Western Manuscripts and Miniatures*, 23 June 1987, lot 85. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R 16.04.10

Albert Derolez